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# INFOMAT

## Weekly Bulletin

### Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Between February and March, consumer price indexes rose in all 14 regional cities with increases ranging from 0.6% in Quebec City and Vancouver to 1.5% in Saskatoon.

Higher prices for petroleum products, fresh produce, restaurant meals, and postage were major contributing factors to the latest increases. Other important factors included increased prices for clothing and cigarettes along with higher shelter charges.

Between March 1976 and March 1977, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities with increases recorded as follows: Regina, 9.6%; Edmonton, 8.8%; Montreal, 8.3%; Quebec City, 8.2%; Saskatoon, 8.0%; Ottawa, 8.0%; Winnipeg, 7.9%; Calgary, 7.7%; Vancouver, 7.2%; St. John's, 7.1%; Saint John, 7.1%; Halifax, 6.9%; Toronto, 6.9%; and Thunder Bay, 6.7%.

For further information, order the March 1977 issue of *Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities* (62-009, 30¢/\$3).

### Index of Industrial Production (1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of industrial production edged up 0.1% to 122.8 in February from the upwardly-revised level of 122.7 in January.

Manufacturing output decreased 0.2% in the latest month; non-durables manufacturing rose 0.2% but durables manufacturing showed a 0.5% decline. Mining production increased 1.5% while output of electric power, gas and water utilities was up 0.3%.

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (including the index of industrial production), (61-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Telephone Industry Statistics

Canadian telephone systems posted net operating revenues of \$82.0 million in February, down 6.0% from February 1976.

Gross operating revenues of the 13 major telephone companies rose 9.2% in the latest month to \$281.5 million; operating expenses advanced 16.9% to \$199.6 million.

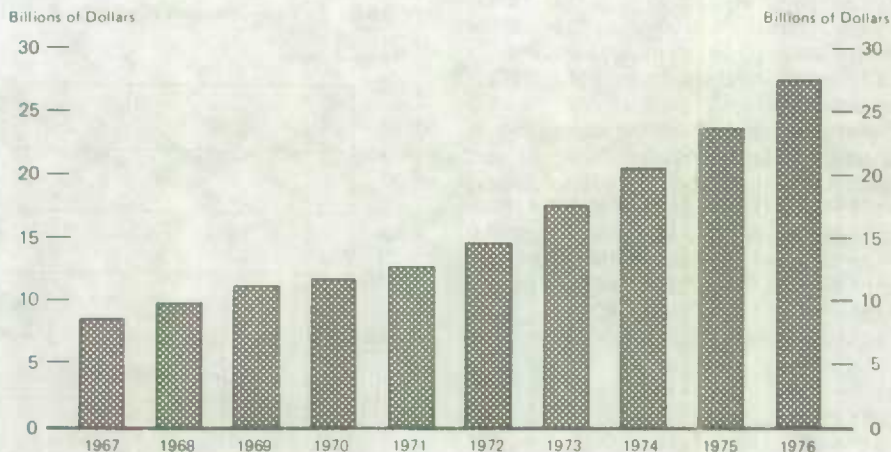
For further information, order the *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 per year).

### LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Jan.	238.25p	234.49p	9.8
Labour Income (\$ million)	Jan.	8,987.7p	9,226.8p	12.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Mar.*	9.35	9.26	1.0
Unemployed	Mar.*	944,000	932,000	24.4
<b>INVENTORIES</b>				
Department Store (\$ million)	Dec.	1,634	2,118	21.1
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Jan.	16,891p	16,749r	6.7
Wholesale (\$ million)	Feb.*	7,369	7,137	13.9
<b>ORDERS</b>				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Jan.	8,367p	8,233r	18.0
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Jan.	9,427p	9,207r	-6.5
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Mar.	157.0	155.4	7.4
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.	168.0	166.9r	5.9
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Feb.	540.9	533.6r	7.1
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Jan.	469.9p	469.9	-13.3
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Jan.	11,470	11,470	-7.9
<b>ENERGY</b>				
Coal Production (thousand tons)	Jan.	2,650	2,650	5.2
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Dec.	29.5	293.4	7.6
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Dec.*	325.6	3,463.2	0.6
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Feb.*	53.4	111.7	7.4
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>				
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Feb.	3,162	6,272	8.0
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Feb.	3,186	6,189	4.9
<b>PRODUCTION</b>				
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Feb.	143.6	288.4	5.4
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Feb.	1,160	2,379	4.0
<b>SALES</b>				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	430.2	430.2	9.5
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Jan.	8,147p	8,147	13.3
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	609.4	1,207.6	30.7
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	4,013p	8,106	9.2
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	3,828	7,494	6.1

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

### Consumer Credit Balances Outstanding, Year-end 1967-76



Source: Consumer Credit (61-004)



## Major Appliances

Sales of television sets, refrigerators and freezers declined in February but Canadian manufacturers' sales of other major appliances ran above year-earlier levels.

