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Weekly Bulletin

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act amounted to \$259 million in November, an increase of 24% from the \$209 million disbursed a year earlier. The average weekly benefit at \$95.47 was up 8% from November 1975.

Persons receiving unemployment insurance benefits in November totalled 602,000, up 8% from October but down 6% from a year earlier.

Persons seeking benefit filed 292,000 claims in November, up 29% from the previous month and up 13% from November 1975.

For the first 11 months of 1976, net payments under the act amounted to \$3,071 million, an increase of 7% from \$2,864 million paid out in the corresponding period of 1975.

For further information, order the November 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.

Railway Operating Statistics

Canada's six major railways reported combined net operating income of \$25.6 million in November, up from \$9.8 million in November 1975. Total operating revenues rose 15.0% to \$277.2 million while operating expenses advanced 8.8% to \$251.6 million.

Revenue freight ton-miles increased 2.5% in the latest month to 11.70 billion; passenger-miles — the total distance travelled by railway passengers — showed an increase of 11.3% to 117.1 million.

During the first 11 months of 1976, railway operating revenues rose 11.3% from the year-earlier period while operating expenses advanced 9.6%. Cumulative net income from operations at \$53.7 million was up 88.1% from that posted in the January to November period of 1975. Net operating income of Canadian National was \$15.3 million in the latest period, up from \$878,699; Canadian Pacific reported \$10.4 million, compared with \$10.0 million.

For further information, order the November 1976 issue of *Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, 30¢/\$3), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Oct. 234.27p	232.49p	10.0
Labour Income (\$ million)	Oct. 9,114.1p	8,929.0p	14.8
Persons with Jobs (million)	Dec. 9.48	9.59	0.8
Unemployed	Dec. 34,008	30,000	8.8

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Nov. 2,118	2,161	22.8
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Nov. 16,502p	16,503r	6.7
Wholesale (\$ million)	Nov. 6,751	6,776	14.8

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Nov.* 8,690p	8,155r	12.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Nov.* 9,378p	9,369r	-8.9

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Dec.* 152.7	152.2	5.8
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Nov. 163.5	163.4r	3.9
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Nov. 515.3	510.9r	2.8

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Oct. 1,015.2p	10,338.4	16.6
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Oct. 16,471	171,350	19.7

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Oct.* 2,686	22,123	-3.3
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Oct. 23.8	236.5	5.8
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Aug. 256.7	2,289.6	0.6
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Nov. 53.8	566.3	0.2

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Dec.* 3,238	38,028	14.8
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Dec.* 3,021	37,391	7.9

PRODUCTION

Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Nov. 157.4	1,509.0	15.2
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Dec.* 1,182	14,286	1.2

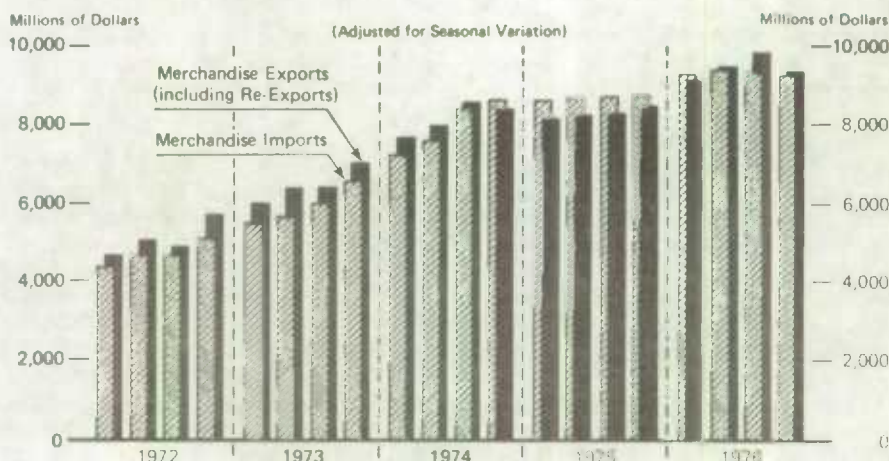
SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Nov. 669.6	5,557.4	13.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Nov.* 8,681p	89,829	12.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Nov. 626.5	7,160.8	8.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Nov.* 5,041	50,890	12.0
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Nov. 4,383	46,110	11.0

