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# INFORMAT

## Weekly Bulletin

### Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act reached \$378 million in February, an increase of 10% from the \$342 million disbursed a year earlier. The average weekly benefit at \$101.51 was up 10% from February 1976.

Persons receiving unemployment insurance benefits in February totalled 913,000, up 1% from a year earlier.

Persons seeking benefit filed 200,000 claims in the latest month, up 5% from February 1976.

For the first two months of 1977, net payments under the act amounted to \$773 million, an increase of 13% from \$684 million paid out in the January-February period of 1976.

For further information, order the February 1977 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.

### Employment, Earnings and Hours

Average weekly earnings in Canadian industry at \$241.30 in February were up 9.7% from \$220.02 a year earlier.

First estimates show that (unadjusted) average weekly earnings (by province) were highest in British Columbia (\$274.34), followed by Alberta (\$254.57), Ontario (\$240.16), Quebec (\$235.74), Newfoundland (\$232.70), Saskatchewan (\$227.88), New Brunswick (\$223.24), Manitoba (\$219.66), Nova Scotia (\$207.77) and Prince Edward Island (\$187.92).

Average weekly earnings in February (by industry division) were as follows: construction, \$348.09; mining, \$337.65; forestry, \$333.71; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$281.52; manufacturing, \$257.55; finance, insurance and real estate, \$222.12; trade, \$185.12; and service, \$167.64.

Compared with February 1976, average hourly earnings were up 11.4% in manufacturing, 11.3% in construction and 9.5% in mining.

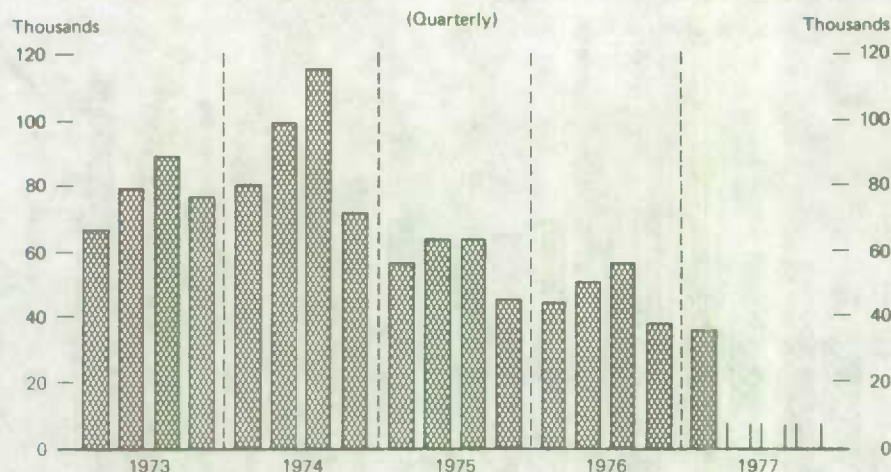
For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, 70¢/\$7), or contact R. Ouellette (613-992-5613), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

### LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>			
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb * 241.30p	238.99p	9.7
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)	Jan. 1,567	1,634	13.7
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb * 17,165p	16,962r	7.6
Wholesale (\$ million)	Feb * 7,369	7,137	13.9
<b>ORDERS</b>			
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb * 8,243p	8,211r	10.5
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb * 9,500p	9,444r	-5.0
<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)	Feb * 2,913	5,563	11.1
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)	Mar * 1,341	3,704	5.8
<b>SALES</b>			
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb * 389.2	819.4	10.6
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb * 8,187p	16,160	9.7
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.

### Full-Time Job Vacancies, Canada



Source: Quarterly Report on Job Vacancies (71-002)



## Aggregate Productivity Measures, 1971-76

Preliminary estimates of output per man-hour for all commercial industries show a growth of 2.9% in 1976 following two years of only fractional increases. This improvement reflects growth of 5.1% in output (following a 0.5% decrease in 1975) with only a 2.1% increase in man-hours. Unit labour cost increased 9.5% in 1976, the smallest increase since 1973 but still double the average annual rate of growth in unit labour cost from 1961 to 1976.

In manufacturing, output per man-hour increased 2.3%. This is in line with the average annual rate of growth of 2.1% for the period 1971-76 but is well below the average rate of growth of 3.9% for the period 1961-76. Unit labour cost in 1976 increased 9.0% compared to an increase of 14.7% in 1975 and 12.3% in 1974.

*These data revise and update the indexes published in Aggregate Productivity Measures, 1946-74 (14-201, \$1.05). For further information, contact Karnail S. Gill (613-995-8401), Input-Output Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

## Housing Starts

New residential construction activity continued to decline in February with housing starts in Canadian centres of 10,000 population and over dropping 22.6% to 8,994 units from 11,615 in February 1976.