Major appliance sales recorded by these manufacturers in the latest month, with February 1976 figures in brackets:

- Refrigerators, 34,033 units (39,211); home and farm freezers, 15,069 (35,552).
- Stoves and ranges (electric), 36,512 (30,941).
- Automatic washing machines, 29,023 (28,689); electric and gas clothes dryers, 26,809 (26,126).
- Television sets, 30,000 (32,662).

Canadian manufacturers sold 27,701 colour television sets on the domestic market in February, a decrease of 3.5% from a year earlier; black-and-white set sales fell 41.7% to 2,299 units.

For further information, order the February 1977 issues 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 T.R. Sehdev (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

## Help-Wanted Index

(1969=100)

The seasonally-adjusted help-wanted index rose to 163 in the first quarter of 1977, up 4% from the previous quarter. Increases were reported in all regions except the Prairie Provinces, which experienced a decline of 8%.

Although the over-all index showed a drop of 5% in comparison with the first quarter of 1976, the Atlantic Provinces recorded an increase of 29% and the Prairie Provinces remained unchanged.

For further information, contact George Fincham (613-992-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

## The Wheat Review

Total exports of wheat from the four traditional major exporters during August-October 1976 amounted to 541.6 million bushels, down 7% from the year-earlier period. Canadian wheat exports declined to 118.1 million bushels from 134.7 million bushels.

Total supplies of wheat remaining in Canada, the United States, Australia and Argentina at November 1, 1976 for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 2,623.8 million bushels, 29% more than the 2,032.8 million bushels on hand at the same date in 1975.

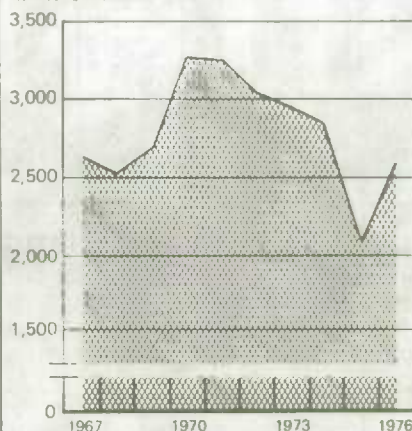
Supplies were held as follows, in millions of bushels and with figures for the previous year in brackets: United States, 1,515.8 (1,281.6); Canada, 867.8 (612.1); Australia, 135.1 (98.7); and Argentina, 105.1 (40.4).

For further information, order the November 1976 issue of *The Wheat Review* (22-005, 55¢/\$5.50).

## Commercial Failures

(Under the Bankruptcy and Winding-Up Acts)

Number of Failures



Source: Commercial Failures (61-002)

## Restaurant Statistics

Restaurants in Canada had total estimated receipts of \$176.0 million in February, an increase of 8.9% from a year earlier. Sales increases were recorded in all provinces except Newfoundland.

Restaurant receipts for the latest month, by province and with percentage changes from February 1976 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$66.8 million (8.1%); Quebec, \$53.0 million (8.1%); British Columbia, \$18.9 million (12.0%); Alberta, \$15.9 million (13.2%); Manitoba, \$8.6 million (10.2%); Saskatchewan, \$5.0 million (9.5%); New Brunswick, \$3.2 million (10.6%); Nova Scotia, \$2.6 million (2.7%); Newfoundland, \$1.5 million (-4.6%); and Prince Edward Island, \$356,000 (0.8%).

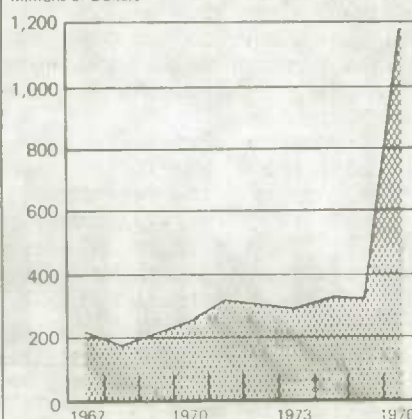
Cumulatively, restaurant receipts for the first two months of 1977 totalled an estimated \$353.7 million, up 9.0% from the January-February period of 1976.

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *Restaurant Statistics* (63-011, 15¢/\$1.50).

## Liabilities of Bankrupt Firms

(Under the Bankruptcy and Winding-Up Acts)

Millions of Dollars



Source: Commercial Failures (61-002)

## Department Store Sales by Regions

Department store sales rose to \$389.2 million in February, up 11.8% from a year earlier. Increases were recorded in all regions of Canada.

Department store sales by regions for the latest month, with percentage gains over February 1976 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$135.2 million (7.1%); Quebec, \$73.3 million (12.8%); British Columbia, \$66.7 million (15.5%); Alberta, \$58.8 million (19.8%); Atlantic Provinces, \$22.6 million (10.6%); Manitoba, \$21.5 million (9.7%); and Saskatchewan, \$11.2 million (11.9%).

