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# INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin

## Balance of International Payments

Canada's current account deficit totalled \$4,329 million in 1976, about \$600 million less than in 1975.

A swing of \$1,771 million in the balance on merchandise trade to a surplus of \$1,132 million in 1976 was the main positive contribution to the reduced current account deficit. However, the deficit balance on service transactions reached an unprecedented \$6 billion in 1976, up by \$1,270 million from 1975.

Capital movements during 1976 produced a massive net inflow of \$4.9 billion, nearly \$300 million more than the previous record inflow received in 1975.

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canada's balance of international indebtedness reached a book value of about \$48.5 billion by the end of 1976.

Long-term foreign investment at \$80 billion had increased by about \$12 billion in 1976, reflecting predominantly an inflow of long-term portfolio capital and an increase in earnings accruing to non-residents. Other long-term liabilities brought the total of long-term liabilities to over \$84 billion and various short-term claims on Canadians increased the total of Canada's external liabilities to about \$96 billion. Canadian long-term investment abroad increased by some \$2.5 billion to over \$23.5 billion at the end of 1976. Short-term claims on non-residents, including net official monetary assets, brought the total of Canada's external assets to about \$47.5 billion.

For further information, order *Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments* (67-001, \$1.05/\$4.20).

## International Travel

Preliminary statistics for January show that 1.2 million United States visitors entered Canada, down 14.2% from January 1976. Canadian residents returning from the U.S. numbered 2.3 million, up 4.5% from last year.

Visitors entering Canada from countries other than the U.S. totalled 39,700 in January, virtually unchanged from a year earlier. Canadian travellers returning from these countries rose 16.9% from January 1976 to 195,000.

For further information, order the *January 1977 issue of International Travel — Advance Information* (66-002, 15¢/\$1.50).

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec. 235.26p	236.77p	11.8
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec. 9,153.2p	9,041.7p	16.6
Persons with Jobs (million)	Feb.* 9.29	9.26	1.2
Unemployed	Feb.* 932,000	889,000	16.5

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Dec. 1,634	2,118	21.1
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Dec. 16,739p	16,544r	6.3
Wholesale (\$ million)	Dec. 7,144	6,751	16.9

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Dec. 8,330p	8,608r	12.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Dec. 9,290p	9,285r	-8.7

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.* 155.4	154.0	6.7
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Jan. 166.1	165.1r	4.9
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Jan.* 533.0	526.5r	5.6

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.* 775.5p	12,096.3	14.1
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Dec. 17,658	209,762	15.4

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Dec. 2,998	28,083	0.9
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Dec. 29.5	293.4	7.6
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Oct. 294.3	2,834.4	0.3
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Jan.* 58.3	58.3	7.4

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Jan. 3,103	3,103	8.6
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Jan. 3,006	3,006	3.7

### PRODUCTION

Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Jan. 144.8	144.8	5.1
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Jan. 1,220	1,220	5.3

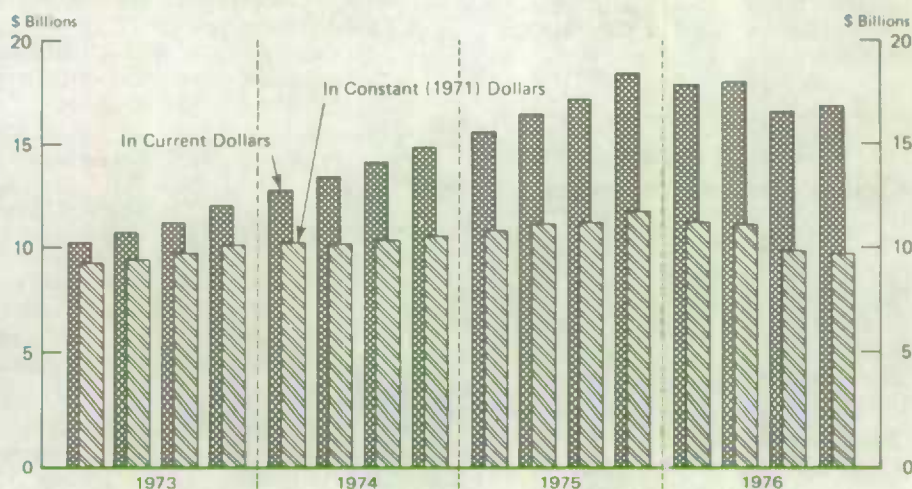
### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan. 430.2	430.2	9.5
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Dec. 8,325p	98,166	12.1
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Jan. 598.3	598.3	42.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Jan.* 4,243	4,243	9.5
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Dec. 3,878	49,987	10.2

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

## Non-Residential Construction Expenditures

(Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates)



Source: National Income and Expenditure Accounts (13-001)

## Consumer Price Index (CPI)

(1971=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada advanced 0.9% to 155.4 in February from 154.0 in January.