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

Canadian Merchandise Exports and Imports*

Quarter-by-Quarter Movements



Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Between November and December, consumer price indexes rose in 13 regional cities and remained unchanged in Thunder Bay. Increases ranged from 0.1% in Halifax, Edmonton and Vancouver to 0.7% in Saint John, N.B.

Higher home ownership charges and increased prices for drycleaning, tobacco products and restaurant meals were largely responsible for the latest advances. Food at home prices generally increased, notably for coffee, chocolate bars, milk and bread. Partially offsetting were lower prices for meat, poultry and fresh fruit.

Between December 1975 and December 1976, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities with increases recorded as follows: Vancouver, 8.6%; Regina, 7.9%; Edmonton, 6.6%; Saskatoon, 6.3%; Calgary, 6.2%; Winnipeg, 6.2%; St. John's, 6.2%; Quebec City, 6.1%; Thunder Bay, 5.9%; Ottawa, 5.8%; Toronto, 5.7%; Saint John, 5.6%; Montreal, 5.6%; Halifax, 5.2%.

For further information, order the December 1976 issue of *Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities* (62-009, 30¢/\$3).

Residential Building Construction Input Price Index (1971=100)

The residential building construction input price index for Canada advanced to 166.6 in December, an increase of 0.5% from November and up 9.4% from a year earlier.

Prices of materials used in residential building construction increased 7.1% over the 12 months from December 1975; labour costs rose 13.0%.

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

- Prairie Provinces, 11.6%; Atlantic Provinces, 10.8%; British Columbia, 10.5%; Ontario, 8.8%; and Quebec, 7.9%.

Labour cost indexes showed the following increases (by region): Atlantic Provinces, 14.9%; Prairie Provinces, 14.3%; Ontario, 14.0%; British Columbia, 11.7%; and Quebec, 9.8%.

For further information, order the December 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.

Coal and Coke Statistics

Production of coal in Canada increased 4.0% in October to 2,686,406 tons from 2,524,086 tons in October 1975. Imports declined to 1,792,128 tons from 2,066,565 tons.

Industrial consumers used 2,203,006 tons of coal in the latest month (up 505,281 tons) and 502,495 tons of coke (down 8,750 tons).

For further information, order the October 1976 issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics* (45-002, 40¢/\$4), or contact David Madsen (613-992-4021), Energy and Minerals Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Building Permits, November
Consumer Price Movements,
January
Department Store Sales by Regions,
December
General Wholesale Price Index,
December
Housing Starts and Completions,
November
Motor Vehicle Production, December
New Motor Vehicle Sales, December

Report on Job Vacancies

Preliminary estimates for the fourth quarter of 1976 show a drop in the average number of vacant jobs from the previous quarter. Vacancies for full-time, part-time and casual jobs decreased 33% to 41,700 from 62,300. On a year-to-year basis, vacancies were down by 18%.

Vacancies for full-time jobs numbered 37,100 at December 31, down 32% from the end of September. The number of longer-term vacancies — jobs unfilled for more than four weeks — decreased by 29% to 14,500.

For every 1,000 existing jobs in the latest quarter, five were vacant, down from seven in the third quarter of 1976. A year earlier, the comparable rate was six per 1,000. The highest vacancy rates were observed in Alberta (13 per 1,000) and Saskatchewan (eight per 1,000), while the lowest rate occurred in Nova Scotia (two per 1,000).

For further information, order *Quarterly Report on Job Vacancies, Fourth Quarter 1976* (71-002, \$1.05/\$4.20).

Farm Implement Sales

Sales of farm implements and equipment for January to November 1976 were valued at \$1,092.2 million (dealers' cost), up 21.5% from \$898.6 million in the first 11 months of 1975.

