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INFOMAT

Weekly Bulletin

Railway Operating Statistics

Combined net income of the six major railways in Canada totalled \$25.2 million in December compared with the deficit of \$103.3 million posted in December 1975. Total operating revenues increased to \$264.4 million from \$109.4 million and operating expenses advanced to \$239.2 million from \$212.7 million.

Freight ton-miles for December 1976 aggregated 9,805.1 million, a gain of 0.2% over the previous year. But freight train-miles and freight car-miles declined 2.5% and 3.9%, respectively. Passenger-miles were up 18.7% to 153.8 million.

Twelve-month figures for all six railways show a 16.8% increase in 1976 operating revenues to \$3,058.3 million; a 9.7% rise in expenses to \$2,926.7 million; and net income of \$131.6 million, nearly three times that of 1975. Canadian National reported net operating income of \$19.6 million in 1976 (as opposed to a deficit of \$109.7 million the previous year). Canadian Pacific netted \$9.4 million on operations (\$7.9 million in 1975). Ton-miles generated by all six lines in 1976 were up 1.2%, while passenger-miles decreased 0.5%.

For further information, order the December 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.

International Travel

Preliminary statistics for March show that the number of United States residents entering Canada reached 1.6 million, up 4.0% from March 1976, while Canadian residents returning from the U.S. increased 15.4% to 2.9 million. There were 51,400 visitors from countries other than the U.S., 1.6% more than last year, and 191,600 Canadians returning from these countries, an increase of 11.8% from March 1976.

In the first quarter of 1977, U.S. visitors were down 6.4% to 4.0 million, while Canadians returning from the U.S. totalled 7.4 million, up 8.8% from January-March 1976. There was little change (-0.6%) in the number (125,300) of visitors from countries other than the U.S. However, Canadians returning from these countries increased 13.8%, reaching 527,000.

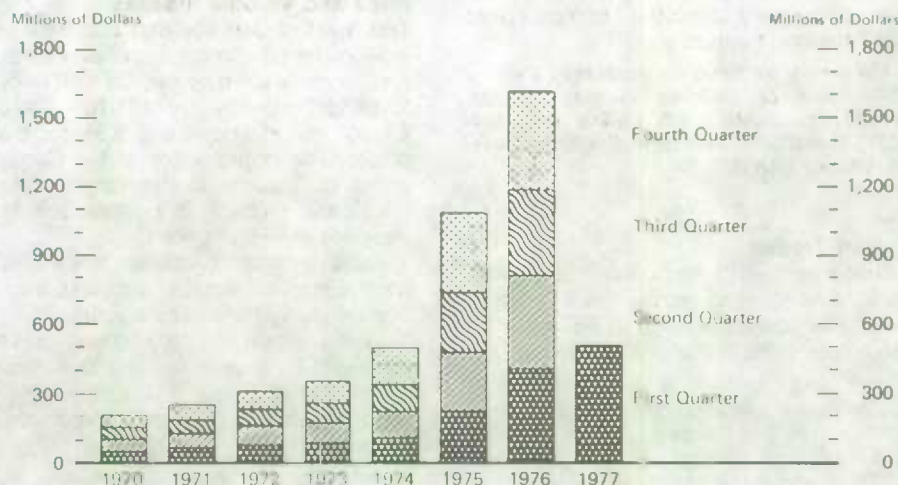
For further information, order the March 1977 issue of *International Travel — Advance Information* (66-002, 15¢/\$1.50).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
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
INVENTORIES				
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
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	8,243p	8,211r	10.5
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	9,500p	9,444r	-5.0
PRICES				
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
CONSTRUCTION				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Feb.*	627.8p	1,097.7	-11.3
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.*	8,994	20,464	-15.0
ENERGY				
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
FOREIGN TRADE				
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Mar.*	3,830	10,153	15.5
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Mar.*	3,743	9,929	8.7
PRODUCTION				
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Feb.	143.6	288.4	5.4
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Mar.	1,341	3,704	5.8
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	389.2	819.4	10.6
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.	8,167p	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	7.4
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	3,828	7,494	6.1

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

Canadian Exports of Natural Gas to the United States



Source: Summary of External Trade (65-001)

Railway Carloadings

Carload and non-carload freight originating on lines in Canada totalled 20.7 million short tons (18.7 million t) in March, an increase of 10.8% over March 1976. Traffic received from United States connections increased 1.6%.