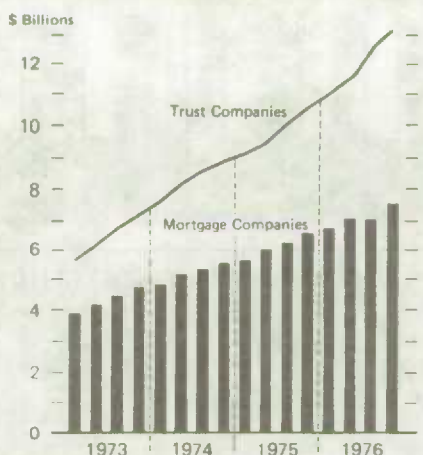
Housing starts recorded in the latest month, by province and with February 1976 figures in brackets: Quebec, 2,896 (2,222); Ontario, 2,407 (3,313); British Columbia, 1,639 (1,747); Alberta, 1,280 (2,516); Saskatchewan, 284 (498); Manitoba, 223 (596); Nova Scotia, 200 (641); New Brunswick, 32 (22); Newfoundland, 31 (57); and Prince Edward Island, 2 (3).

For the first two months of 1977, housing starts in centres of 10,000 population and over totalled 20,464 units, down 15.0% from 24,065 in January-February 1976.

*For further information, order the February 1977 issue of Housing Starts and Completions (64-002, 40¢/\$4).*

## Trust and Mortgage Companies

Quarterly Statements of Mortgages Outstanding



Source: Financial Institutions, Financial Statistics (61-006)

## Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

Crude petroleum production for January amounted to 1.41 million barrels per day, down 3.1% from a year earlier.

Natural gas production averaged 10.76 billion cubic feet per day in the latest month, an increase of 4.5% from January 1976.

*For further information, order the January 1977 issue of Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production (26-006, 30¢/\$3), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.*

## Industrial Research and Development Expenditures in Canada, 1975-77

Industry spent \$787 million for research and development in 1975, an increase of 13% over 1974. Estimated expenditures for 1976 were \$883 million and for 1977 are \$950 million.

*For further information, contact the Science Statistics Centre (613-995-3014), Education, Science and Culture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

## Residential Building Construction Input Price Index

(1971=100)

The residential building construction input price index for Canada rose to 169.0 in March, an increase of 0.5% from February and up 8.5% from a year earlier.

Prices of materials used in residential building construction increased 5.6% over the 12 months from March 1976; labour costs rose 13.2%.

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

- Prairie Provinces, 10.1%; Atlantic Provinces, 9.8%; British Columbia, 9.2%; Ontario, 8.1%; and Quebec, 7.3%.

Labour cost indexes showed the following increases (by region): Prairie Provinces, 15.4%; Atlantic Provinces, 14.4%; Ontario, 14.0%; British Columbia, 11.7%; and Quebec, 10.3%.

*For further information, order the March 1977 issue of Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin (62-007, \$4 per year), or contact Mrs. G. John (613-994-5807), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.*

## Sales Financing

Sales finance companies purchased \$186.0 million of retail finance paper in February, up 2.8% from \$180.9 million in February 1976.

The total for the latest month comprised \$44.1 million for passenger cars (\$45.6 million a year earlier), \$26.3 million for other consumer goods (\$23.2 million), \$73.4 million for commercial vehicles (\$72.0 million) and \$37.2 million for other commercial and industrial goods (\$40.1 million).

*For further information, order the February 1977 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.*

## Coal and Coke Statistics

Production of coal in Canada increased 17% in February to 2,913,192 tons from 2,489,764 tons in February 1976. Imports increased to 73,188 tons from 12,048 tons.

Industrial consumers used 2,637,081 tons of coal in the latest month (up 646,224 tons from a year earlier) and 449,756 tons of coke (down 8,038 tons).

*For further information, order the February 1977 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.*

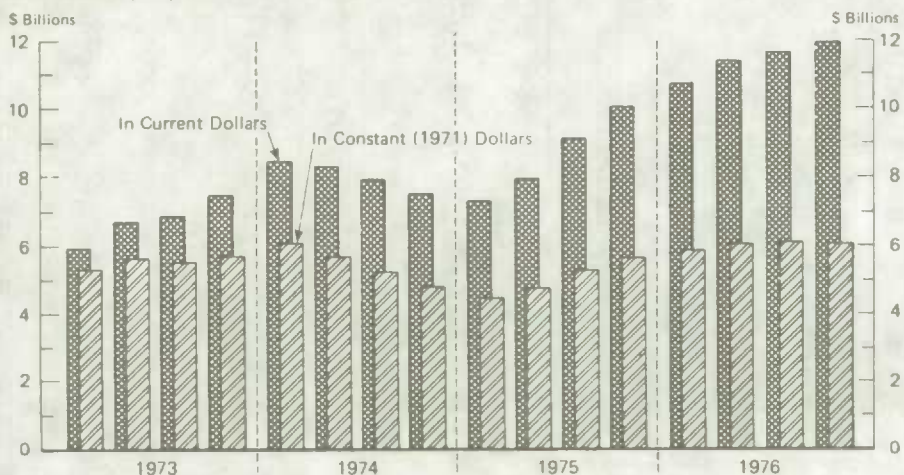
## Road and Street Mileage and Expenditures, 1973

Mileage of public roads and streets as reported by the three levels of government in Canada totalled 526,136 at the end of 1973, up 0.4% from 1972. Expenditures on public thoroughfares during the 1973-74 fiscal year came to \$3,118 million, a rise of 15.3% over the previous year.