Nearly three-fifths of this latest relatively large increase was due to a 2% rise in the food index; this marked the second consecutive month in which this index has registered a sharp increase following a year of relative price stability. Higher prices for shelter, and to a lesser extent, for clothing also contributed notably to the all-items index rise in February. While the food index increased 2.0%, the index for all items excluding food rose by 0.5%.

Between February 1976 and February 1977, the All-Items Consumer Price Index advanced 6.7%.

During this period, the following movements were recorded in the component indexes:

- Housing, 9.5%; tobacco and alcohol, 8.3%; transportation, 8.2%; health and personal care, 7.1%; clothing, 5.8%; recreation, education and reading, 5.0%; and food, 3.1%.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the all-items index advanced 0.8% between January and February. The current annual rate of change in the CPI, based on the seasonally-adjusted movement since three months earlier was 9.2%, up from the 7.3% rate recorded the previous month.

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001, 30¢/\$3).

## Oil Pipeline Transport

Canadian oil pipelines received 2.81 million barrels per day of crude oil, condensate, pentanes plus and refined petroleum product in December, an increase of 0.6% from a year earlier.

Receipts of domestic petroleum and products increased 8.5% to 2.50 million B/D in the latest month while imports fell 36.4% to 314,000 B/D.

For further information, order the December 1976 issue of *Oil Pipeline Transport* (55-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

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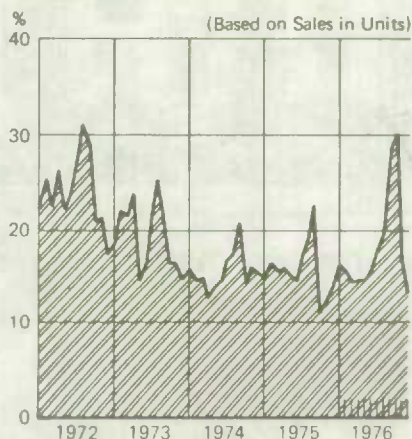
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## Share of Canadian Passenger Car Market Held by Overseas Manufacturers



Source: New Motor Vehicle Sales (63-007)

## General Wholesale Price Index

(1935-39=100)

The general wholesale price index rose to 533.0 in January, an increase of 1.2% from 526.5 (revised) in December and up 5.6% from the January 1976 level of 504.6. Increases were recorded for seven of the major groups while one remained unchanged.

The vegetable products index climbed 3.7% in January, reflecting price increases for fresh vegetables (16.7%), tea, coffee and cocoa (14.1%), dried fruits (9.6%), sugar and its products (5.0%), vegetable oil products (4.9%) and livestock and poultry feeds (3.4%). The non-ferrous products index was up 1.2% with increases for tin (13.7%), solder (4.9%), lead and its products (3.9%) and nickel (2.8%). The non-metallic minerals group moved 1.4% higher due to increases for crushed stone (8.1%), plaster (6.4%), sand and gravel (5.2%) and lime (4.3%).

Over the 12 months from January 1976, the major group indexes showed the following percentage changes:

- Wood products, 12.4%; non-ferrous metals including gold, 10.5%; textile products, 10.4%; non-metallic minerals, 8.1%; iron products, 6.5%; chemical products, 2.0%; vegetable products, 1.2%; and animal products, -2.4%.

For further information, order the January 1977 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, 55¢/\$5.50).

## Commercial Failures

Preliminary figures show that failures recorded under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding-Up Acts numbered 720 in the fourth quarter of 1976, up from 466 in the October-December period of 1975.

Estimated total liabilities of bankrupt firms rose to \$105.5 million in the latest period from \$74.8 million.

