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INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin

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Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act reached \$397 million in March, an increase of 33% from the \$298 million disbursed a year earlier. The average weekly benefit at \$92.88 was up 10% from March 1975.

Persons receiving unemployment insurance benefits in March numbered 862,000, down 3% from February. Some 36% of the beneficiaries were under 25 years of age — almost equal numbers of males and females.

Claims filed by persons seeking unemployment insurance benefit in March totalled 201,000, up 5% from a year earlier.

For the first three months of 1976, net payments under the act amounted to \$1.08 billion, an increase of 21% from \$891.6 million paid out in January-March 1975.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, 40¢/\$4) or *Advance Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001-p, no charge to subscribers), or contact George Fincham (613-992-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Residential Building Construction Input Price Index

(1971=100)

The residential building construction input price index for Canada advanced to 156.9 in April, an increase of 1.2% from March and up 13.4% from a year earlier.

Prices of materials used in residential building construction increased 12.8% over the 12 months from April 1975; labour costs rose 14.3%.

During this period, residential building construction input price indexes advanced in all regions of Canada with increases recorded as follows:

- Prairie Provinces, 16.7%; Quebec, 14.1%; British Columbia, 13.6%; Ontario, 12.0%; and Atlantic Provinces, 11.8%.

Labour cost indexes showed the following increases (by region): Prairie Provinces, 23.7%; Atlantic Provinces, 13.9%; British Columbia, 13.5%; Ontario, 12.4%; and Quebec, 12.1%.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin* (62-007, \$4 per year), or contact L.J. Seary (613-994-5807), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar. 221.88p	219.62p	13.4
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb. 7,665p	7,574p	14.7
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr. 9.31	9.26	3.0
Unemployed	Apr. 769,000	759,000	9.5

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Mar. 1,558	1,539	18.1
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Mar. 16,007p	15,730r	5.0
Wholesale (\$ million)	Mar. 6,777	6,469	6.8

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Mar. 8,125p	7,269r	18.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Mar. 9,601p	9,668r	-6.8

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Apr. 146.8	146.2	8.9
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Mar.* 158.5	158.1r	5.7
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Mar.* 505.0	503.9r	5.7

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar. 945.0p	2,106.2	29.6
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb. 11,615	24,065	98.8

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Feb. 2,490	5,008	15.8
Electricity Generation (billion kwh.)	Mar. 26.6	79.2	5.0
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Sept. 260.1	2,536.6	0.6
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Jan. 52.2	52.2	1.6

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr. 3,043	11,755	14.1
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr. 3,155	12,273	10.1

PRODUCTION

Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Mar. 162.0	435.6	34.2
Steel (Ingots — thousand tons)	Apr. 1,178	4,589	-7.3

SALES

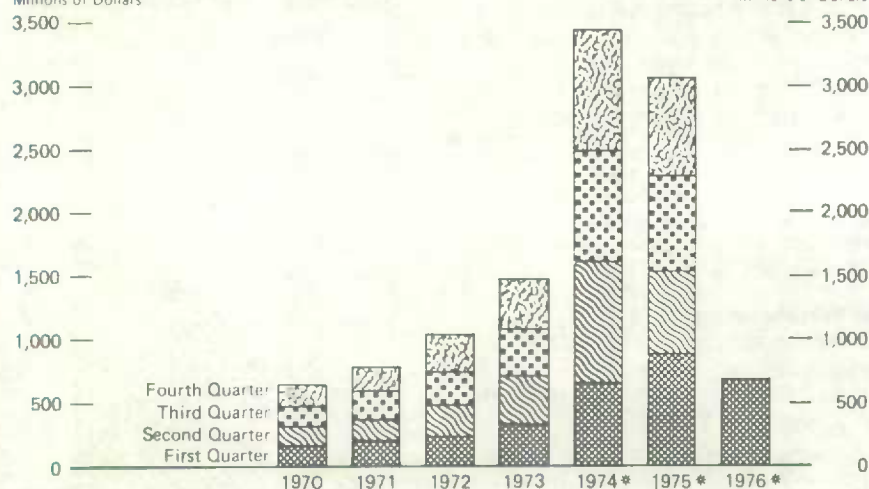
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Mar. 438.8	1,183.7	15.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Mar. 8,192p	22,469	13.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar. 686.3	1,601.7	14.6
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Mar. 4,313	11,859	14.7
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Mar. 4,338	11,398	15.4

Statistics are not seasonally adjusted. p - preliminary. r - revised. * - new this week.