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$1.50 per year).

## Commercial Failures

Preliminary figures show that failures recorded under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding-Up Acts numbered 2,590 in 1976, up from 2,091 (revised) in 1975.

Estimated total liabilities of bankrupt firms climbed to \$1,185.3 million in 1976 from \$325.3 million in 1975.

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

## Mineral Production

Canadian production of metals in February 1977 and 1977 to date, with comparable 1976 figures in brackets:

- Gold, 136,625 troy ounces (133,463) — 274,335 troy ounces (282,410).
- Silver, 3,456,290 troy ounces (3,129,203) — 6,576,121 troy ounces (6,551,546).
- Primary copper, 72,640 short tons (54,880) — 151,814 short tons (130,856).
- Primary nickel, 23,290 short tons (22,475) — 48,731 short tons (46,170).
- Refined lead, 17,905 short tons (17,846) — 35,808 short tons (37,216).
- Refined zinc, 49,748 short tons (39,607) — 103,122 short tons (81,649).

For further information, order the February 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.

## Federal Government Enterprise Finance, 1975

Federal government enterprises had income of \$7,002.6 million during the fiscal years ended nearest to December 31, 1975. Expenditure for the corresponding period amounted to \$6,750.6 million. On a financial management basis, this produced a surplus of \$252.0 million after provision for income taxes.

Pending publication of *Federal Government Enterprise Finance, 1975* (61-203, \$1.05), advance information is available from G.M. McIlveen (613-995-0669), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



## Report on Job Vacancies

Preliminary estimates for the first quarter of 1977 show almost no change in the average number of vacant jobs from the previous quarter, and a decrease of 17% from the comparable period of 1976. For the average day in the first quarter of 1977, vacancies for full-time, part-time and casual jobs totalled 39,900, down marginally from 40,300 in the fourth quarter of 1976.

The number of vacancies for full-time jobs — at 35,400 — remained virtually unchanged from the previous quarter. However, the number of longer-term vacancies (jobs unfilled for more than four weeks) decreased by 10% to 12,600.

For every 1,000 existing jobs in the first quarter of 1977, five were vacant, unchanged from the fourth quarter of 1976. A year earlier, the comparable rate was six per 1,000. The highest vacancy rates were observed in Alberta (11 per 1,000) and Saskatchewan (seven per 1,000). The lowest vacancy rate (two per 1,000) occurred in Nova Scotia.

For further information, order *Quarterly Report on Job Vacancies, First Quarter 1977* (71-002, \$1.05/\$4.20), or contact J.A. Boucek (613-992-2006), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

## Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in February were estimated at \$3,828.4 million, up 6.5% from February 1976.

Wholesale inventories were valued at \$7,369.0 million at the end of February, an increase of 13.9% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the *February 1977 issue of Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$1.50 per year).

## Refined Petroleum Products

Net sales in Canada of all refined petroleum products amounted to 53.5 million barrels in February, up 5.2% from a year earlier.

Canadian refineries produced 53.4 million barrels of refined petroleum products in the latest month, an increase of 7.5% from February 1976.

For further information, order the *February 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.

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## Consumer Credit

Consumer credit outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly reached \$21,868 million at the end of February, an increase of 16.4% from a year earlier.

Outstanding balances held by these credit grantors in the latest month, with percentage changes from February 29, 1976:

- Chartered banks' personal loans, \$16,405 million (22.2%).
- Sales finance and consumer loan companies'
  - large loans, \$1,485 million (-0.8%).
  - small loans, \$226 million (-7.0%).
  - instalment sales paper, \$1,112 million (0.1%).
- Life insurance companies' policy loans, \$1,224 million (5.8%).
- Department stores and furniture, television, radio and household appliance stores, \$1,344 million (3.1%).
- Quebec savings banks' personal loans, \$74 million (25.4%).

Credit holders reporting quarterly had combined outstanding balances of \$5,760 million at the end of 1976. Largest of these credit holders, credit unions and caisses populaires, reported balances outstanding of \$3,820 million, up 17.8%. Including quarterly reporters, consumer credit outstanding at the end of 1976 amounted to \$27,611 million, up 16.2% from the end of 1975.

For further information, order the *February 1977 issue of Consumer Credit* (61-004, 30¢/\$3), or contact the *Retail Trade Section* (613-996-9304 or Telex 053-3585), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

## International Travel, 1976

Final estimates for the year 1976 show that Canada earned \$1,930 million from international travel compared to \$1,815 million in 1975. However, Canadians spent \$3,121 million abroad, leaving a record deficit of \$1,191 million compared to the deficit of \$727 million posted in 1975.