On a commodity basis, March loadings of sulphur continued to be significantly above the previous year, rising 122.5%. Notable gains were also recorded for: fertilizers (excluding potash), 70.5%; gypsum, 57.2%; wheat, 40.6%; lumber, 38.3%; and pulpwood chips, 25.9%.

In the first quarter of 1977, rail freight loadings totalled 55.2 million short tons (52.0 million t), 6.1% above the year-earlier level. Receipts from U.S. connections were down 3.1%. Among commodities showing notable percentage increases during the latest period were sulphur, fertilizers, pulpwood, forest products and wheat. Loadings of phosphate rock, alumina and grains other than wheat declined.

For further information, order the March 1977 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, 30¢/\$3) or, for seasonally-adjusted revenue freight loadings, contact J.R. Slatery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Building Permits

The seasonally-adjusted value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities totalled \$944 million in February compared to \$916 million in January. In February 1976, the value of construction permits issued was \$1.1 billion.

Residential permits — which constitute the largest component of building construction — remained practically unchanged in February at \$539 million. The number of new dwellings authorized reflect a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 208,000 units. In February 1976, the rate called for 265,000 new dwelling units.

In the non-residential sector, both industrial and commercial construction showed increases over January while government-sponsored projects decreased. Over-all, non-residential permits totalled \$405 million, seasonally adjusted, compared to \$367 million in January.

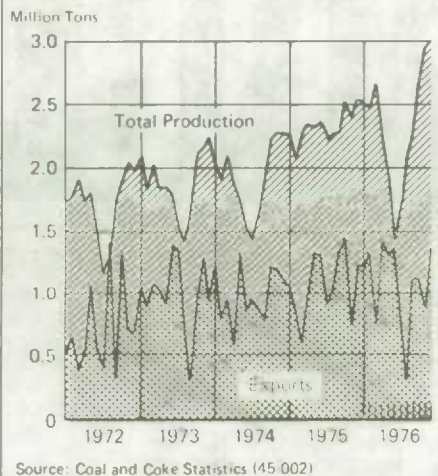
For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, 70¢/\$7), or contact J.P. Delisle (613-994-9527), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Urban Transit

Urban transit systems carried 113.4 million fare passengers in March and had operating revenues amounting to \$37.8 million. Revenue vehicle-miles run totalled 31.4 million.

For further information, order the March 1977 issue of *Urban Transit* (53-003, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact the Chief (613-996-9274), Surface Transport Section, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Coal Production, Canada and Exports



Non-Residential Building Construction Input Price Index (1971=100)

The non-residential building construction input price index for Canada rose to 173.2 in March, an increase of 0.3% from February and up 8.7% from a year earlier.

The materials component of the total index advanced 4.9% over the 12 months from March 1976; labour costs rose 12.7%.

Prices of plumbing, heating and air conditioning equipment used in non-residential building construction climbed 7.8% during this period; smaller increases were recorded for: concrete products (7.4%); electrical equipment (5.5%); steel and metal work (1.8%); and other materials (4.8%). Prices of lumber and lumber products dipped 0.2%.

For further information, order the March 1977 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.

Import and Export Price and Volume Indexes

The level of January and February price indexes for both imports and exports show a substantial jump compared with both the first and fourth quarters of 1976 — just over 6% for import prices and 3.5% for export prices. The depreciation of the Canadian dollar contributed to the surge in import prices and, probably to a lesser extent, to the increase in export prices.

February import volume advanced almost 5% over January, and was also 5% higher than the fourth quarter of 1976. February export volume remained at about the same level as in January, the January/February level being 12% above the low fourth quarter of 1976 and 1% above the third-quarter 1976 peak.

For further information, order the March 1977 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, 40¢/\$4).