For further information, order *Commercial Failures, Fourth Quarter 1976* (61-002, 70¢/\$2.80).

## Farm Cash Receipts

Farmers' cash receipts from farming operations in all provinces except Newfoundland totalled an estimated \$1,202.9 million in January, down 31.1% from \$1,744.6 million in January 1976.

These estimates include: cash receipts from the sale of farm products; Canadian Wheat Board participation payments on previous years' grain crops; cash advances on farm-stored grains in Western Canada; and deficiency payments made by the Agricultural Stabilization Board. No deduction was made for the cost incurred by farmers in the production of the commodities sold.

Total payments made to farmers in the latest month, by province and with January 1976 figures in brackets:

- Saskatchewan, \$519.6 million (\$849.0 million); Alberta, \$228.2 million (\$365.6 million); Ontario, \$206.3 million (\$210.5 million); Manitoba, \$102.4 million (\$153.2 million); Quebec, \$84.6 million (\$98.4 million); British Columbia, \$31.5 million (\$35.9 million); Prince Edward Island, \$10.4 million (\$11.4 million); New Brunswick, \$10.0 million (\$10.6 million); and Nova Scotia, \$9.9 million (\$10.0 million).

For further information, order the January 1977 issue of *Farm Cash Receipts* (21-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact E.S. Boyko (613-994-9876), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

## Mineral Production

Canadian production of minerals in January, with January 1976 figures in brackets:

- Gold, 138,132 troy ounces (148,947).
- Silver, 3,131,433 troy ounces (3,422,343).
- Primary copper, 69,560 short tons (75,976).
- Primary nickel, 25,441 short tons (23,695).
- Refined lead, 17,903 short tons (19,370).
- Refined zinc, 53,374 short tons (42,042).

For further information, order the January 1977 issues of: *Gold Production* (26-004, 15¢/\$1.50); *Silver, Lead and Zinc Production* (26-008, 15¢/\$1.50); and *Copper and Nickel Production* (26-003, 15¢/\$1.50); or contact Art Symons (613-992-0491), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

## Airport Activity, 1976

Scheduled passenger arrivals and departures at Toronto International Airport increased 4.3% to 4,728,201 in the first six months of 1976 from 4,533,515 in the corresponding period of 1975. Similar figures for Montreal Mirabel and Dorval airports combined show a decrease of 0.7% to 3,149,083 in the latest period from 3,170,576.

Monthly airport activity statistics for the top 50 airports in Canada are now available for the first six months of 1976. The airport tables, and further information may be obtained by calling W. Benoit (613-995-9897), Airport Activity Survey, Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0N9.

### The Labour Force

Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate climbed to 7.9% in February from 7.5% in January.

Last month the unemployment rate for men 25 years of age and over rose to 4.7% from 4.4% in January while for women 25 and over it remained unchanged at 7.0%. For persons aged 15 to 24, the unemployment rate jumped to 14.4% from 13.3%.

Between January and February, the seasonally-adjusted participation rate — percentage of the population 15 and over included in the labour force — rose to 61.3% from 61.0%.

On an actual basis, the number of persons employed rose to 9.29 million in February from 9.26 million in January and was up from 9.18 million in February 1976.

The actual unemployment total was 932,000 or 9.1% of the 10.22 million included in the labour force last month. By province, unemployment rates were: Newfoundland, 17.4%; New Brunswick, 15.1%; Prince Edward Island, 13.5%; Nova Scotia, 13.2%; Quebec, 11.3%; British Columbia, 9.2%; Ontario, 8.0%; Manitoba, 7.5%; Saskatchewan, 5.4%; and Alberta, 4.6%.

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, 55¢/\$5.50).

### Retail Trade

Seasonally-adjusted January retail sales increased 3.1% from December to a level of \$5,202.8 million.

Total retail trade without seasonal adjustment reached \$4,243.0 million in January, up 9.5% from a year earlier. All provinces reported increased sales over January 1976 with the largest advance in Ontario (11.4%). Sales were up 13.7% in Toronto, 9.7% in Vancouver, 7.9% in Winnipeg and 6.8% in Montreal.

Year-to-year increases were registered in 23 of the 28 trade groups with the largest gains posted by florists (24.8%), motor vehicle dealers (24.2%) and garages (24.2%).