Sales of repair parts for farm equipment rose 5.2% in the latest period to \$146.7 million.

For further information, order the November 1976 issue of *Farm Implement and Equipment Sales* (63-009, 15¢/\$1.50).

Sales Financing

Sales finance companies purchased \$223.7 million of retail finance paper in November, an increase of 2.2% from a year earlier.

The latest month's total comprised \$55.4 million for passenger cars, \$33.2 million for other consumer goods, \$81.2 million for commercial vehicles and \$54.0 million for other commercial and industrial goods.

For further information, order the November 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.

Summary of External Trade

Both exports and imports on a balance-of-payments basis reached record levels in 1976 — exports increasing 14% from 1975 to \$38,019 million while imports advanced 8.5% to \$36,887 million. Canada's merchandise trade balance swung to a surplus of \$1,132 million in 1976 from the deficit of \$639 million posted in 1975.

Increased shipments to the United States accounted for some 84% of the growth in Canadian exports (on a customs basis) in 1976, reflecting the strength of the economic recovery in that country. The U.S. share of Canadian exports rose to 67.8% from 65.4%.

Deliveries of motor vehicles and parts rose by some \$1,780 million in 1976 and accounted for 43% of the over-all increase in exports to the U.S. (increases were \$555 million for cars, \$395 million for trucks and \$830 million for parts). The value of natural gas deliveries continued to expand, up \$525 million in 1976, but crude oil shipments dropped about \$765 million. Forest products rebounded \$990 million from the low levels of 1975 — with lumber up \$465 million, pulp up \$170 million and newsprint up \$235 million. Chemical exports gained \$265 million and non-ferrous metals were up \$250 million.

Canadian imports from the U.S. rose 8.9% to \$25,662 million in 1976, the change constituting over 75% of the total import increase of \$2,756 million. The proportion of imports originating in the U.S. rose to 68.6% in 1976 from 68.0% in 1975.

A rise of one billion dollars in imports of motor vehicles and parts (vehicles \$190 million, parts \$810 million) accounted for 47% of the total increase in imports. Other notable increases were recorded for: meat (\$100 million); lumber and paperboard (\$80 million); chemicals (\$200 million); machinery (\$170 million); other equipment and tools (\$400 million); and other consumer goods (\$200 million).

For further information on area and commodity trade, order the December 1976 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, 40¢/\$4).

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Quarterly Estimates of Income and Expenditures of Trusteed Pension Funds



Source: Quarterly Survey of Trusteed Pension Funds (74-001)

Real Domestic Product

(1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product advanced 0.4% to 124.3 in November from 123.8 in October.

Output of goods producing industries rose 0.3% in November due almost entirely to a 1.0% increase in manufacturing industries. Partially offsetting were decreases recorded in construction, agriculture and fishing and trapping. Within manufacturing, durables manufacturing increased 2.8% as a result of a significant increase in output of transportation equipment, following resumption of production by one of the major manufacturers of motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts. Producers of non-metallic mineral products also recorded significant gains during November. Primary metals declined mainly because of further strikes in the smelting and refining industry. In non-durables manufacturing, down 0.7%, lower production levels were recorded in food and beverages, rubber and plastic products, leather industries, pulp and paper manufacturers, and chemical and chemical products manufacturers.

Service-producing industries advanced 0.4% in November, the sixth consecutive monthly increase. Increases were recorded in transportation, storage and communication, trade, finance, insurance and real estate, and community, business and personal services. The most significant increase was in community, business and personal services, up 0.5%. In transportation, storage and communication, pipeline transport recorded the largest increase due to higher deliveries of crude petroleum to Montreal. In trade, both retail and wholesale trade advanced slightly, although within retail trade department stores and motor vehicle dealers registered declines.

For further information, order the November 1976 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (including the index of industrial production), (61-005, 40¢/\$4).

Major Appliances

Freezer sales continued to decline in November while Canadian manufacturers' domestic sales of other major appliances showed a mixed pattern.