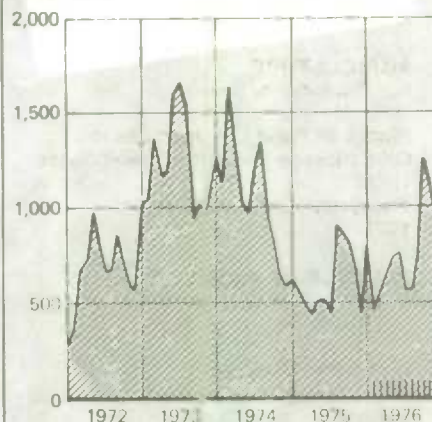
Canadian receipts in 1976 comprised \$1,346 million from travellers from the United States (slightly higher than in 1975) and \$584 million from those of all other countries (up 22.2%). Fewer Americans visiting Canada contributed to the stagnant state of receipts from the U.S. In contrast, the number of visitors from other countries increased sharply — due principally to the Olympics — and produced a significant rise in receipts.

Canadian resident spending abroad included \$1,956 million in the U.S. and \$1,165 million in all other countries, increases of 23.3% and 22.0%, respectively. The growth in payments reflected both increased numbers of international travellers and higher levels of spending.

For further information, order the *October-December 1976 issue of Travel Between Canada and Other Countries* (66-001, \$1.75/\$7), or contact M.W. Valiquette (613-995-0847), International Travel Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Canadian Net Exports of Electric Power

Millions Kwh



Source: Electric Power Statistics (57-001)

## Federal Government Employment

Including members of the Canadian Forces, the federal government and its enterprises had 576,164 employees as of December, 1976 with a gross payroll (including overtime and retroactive payments) of \$2,119.9 million for the fourth quarter. (The additional coverage of 26,522 Post Office Christmas helpers and 2,000 revenue post office employees with a gross payroll of \$6.8 million for the quarter constitutes most of the increase in the employment figures when compared to those for the period October-December 1975.)

For further information, order the *fourth quarter issue of Federal Government Employment* (72-004, 70¢/\$2.80), or contact Mr. T. Moore (613-995-0669), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Federal Government Finance, 1975-76

Gross general revenue receipts of the federal government amounted to \$34,703 million for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1976. Gross general expenditures reached \$36,845 million, leaving a deficit of \$2,142 million.

Pending publication of *Federal Government Finance, 1975-76* (68-211, \$1.05), advance information is available from G.M. McIveen (613-995-0669), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Building Permits, February  
Estimates of Labour Income, February  
Housing Starts and Completions, February  
Motor Vehicle Production, March  
New Motor Vehicle Sales, March  
Summary of External Trade, March





# THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED APRIL 14 — APRIL 20

	Catalogue	Price per issue/year		Catalogue	Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			Particle Board, February 1977	36-003	15¢/\$1.50
Fur Production, Season 1975-76	23-207	70¢	Primary Iron and Steel, January 1977	41-001	40¢/\$4
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<b>BUSINESS FINANCE</b>			Rigid Insulating Board, February 1977	36-002	15¢/\$1.50
Financial Institutions, Financial Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1976	61-006	\$1.40/\$5.60	Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, February 1977	46-001	15¢/\$1.50
Industrial Corporations, Financial Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1976	61-003	\$1.75/\$7	Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, February 1977	43-003	15¢/\$1.50
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<b>EXTERNAL TRADE</b>			Energy Statistics — Vol. 11, No. 39, Refined Petroleum Products, January 1977	57-002	/\$4.20
Summary of External Trade, February 1977	65-001	40¢/\$4	<b>Fabricated Metal Products — Vol. 6, February 1977: No. 6, Oil Filters and Cartridges; No. 7, Builders and Shelf Hardware; No. 8, Cemented Tungsten Carbide Blanks and Tools; No. 9, Domestic and Farm Water Systems; No. 10, Sanitaryware</b>	41-009	/\$2.80
<b>FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES</b>			<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>		
International Travel, February 1977	66-002	15¢/\$1.50	Farm Implement and Equipment Sales, January 1 to February 28, 1977	63-009	15¢/\$1.50
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Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry (Including the Index of Industrial Production), January 1977	61-005	40¢/\$4	Restaurant Statistics, February 1977	63-011	15¢/\$1.50
<b>LABOUR</b>			Sales Financing, January 1977	63-013	30¢/\$3
Estimates of Labour Income, October-December 1976	72-005	\$1.05/\$4.20	<b>PRICES</b>		
Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, December 1976	73-001	40¢/\$4	Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin, March 1977	62-007	40¢/\$4
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>			Industry Price Indexes, November 1976	62-011	55¢/\$5.50
Abrasives Manufacturers, 1975	44-202	70¢	<b>TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
Asphalt Roofing, February 1977	45-001	15¢/\$1.50	Railway Carloadings, February 1977	52-001	30¢/\$3
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