Canadian Exports of Crude Petroleum to the United States

Millions of Dollars

Millions of Dollars



Source: Exports by Commodities (65-004)

* Includes the export tax

Railway Operating Statistics

Canada's six major railways reported a net deficit of \$49.6 million in 1975 that contrasted with net income of \$82.2 million posted in 1974. Operating revenues rose 5.7% last year to \$2.62 billion while operating expenses climbed 11.4% to \$2.67 billion.

Cumulative freight ton-miles were 1.9% below the 1974 level and passenger-miles were down 13.1%.

In December 1975, the six lines showed a deficit of \$103.3 million as opposed to net income of \$39.3 million recorded in the corresponding month in 1974. Operating expenses at \$212.7 million were down 13.3% from December 1974, while operating revenues declined 61.6% to \$109.4 million. (The sharp decline in December 1975 revenues was mainly attributable to adjustments by Canadian National as a result of changing from a cash basis to an accrual basis in accounting for government payments).

For further information, order the December 1975 issue of *Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, 30¢/\$3), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9276), *Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5*.

Operations of Transcontinental and Regional Air Carriers

Canada's seven major scheduled airlines reported a combined net loss of \$5.68 million in January that compared with a loss of \$5.42 million posted in January 1975.

Total operating revenues rose 15.8% to \$128.1 million in the latest month; operating expenses advanced 14.5% to \$131.2 million.

Passenger traffic — measured in passenger-miles for all services — totalled 1,511.6 million in January of this year, up 11.3% over the 1,357.5 million recorded in the comparable month in 1975. Goods ton-miles for all services rose 17.0% to 42.7 million from 36.5 million.

For further information, order *Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin*, Vol. 8, No. 24 (51-004, \$4.20 per year).

Iron Ore

Canadian mines shipped 5,254,722 short tons of iron ore in April compared with 4,419,557 short tons a year earlier.

Output for the first four months of 1976 at 10,288,410 short tons was down 7.8% from January-April 1975.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Iron Ore* (26-005, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact Art Symons (613-992-0491), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

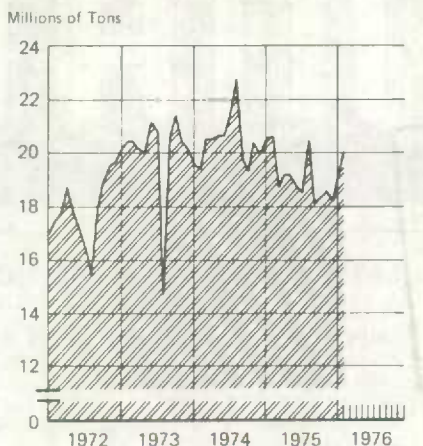
Public Warehousing, 1974

Public warehousing firms in Canada reported total operating revenues of \$110.9 million for 1974. Net profits, after income taxes, amounted to \$7.9 million.

For further information, order *Public Warehousing, 1974* (63-212, 70¢), or contact R. Staveley (613-996-9276), *Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Rail Revenue Freight Loaded

(Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Railway Carloadings (52-001)

Report on Job Vacancies

Preliminary estimates for the three months ended April 30 show a decrease in the average number of vacant jobs from the comparable period a year earlier. Vacancies for full-time, part-time and casual jobs decreased to 48,100 from 63,200.