Major appliance sales recorded by these manufacturers in the latest month, with percentage changes from November 1975 in brackets:

- Refrigerators, 38,049 (-19.1%); home and farm freezers, 19,998 (-55.2%).
- Stoves and ranges (electric), 41,972 (24.9%).
- Automatic washing machines, 35,076 (0.3%); electric and gas clothes dryers, 35,133 (5.6%).
- Television sets, 41,655 (-20.3%).

Canadian manufacturers sold 38,866 colour television sets on the domestic market in November, a decrease of 16.0% from a year earlier; black-and-white set sales fell 53.5% to 2,789 units.

For further information, order the November 1976 issue of: *Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers* (43-001, 15¢/\$1.50); *Stoves and Furnaces* (41-005, 30¢/\$3); *Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers* (43-002, 15¢/\$1.50); and *Radio and Television Receiving Sets* (43-004, 30¢/\$3); or contact Mrs. I. Groom (613-992-0388), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

Provincial Government Finance, 1974-75

Provincial and territorial governments had gross general revenues of \$28,419 million in the 1974-75 fiscal year, up 26.6% from the preceding year. Gross general expenditures of these governments increased 27.2% to \$28,038 million.

Further information, including complete provincial breakdowns of revenue and expenditure, will be contained in *Provincial Government Finance, Revenue and Expenditure, 1974* (68-207, \$2.10). For advance information, contact G.G. Raymond (613-995-0718), *Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Trusteed Pension Funds

Total assets held by trusteed pension funds in Canada reached an estimated \$23.4 billion (at book value) at September 30, 1976, up 16.6% from \$20.0 billion a year earlier. Aggregate portfolios held 48.0% of these assets in bonds, 25.3% in stocks and 12.3% in mortgages. There was \$1.6 billion in miscellaneous investments, largely made up of cash, guaranteed income certificates and other short-term investments and, as in the past year or so, these represented about 7% of total holdings.

Total income for the first three quarters of 1976 including contributions, investment income from the portfolio holdings, realized profit on sales of securities and other income sources totalled \$3.1 billion, up from \$2.6 billion recorded in the year-earlier period. Total expenditures for the payment of pensions, refunds, administration costs, etc., amounted to \$1.1 billion by the end of the third quarter of 1976, and net cash flow over the period amounted to \$2.1 billion, up from \$1.7 billion in January-September 1975.

For further information, order *Quarterly Estimates of Trusteed Pension Funds, Third Quarter 1976* (74-001, 35¢/\$1.40).

Security Transactions with Non-Residents

International transactions in long-term portfolio securities led to a net inflow of \$2,017 million in the third quarter of 1976, down slightly from \$2,039 million in the preceding quarter. Sales of new issues to non-residents accounted for most of the inflow.

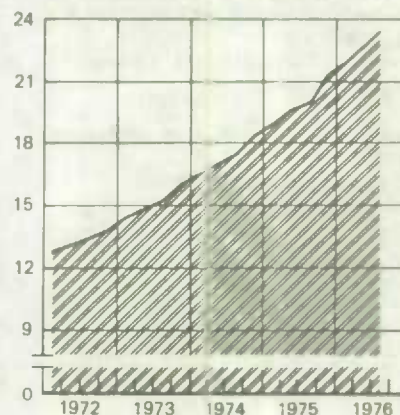
New Canadian issues sold to non-residents produced a net capital inflow of \$2,145 million compared with an inflow of \$1,878 million in the second quarter. Provincial government guaranteed issues accounted for \$1,025 million (48%) of the total inflow, followed by corporate issues with \$663 million (31%).