Future Trends in Enrolment and Manpower Supply in Ontario

A record 67,100 students are expected to graduate from Ontario's universities and colleges this year. More than two-thirds of them (46,200) could enter the provincial labour force, as well as another 151,600 — high school graduates and those who leave the various levels of education before completing a program. Thus, an estimated 197,700 young people will cease full-time study and seek permanent work in Ontario in 1977.

The annual number is projected to increase to nearly 214,000 in 1981, and then decline as the crest of the baby-boom generation passes through the education system. In 1986, about 195,000 students will be potential labour force entrants.

But while the number of school-leavers is projected to rise and fall, their level of education will increase steadily. Greater post-secondary attendance over the past two decades has raised the educational attainment of young people who enter the labour force. About 44% of this year's 197,700 potential entrants have had at least some post-secondary education; by 1986, the proportion will be 50.5%. In 1966, only 24.9% had attended a post-secondary institution.

The influx of these young people will raise the over-all level of education of the provincial labour force. In 1974, less than one-quarter had any post-secondary training. By 1986, the annual addition of people leaving full-time study will raise the proportion above one-third. Moreover, the percentage is likely to be even higher as those already employed upgrade their credentials through part-time study, and immigrants with post-secondary qualifications join Ontario's labour force.

Although the report noted below focuses on one projection of enrolment, graduates and potential labour force entrants to 1986, alternatives are provided and trends to 2001 examined. The kinds of jobs the 1974 graduates accepted and implications for the future are also discussed.

Order *Future Trends in Enrolment and Manpower Supply in Ontario — Projections of Enrolment, Graduates and Potential Labour Force Entrants from Ontario's Education System, and their Implications — 1971 to 1986 and Trends to 2001*, by Z. Zsigmond, G. Picot, M.S. Devereaux, W. Clark (81-567E, \$3.50).

The Dairy Review

Canadian production of milk produced for all purposes in February amounted to an estimated 1,048,255,000 pounds, down 7.2% from February 1976.

Milk production in the first two months of 1977 totalled 2,154,638,000 pounds, a decrease of 8.5% from January-February 1976.

For further information, order the March 1977 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001, 40¢/\$4), or contact C.M. Riach (613-994-9974), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

Summary of External Trade

Exports in March (seasonally adjusted on a balance-of-payments basis) increased 16.4% from the February level to reach \$4.017 billion, topping \$4 billion for the first time. As imports rose 3.7% to \$3,508 million, the trade surplus was \$509 million, the largest in recent months.

Canadian exports (on a customs basis) to the United States, after seasonal adjustment, rose 9.5% to a record level of \$2,608 million in March, following two months of marginal growth. The March increase in exports was widespread, but approximately half of the rise was due to motor vehicles. Shipments of passenger cars in particular surged in response to rising sales in the U.S. after the severe cold snap. Fairly sizable gains were also recorded in exports of natural gas, lumber, newsprint, metals and machinery.

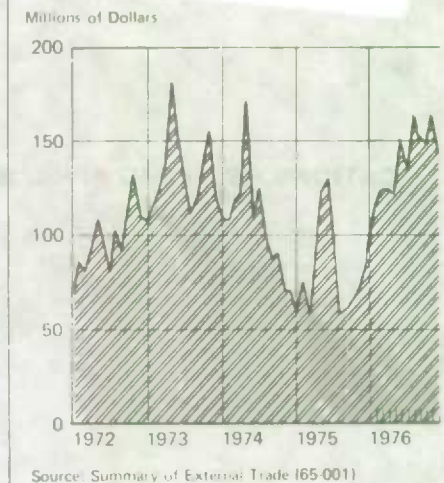
Overseas shipments registered a gain of 15% to \$1,252 million, with all trade areas contributing. Exports of metallic ores rebounded from the strike-affected level of February. Shipments of asbestos, pulp and non-ferrous metals were higher in March, but wheat clearances dropped from the unusually-high level of February. Exports of trucks and machinery also declined.

Following a rise of 8.5% in February, seasonally-adjusted imports from the U.S. (on a customs basis) declined nearly 1% to \$2,419 million in March. There were a number of moderate and generally-offsetting changes in commodity imports. Both passenger cars and automotive parts, after seasonal adjustment, continued to increase. Industrial machinery imports fell from the high level of February, as did those of other transportation equipment.