Revised data for December 1976 show retail sales for the month at \$6,296.5 million, up 9.2% from December 1975.

For further information, order the January 1977 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

### Local Government Finance, 1976

A survey of budgets and other sources of financial information indicates that in 1976 local government revenue rose to \$15.8 billion, up 11.8% over 1975, while expenditures increased 12.0% and exceeded \$16.8 billion.

Pending publication of *Local Government Finance, Preliminary 1975 and Estimates 1976* (68-203, \$1.40), copies of the principal revenue and expenditure tables appearing in the publication are available on request from G.A. Marr (613-995-0713), Chief, Local Government Section, Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### New Market Handbook Available

*Market Research Handbook, 1976* has been created by merchandising specialists at Statistics Canada to meet a wide variety of needs of businessmen, marketers and other decision-makers.

The 537-page handbook, 181 pages longer than the 1975 edition, is filled with extensive and highly-detailed tables spanning many years. Here are some of the subjects covered:

- **The Economy:** GNP; industrial output; imports and exports by categories; industry selling price indexes and consumer price indexes with breakdowns for all components, etc.
- **Merchandising & Services:** Receipts for retailers and wholesalers by types of business — movie theatres; laundries and dry cleaners; advertising firms; funeral homes; restaurants; computing services; vending machine firms; organizations marketing alcoholic beverages, motor vehicles, etc.
- **Population Characteristics:** Population by province, sex, urban and rural areas; marital status; births; deaths; marriages; households; labour force; student enrolment, etc.
- **Personal Income and Expenditure:** Personal income; per capita GNP; numbers of tax-payers by income groups; farm cash receipts; average and median incomes; sources of incomes; distribution of families by areas; distribution of consumer debt; patterns of expenditure, etc.

Large companies will certainly want to purchase this handbook. So too should small firms, for it is an inexpensive way to accumulate valuable information for proper business planning.

Order *Market Research Handbook, 1976* (Catalogue 63-224, Price, Canada, \$7.50; other countries, \$9.00). For further information, contact D. VanLoven (613-996-9301), Distribution Analysis Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

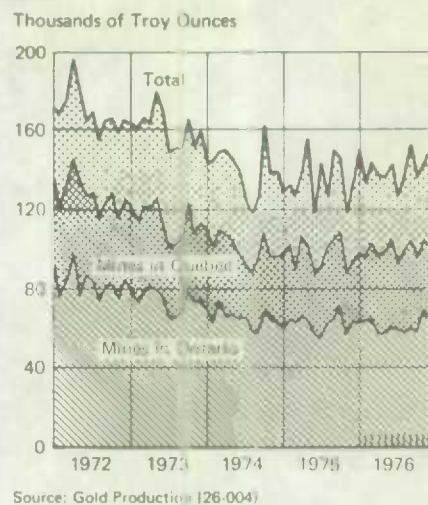
### Refined Petroleum Products

Net sales in Canada of all refined petroleum products amounted to 55.6 million barrels in January, up 0.4% from a year earlier.

Canadian refineries produced 58.3 million barrels of refined petroleum products in the latest month, an increase of 7.4% from January 1976.

For further information, order the January 1977 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, 40¢/\$4), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### Gold Production, Canada



### Farm Equipment Sales

Sales of farm implements and equipment in January were valued at \$50.6 million (dealers' cost), up 7.2% from \$47.2 million in January 1976.

Sales of repair parts for farm equipment rose 14.3% to \$14.1 million in the latest month from \$10.5 million.

For further information, order the January 1977 issue of *Farm Implement and Equipment Sales* (63-009, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact the Merchandising and Services Division (613-996-9307), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Breweries, 1975

Breweries in Canada shipped \$693.7 million worth of products of own manufacture in 1975, up 13.2% from 1974. Total value added by the industry increased 12.4% to \$476.2 million, the number of employees increased 2.0% to 11,652 and total salaries and wages increased 20.4% to \$172.4 million.

For further information, contact T.P. Sterling (613-992-8619), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6. Complete data will be published later in *Breweries, 1975* (32-205, 70¢).

### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, February

Employment, Earnings and Hours, January

Estimates of Labour Income, January

Housing Starts and Completions, January

Motor Vehicle Production, February

Real Domestic Product, January

Summary of External Trade, February



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