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

Trusteed Pension Funds

Quarterly Estimates of Assets Held

Billions of Dollars



Source: Quarterly Survey of Trusteed Pension Funds (74-001)



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THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED JANUARY 20 — 26

	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE					
Farm Cash Receipts, November 1976	21-001	30¢/\$3	Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers, November 1976	43-001	15¢/\$1.50
Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 1, Summerfallow and Stubble, Acreage and Yield of Specified Crops, Prairie Provinces, 1976	22-002	\$5.60 for series	Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers, November 1976	43-002	15¢/\$1.50
Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, November 1976	62-003	15¢/\$1.50	Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, November 1976	43-005	15¢/\$1.50
The Dairy Review, November 1976	23-001	40¢/\$4	Fish Freezings and Stocks, October 1976	24-001	40¢/\$4
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS					
Security Transactions with Non-Residents, September 1976	67-002	40¢/\$4	Gold Production, November 1976	26-004	15¢/\$1.50
CENSUS					
Labour Force Activity — Work Experience, Introduction to Volume III (Part 7), 1971 Census of Canada	94-771	50¢	Iron Ore, November 1976	26-005	15¢/\$1.50
CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS					
Canadian Statistical Review, November 1976	11-003E	70¢/\$7	Primary Iron and Steel, October 1976	41-001	40¢/\$4
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE					
Publicly-supported Vocational Training Involving the Private Sector, 1974-75	81-238	\$1.05	Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, November 1976	26-007	15¢/\$1.50
EXTERNAL TRADE					
Imports by Commodities, October 1976	65-007	80¢/\$8	Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, September 1976	35-002	30¢/\$3
Imports by Countries, January-September 1976	65-006	\$2.10/\$8.40	Radio and Television Receiving Sets, November 1976	43-004	30¢/\$3
HEALTH					
Cancer Mortality by Site, 1960-1973	84-534	\$5.25	Raw Hides, Skins and Finished Leather, November 1976	33-001	30¢/\$3
INDUSTRY PRODUCT					
Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry (Including the Index of Industrial Production), October 1976	61-005	40¢/\$4	Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, November 1976	46-001	15¢/\$1.50
LABOUR					
Advance Unemployment Insurance Statistics, October 1976	73-001-p	N/C	Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, November 1976	26-008	15¢/\$1.50
Estimates of Labour Income, July-September 1976	72-005	\$1.05/\$4.20	Specified Chemicals, November 1976	46-002	15¢/\$1.50
Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, October 1976	73-001	40¢/\$4	Steel Ingots and Pig Iron, December 1976	41-002	15¢/\$1.50
Trusteed Pension Plans, Financial Statistics, 1975	74-201	\$1.05	SERVICE BULLETINS		
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES					
Breweries, November 1976	32-019	15¢/\$1.50	Energy Statistics — Vol. 11, No. 32, Crude Oil Requirements, 1st Quarter 1977		
Cement, November 1976	44-001	15¢/\$1.50	57-002 /\$4.20		
Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, November 1976	33-003	30¢/\$3	Fruit and Vegetable Preservation — Vol. 5, No. 13, Pack of Processed Plums, 1976		
Copper and Nickel Production, November 1976	26-003	15¢/\$1.50	32-023 /\$1.40		
Distilled Beverage Spirits and Industrial Ethyl Alcohol, November 1976	32-021	15¢/\$1.50	Rubber and Plastics Products Industries — Vol. 5, No. 7, Factory Shipments of High Pressure Decorative Laminate Sheet, Quarter Ended December 31, 1976		
			47-002 /\$1.40		
			MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES		
			Construction Machinery and Equipment Sales, 1975		
			63-220 \$1.05		
			Merchandising Inventories, October 1976		
			63-014 40¢/\$4		
			New Motor Vehicle Sales, November 1976		
			63-007 30¢/\$3		
			Wholesale Trade, November 1976		
			63-008 15¢/\$1.50		
			PRICES		
			Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, December 1976		
			62-009 30¢/\$3		
			TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS		
			Transcontinental and Regional Air Carrier Operations, September 1976		
			51-001 40¢/\$4		
			Urban Transit, November 1976		
			53-003 15¢/\$1.50		
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			Communications — Vol. 7: No. 1, Monthly Telephone Statistics, November 1976; No. 2, Telecommunications Statistics, Third Quarter 1976		
			56-001 /\$1.40		