Canadian imports from overseas countries increased for the second successive month to \$1,112 million in March, with the strength of the advance originating in countries other than Japan and the E.E.C. About half of the increase was due to crude oil, whose landings are irregular, even after allowance for seasonality. Imports of machinery, fuel oil, communication and office equipment were also higher in March, but imports of sugar and some industrial materials declined.

For further information on area and commodity trade, order the March 1977 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, 40¢/\$4).

Canadian Exports of Lumber



Telephone Industry Statistics

Canadian telephone systems posted net operating revenues of \$81.2 million in March, down 5.4% from March 1976.

Gross operating revenues of the 13 major telephone companies rose 9.7% in the latest month to \$298.6 million; operating expenses advanced 16.6% to \$217.4 million.

For the first three months of 1977, operating revenues of the telephone companies increased to \$863.7 million from \$782.7 million in the corresponding period of 1976; operating expenses were \$615.5 million compared to \$543.0 million. Net operating revenue at \$248.3 million in the latest period was up from \$239.7 million in January-March 1976.

For further information, order the *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 per year), or contact Patrick Crosby (613-996-9274), *Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Railway Freight Traffic

Revenue rail freight carried by Canadian railways in the October-December 1976 period totalled 67.3 million tons, an increase of 6.9% over the fourth quarter of 1975. Freight loaded in Canada was up 7.1% to 61.8 million tons and traffic received from United States rail connections rose 4.6% to 5.5 million tons.

Traffic increases were recorded in three of the seven major commodity groupings in the latest period: crude materials; fabricated materials; and special traffic.

On a geographic basis, loadings increased in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

Total revenue freight carried by Canadian railways in 1976 amounted to 262.9 million tons, an increase of 5.6% over 1975.

For further information, order *Railway Freight Traffic, Fourth Quarter 1976* (52-002, \$1.05/\$4.20), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), *Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Number and Area of Census-Farms by Census Division, 1976

Although agricultural holdings in Canada and acreage used for all agricultural production declined between 1971 and 1976, there was a small increase in both the number of census-farms and their total acreage during the period.

On June 1, 1976 there were 300,118 census-farms in Canada compared with 299,868 in 1971. Acreage on census-farms in the five-year period increased by 3.4% to 165,976,260 acres from 160,458,577.

Statistics Canada currently defines a census-farm as an agricultural holding of one acre or more with annual product sales in 1975 of at least \$1,200. To be included in earlier censuses, a census-farm had to have product sales of only \$50.

The total number of agricultural holdings in Canada with 1975 sales of \$50 or more declined to 338,578 in 1976 from 366,128 in 1971. Acreage dropped slightly to 169,086,823 from 169,668,614 acres.

But this decline in number and acreage of agricultural holdings resulted from a sharp decrease in the number of agricultural holdings whose product sales in 1975 were less than \$1,200. In 1976 there were only 38,460 such holdings compared with 66,260 in 1971. And their total acreage dropped by almost two-thirds to a 1976 figure of 3,110,563 acres.

For further information, order *Number and Area of Census-Farms by Census Division* (96-857, 70¢), or contact R. Cinq-Mars (613-994-9855), *Census of Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Farm Input Price Index

(1961=100)

The Farm Input Price Index for Canada rose 2.3% in the first quarter of 1977, moving to 235.8 from the revised fourth-quarter 1976 level of 230.6. On a regional basis, the eastern index increased 3.1% while the western index was up 1.3%.

Over the 12 months from March 1976, the Canada index showed an increase of 5.5%. During this period, production costs rose 6.2% for farmers in Eastern Canada and 4.6% for farmers in the West.

For further information, order *Farm Input Price Indexes, First Quarter 1977* (62-004, 35¢/\$1.40), or contact Mrs. A. Sprott (613-994-9957), *Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

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Consumer Credit, March
Consumer Price Index, April
Department Store Sales by Regions, March
Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, March
Real Domestic Product, March
Retail Trade, March
The Labour Force, April



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			68-209		
			TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS		
			SERVICE BULLETIN		
			Communications — Vol. 7, No. 8, Monthly Telephone Statistics, February 1977		
			56-001		
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