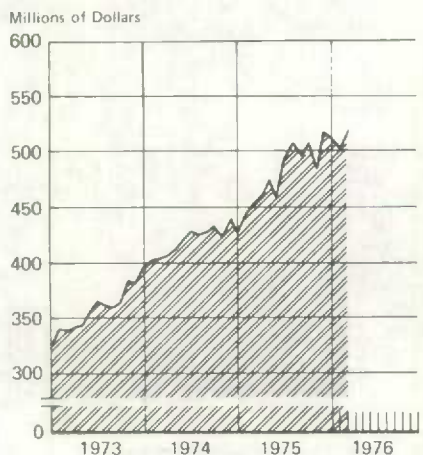
Vacancies for full-time jobs decreased 23% to 44,200. The number of longer-term vacancies — jobs unfilled for more than four weeks — fell 41% to 14,300.

For every 1,000 existing jobs in the latest three-month period, six were vacant, a decrease of two vacancies per thousand jobs from last year. The highest job vacancy rates were in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, each with nine per thousand; the lowest rate, three per thousand, was in Newfoundland.

For further information, contact J.A. Boucek (613-992-2006) or Ms. M. Beaubien (613-996-7148), *Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1*.

Department Store Sales, Canada

(Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Department Store Sales and Stocks (63-002)

Industry Selling Price Index

(1971=100)

The industry selling price index for total manufacturing rose to 158.5 in March, an increase of 0.3% from February and up 5.7% from a year earlier.

The wood industries group index rose 1.3% in the latest month as higher output prices were recorded for sawmills and planing mills, plus other wood fabricators. The paper and allied products group advanced 0.9%, reflecting price increases for newsprint and other paper products such as facial tissues and toilet paper. The non-metallic minerals group index moved up 1.8% due to higher prices for cement, ready-mix concrete, lime and glass.

Over the 12 months from March 1975, the largest price increases were shown by the following group indexes:

- Wood industries, 16.9%; petroleum and coal products industries, 13.0%; non-metallic mineral products industries, 11.4%; leather industries, 10.2%; textile industries, 8.1%; metal fabricating industries, 7.0%; furniture and fixture industries, 6.3%; and machinery industries, 6.0%.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Prices and Price Indexes* (62-002, 55¢/\$5.50).

Security Transactions with Non-Residents

A net capital inflow of \$43 million was recorded in February compared with a \$93 million net inflow in the previous month. Gross purchases from non-residents rose during the month while sales remained at about the January level, contributing to the reduced capital inflow.

Trading in all classes of Canadian securities gave rise to a net inflow of \$50 million, a substantial decrease from the \$110 million net inflow in January. The reduction was mainly attributable to lower net sales of bonds and debentures, with sales of provincially-guaranteed and corporate issues showing a particularly large decline from the high January levels.

Transactions in foreign securities in February resulted in net purchases by Canadian residents of \$6 million compared with net purchases of \$17 million in the previous month.

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *Security Transactions with Non-Residents* (67-002, 40¢/\$4).

Sales Financing

Sales finance companies purchased \$220.1 million of retail finance paper in March, an increase of 18.1% from a year earlier.

The total for the latest month comprised \$61.2 million for passenger cars, \$27.3 million for other consumer goods, \$94.0 million for commercial vehicles and \$37.8 million for other commercial and industrial goods.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Sales Financing* (63-013, 30¢/\$3), or contact the *Retail Trade Section* (613-996-9304), *Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

General Wholesale Index (1935-39=100)

The general wholesale price index advanced to 505.0 in March, an increase of 0.2% from February and up 5.7% from a year earlier. Five of the eight major groups included in the total index were higher while three declined.

The wood products group index rose 1.4% in March, reflecting price increases for newsprint and wrapping paper (4.5%), hemlock (2.1%), fir (1.3%) and spruce (1.0%). The non-metallic minerals group moved up 0.7% due to increases for tumblers (9.3%) and clay and allied products (7.3%). The iron products group index advanced 0.6% as scrap iron and steel prices jumped 14.3%. Non-ferrous metals were also up 0.6% due mainly to increases for silver (2.5%), gold (1.9%) and copper (1.7%).

The animal products group index declined 0.8%, reflecting decreases for cured meats (-4.5%), fresh meats (-4.0%) and livestock (-2.1%). Vegetable products were down 0.4% with decreases for tobacco (-5.3%), potatoes (-4.9%), vegetable oil products (-2.3%) and grains (-1.8%).