*For further information, contact R. Staveley (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

## Residential Construction Expenditures

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



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



### Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries

Manufacturers' seasonally-adjusted new orders in February were estimated at \$8,706.4 million, down 2.1% from \$8,888.8 million (revised) in January. New orders for durable goods fell 3.3% to \$4,059.3 million while those for non-durable goods were down 1.0% to \$4,647.1 million.

The backlog of unfilled orders in all manufacturing industries in February, seasonally adjusted, was estimated at \$9,422.5 million, up 0.6% from the previous month.

Total inventory owned by manufacturers, seasonally adjusted, was 1.0% higher at \$16,999.3 million.

The seasonally-adjusted ratio of total inventory owned — to shipments rose to 1.97:1 in February from 1.94:1 (revised) in January while the finished products — to shipments ratio increased to 0.68:1 from 0.67:1.

Manufacturers' shipments in February, seasonally adjusted, were estimated at \$8,650.6 million, a decrease of 0.5% from January.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in February at an estimated \$8,187.0 million showed an increase of 8.6% from a year earlier. Shipments for the first two months of 1977 were estimated at \$16,160.2 million, up 9.7% from \$14,727.1 million in January-February 1976.

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, 35¢/\$5.50), or contact H.D. Wightman (613-296-7008), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### Towboat Industry, British Columbia, 1975

Preliminary survey information from the 1975 Water Transportation Report shows that total transportation revenues of the principal private and commercial towboat operators in British Columbia decreased 8.5% to \$92.2 million in 1975 from a high in 1974 of \$100.8 million. Net income of the operators fell 78.7% to \$1.6 million from \$7.5 million.

For further information, contact Mr. R. Paquet (613-996-9274), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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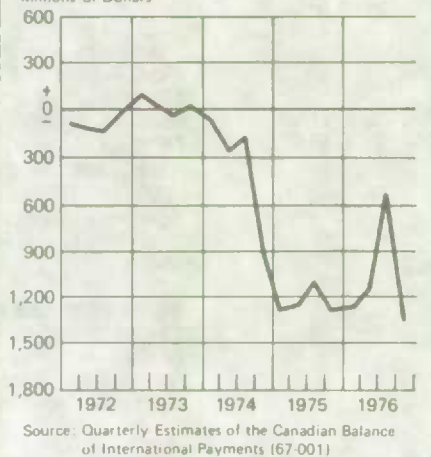
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### Canadian Balance of International Payments

Current Account — Seasonally Adjusted

Millions of Dollars



Source: Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments (67-001)

### Local Government Employment

Municipal governments in Canada employed a total of 253,668 persons in general government services at the end of December, an increase of 6,469 (2.6%) from the corresponding period in 1975.

Gross payrolls for the fourth quarter of 1976 amounted to \$770.0 million, up 21.7% from \$632.8 million in October-December 1975.

For further information, order *Local Government, Employment, Fourth Quarter 1976* (72-009, 70¢/\$2.80).

### Local Government Finance, Actual 1974

Actual general revenue raised by local governments in 1974 from their own sources — real property and other taxes, sales of service, licenses, permits and other charges — increased 13.0% over 1973 to \$6,337 million. Transfers from other governments amounted to \$5,950 million, or 48.4% of total general revenue. The significant portions of these transfers were the specific purpose transfers from provincial and territorial governments amounting to \$5,120 million, up 22.3% from 1973. Total general revenue at \$12,287 million rose \$1,787 million (17.0%).

General expenditure at \$13,307 million in 1974 showed an increase of 18.3% over 1973. Education expenditure at \$5,616 million was up 18.8% and represented 42.2% of total expenditure. The 1974 expenditure on transportation and communications represented 12.9% of total general expenditure, while fiscal services represented 8.1%, environment 8.3%, protection of persons and property 7.5% and other functions of expenditure slightly smaller percentages.