Over the 12 months from March 1975, the following percentage changes were recorded for the major group indexes:

- Animal products, 13.8%; non-metallic minerals, 10.9%; iron products, 9.9%; wood products, 9.6%; textile products, 7.3%; chemical products, 0.0%; non-ferrous metals including gold, -0.1%; and vegetable products, -5.1%

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Prices and Price Indexes* (62-002, 55¢/\$5.50).

Merchandising Inventories

Merchandising inventories held in March by selected groups were as follows:

- Wholesale merchants, \$6,776.9 million (up 4.8% from February and up 6.8% from March 1975);
- Department stores, \$1,557.5 million (up 1.2% from February and up 18.1% from March 1975);
- Retail chain stores, \$2,193.6 million (up 5.2% from February and up 13.1% from March 1975).

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Merchandising Inventories* (63-014, 40¢/\$4).

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Manufacturers' Sales of 'Made-in-Canada' Colour Television Sets



Source: Radio and Television Receiving Sets (43-004)

Urban Transit

Urban transit systems carried 100.3 million fare passengers in April and had operating revenues amounting to \$32.7 million. Revenue vehicle-miles run totalled 28.1 million.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Urban Transit* (53-003, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact the Chief (613-996-9276), Surface Transport Section, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

The Dairy Review

Total production of milk for all purposes in March amounted to 1,374,517,000 pounds, an increase of 17.1% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001, 40¢/\$4), or contact C.M. Riach (613-994-9974), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

Asbestos

Canadian producers' shipments of asbestos increased to 134,598 short tons in April from 75,358 short tons a year earlier.

Cumulative shipments for the first four months of 1976 at 546,318 short tons were up 38.7% from January-April 1975.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Asbestos* (26-001, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact Art Symons (613-992-0491), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

Crude petroleum production for October amounted to 1.61 million barrels per day, down 8.5% from a year earlier.

Natural gas production averaged 9.34 billion cubic feet per day in the latest month, an increase of 1.7% from October 1974.

For further information, order the October 1975 issue of *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, 30¢/\$3), or contact G. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Department Store Sales in Ottawa-Hull

Department stores in Ottawa-Hull metropolitan area reported sales totalling \$5.03 million for the week ending May 22, a decrease of 12.3% from the corresponding week in 1975. Sales were down 19.1% in Hull and suburbs, 11.3% in Ottawa and suburbs and 6.8% in Ottawa (city).

Ottawa-Hull area department store sales for the year to date totalled \$90.26 million, up 10.4% from January 1 — May 22, 1975. Sales rose 15.4% in Hull and suburbs, 12.1% in Ottawa (city) and 9.7% in Ottawa and suburbs.

For further information, contact the Merchandising and Services Division (613-996-9304), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Gas Utilities

Canadian consumers purchased 146.1 billion cubic feet of natural gas in March, up 2.8% from a year earlier. Exports increased 0.6% to 83.9 billion cubic feet.

Cumulatively, sales of natural gas in the first three months of 1976 totalled 460.9 billion cubic feet, an increase of 4.9% from January-March 1975.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, 30¢/\$3), or contact R.C. Peacock (613-992-4021), Energy and Minerals Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Consumer Credit, April
Consumer Price Index, May
Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, April
Retail Trade, April
The Labour Force, May
Wholesale Trade, April



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Health Manpower — Radiological Technicians, 1974	83-224	\$1.05	Merchandising Inventories, February 1976	63-014	40¢/\$4
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Feed Industry	32-214-p				
Manufacturers of Pre-fabricated Buildings (Wood-Frame Construction)	35-205-p-3				
Manufacturers of Wooden Kitchen Cabinets	35-205-p-4				
Miscellaneous Vehicle Manufacturers	42-212-p				
Motor Vehicle Manufacturers	42-209-p				
Shingle Mills	35-204-p-1				
Shipbuilding and Repair	42-206-p				
Shoe Factories	33-203-p-1				