Further details of these and other financial management statistics of local governments will be published in *Local Government Finance, Actual 1974* (68-204, \$1.05). Pending release of the publication, further information may be obtained from G.A. Marr (613-995-0713), Local Government Section, Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Real Domestic Product

(1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product increased 0.1% to 125.6 in February from the upwardly-revised level of 125.5 in January. The seasonally-adjusted index of industrial production rose 0.1%. In February, goods-producing industries were unchanged from January, while output of service-producing industries advanced 0.2%.

In goods-producing industries, higher production levels were recorded in mining, utilities, fishing and trapping and construction. In mining, most of the gain reflected increased production of crude petroleum and natural gas and, to a lesser extent, asbestos mines. Output of utilities rose slightly due to an advance in electric power utilities. There was a marginal rise in construction, although residential and non-residential building activity declined. Manufacturing, agriculture and forestry declined in February. In manufacturing, non-durables advanced slightly, mainly on the strength of increases recorded by manufacturers of food and beverage products, petroleum and coal products, and chemical and chemical products. A significant drop was recorded in durables manufacturing, mostly due to decreases in wood products, primary metals, transportation equipment and non-metallic mineral products industries. Agriculture declined due to lower livestock production while the decline in forestry was attributed to lower levels of logging and pulpwood production.

The service-producing industries increased 0.2% in February. Gains were recorded in transportation, storage and communication, in community, business and personal services, and in public administration and defence. The increase in transportation, storage and communication reflected significant advances in air, rail and bus transport and grain elevators. Increases in education and related services and health and welfare services accounted for most of the strength in community, business and personal services.

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.

### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Building Permits, February  
Consumer Price Index, April  
Department Store Sales by Regions, March  
Motor Vehicle Production, March  
New Motor Vehicle Sales, March

## THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED APRIL 21 — 27

**AGRICULTURE**

Index Numbers of Farm Prices of  
Agricultural Products, February  
1977

Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
62-003	15¢/\$1.50
22-005	55¢/\$5.50

**BUSINESS FINANCE**

Corporation Taxation Statistics,  
1974

61-208	\$2.10
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**EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE**

Enrolment and Staff in Schools for  
the Blind and the Deaf, 1976-77

81-217	70¢
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**HEALTH**

Mental Health Statistics:  
Volume II — Patients on Books of  
Institutions, 1970-1974

83-208	\$3.50
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**JUDICIAL****SERVICE BULLETIN:**

Law Enforcement, Judicial and  
Correctional Statistics — Vol. 5,  
No. 1, Provincial/Territorial Adult  
Correctional Institutions Preliminary  
Statistics, 1975

85-001	N/C
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**LABOUR**

Employment, Earnings and Hours,  
January 1977

72-002	70¢/\$7
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**MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

Asbestos mines, 1975  
Coal and Coke Statistics,  
January 1977  
Footwear Statistics, February 1977  
Gold Production, February 1977  
Inventories, Shipments and Orders  
in Manufacturing Industries,  
January 1977  
Oil Pipe Line Transport,  
January 1977

26-205	70¢
45-002	40¢/\$4
33-002	30¢/\$3
26-004	15¢/\$1.50
31-001	55¢/\$5.50
55-001	30¢/\$3

Production and Shipments of Steel  
Pipe, Tubing and Fittings,  
February 1977

41-011	15¢/\$1.50
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Production of Canada's Leading  
Minerals, February 1977

26-007	15¢/\$1.50
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Silver, Lead and Zinc Production,  
February 1977

26-008	15¢/\$1.50
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Specified Chemicals, February 1977

46-002	15¢/\$1.50
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Steel Ingots and Pig Iron,  
March 1977

41-002	15¢/\$1.50
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**SERVICE BULLETINS**

Energy Statistics — Vol. 12, No. 1,  
Retail Gasoline Statistics by  
Metropolitan Area, 4th Quarter 1976

57-002	/\$4.20
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Fruit and Vegetable Preservation  
— Vol. 5, No. 37, Pack of Processed  
Potatoes, 1976

32-023	/\$1.40
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Selected Dairy By-Products —  
Vol. 6, No. 5, Production and  
Inventory of Instant Dry Skim Milk  
Powder, March 1977

32-024	/\$1.40
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Tobacco and Tobacco Products —  
Vol. 6, No. 3, Production and  
Disposition of Tobacco Products,  
March 1977

32-022	/\$1.40
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**MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES**

Department Store Sales and Stocks,  
January 1977

63-002	40¢/\$4
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New Motor Vehicle Sales,  
February 1977

63-007	30¢/\$3
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Retail Chain Stores, 1975

63-210	\$1.40
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**POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS**

Canadian Citizenship Statistics,  
1975

91-205	70¢
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**TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents,  
1975

53-206	\$1.40
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Shipping Statistics, December 1976

54-002	30¢/\$3
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**Additional information**

When names and telephone numbers are not provided, additional information can often be obtained from the regional User Advisory staff of Statistics Canada or from its Central Inquiries Service, Ottawa (613-992-4734).

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