

# informat

## Weekly Bulletin

### Consumer Credit

Consumer credit outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly reached \$22,498 million at the end of April, a rise of 16.0% from a year earlier.

Outstanding balances held by these credit grantors in the latest month, with percentage changes from April 30, 1976:

- Chartered banks' personal loans, \$17,064 million (21.5%).
- Sales finance and consumer loan companies
  - large loans, \$1,475 million (-1.4%)
  - small loans, \$217 million (-8.0%)
  - instalment sales paper, \$1,110 million (-0.4%).
- Life insurance companies' policy loans, \$1,236 million (6.4%).
- Department stores and furniture, television, radio and household appliance stores, \$1,319 million (2.9%).
- Quebec savings banks' personal loans, \$77 million (22.2%).

Credit holders reporting quarterly had combined outstanding balances of \$6,016 million at the end of the first quarter of 1977. Largest of these credit holders, credit unions and caisses populaires, reported balances outstanding of \$3,912 million, up 18%. Including quarterly reporters, consumer credit outstanding at the end of the first quarter of 1977 totalled \$28,174 million, up 17.2% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the April 1977 issue of *Consumer Credit* (61-004, 30¢/\$3).

### Canada-U.S. Trade Statistics

Reconciled estimates of Canada-United States merchandise trade statistics for 1976 establish that the Canadian merchandise trade surplus with the U.S. for the year was \$696 million (U.S. dollars).

The unreconciled figures previously published by the two countries were: by Canada, a Canadian surplus of \$46 million and by the U.S., a Canadian surplus of \$2,129 million. The effects of differences in concepts and collection procedures which continue to exist between the official figures published by the two countries are eliminated in the reconciliation process, worked out by the United States-Canada Trade Statistics Committee. The reconciled figures are estimates of the value of the merchandise trade flows according to balance-of-payments concepts.

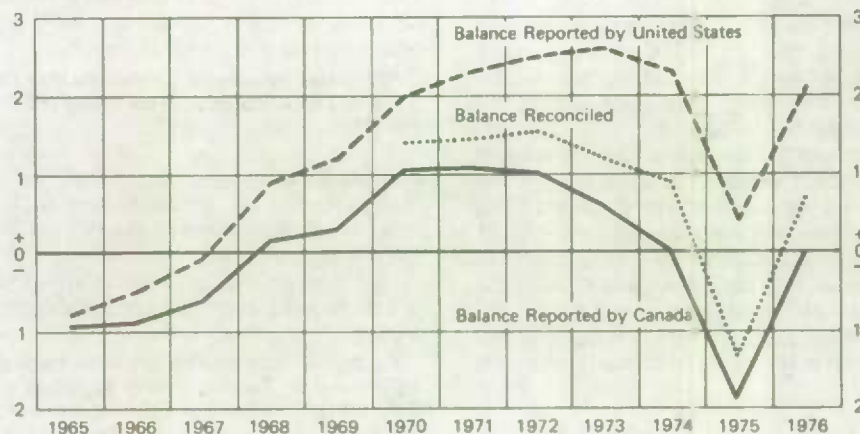
### LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.	243.44p	242.30p	9.8
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	9,024.3p	8,981.3p	11.8
Persons with Jobs (million)	May*	9.82	9.43	2.6
Unemployed	May*	824,000	914,000	16.4
<b>INVENTORIES</b>				
Department Store (\$ million)	Feb.	1,686	1,567	13.3
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Mar.	17,502p	17,229r	7.6
Wholesale (\$ million)	Mar.	7,522	7,369	11.0
<b>ORDERS</b>				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	9,605p	8,330r	13.9
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	9,880p	9,560r	-0.1
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	May*	159.2	157.9	7.6
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Apr.	171.0	170.2r	6.9
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Apr.	556.0	553.7r	8.9
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar.	1,038.1p	2,166.1	-4.0
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Mar.	9,616	30,080	-18.3
<b>ENERGY</b>				
Coal Production (thousand tons)	Mar.	3,130	8,694	13.1
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Feb.*	26.6	57.4	9.0
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Jan.	333.6	333.6	4.5
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Apr.*	47.8	216.3	7.0
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>				
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	3,477	13,663	14.7
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	3,528	13,453	9.2
<b>PRODUCTION</b>				
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Apr.	167.3	649.5	9.5
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Apr.	1,183	4,878	4.0
<b>SALES</b>				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	479.8	1,299.2	10.4
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Mar.	9,286p	25,472.6	9.4
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	787.8	2,802.8	16.5
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Apr.*	5,155p	17,909	8.0
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	5,051	12,545	10.1

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

### Merchandise Trade Balance Between the United States and Canada

Canadian Surplus in  
Billions of U.S. Dollars





## The Labour Force

Employment increased in May while unemployment declined and Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate dropped back to 7.9% from 8.3% in April. The rate in May 1976 was 7.0%.

The adjusted employment level reached 9,749,000 in May, up 86,000 from April. The unemployment level was estimated at 841,000, down 29,000 from April.

The adjusted employment level for women aged 25 and over rose a substantial 50,000 in May. For women 15 to 24 the level increased 6,000. Increases of 15,000 occurred both among men 25 and over and men 15 to 24.

The adjusted unemployment level decreased for all major age-sex groups — by 11,000 for men 25 and over, by 7,000 for women 25 and over, by 4,000 for men 15 to 24 and by 7,000 for women 15 to 24.

Seasonally-adjusted May unemployment rates for the provinces, with April rates in brackets: Newfoundland 14.7% (16.8%); Prince Edward Island 10.6% (9.7%); Nova Scotia 10.6% (11.2%); New Brunswick 12.2% (13.0%); Quebec 10.0% (9.8%); Ontario 7.3% (7.4%); Manitoba 6.1% (6.7%); Saskatchewan 5.7% (5.5%); Alberta 4.2% (4.3%); and British Columbia 7.8% (9.1%).

Without seasonal adjustment, the May labour force was 10,645,000 with 9,822,000 employed and 824,000 unemployed for an unemployment rate of 7.7%. In April, the labour force was 10,340,000 with 9,425,000 employed and 914,000 unemployed for a rate of 8.8%. In May 1976, the labour force was 10,285,000 with 9,576,000 employed and 708,000 unemployed for a rate of 6.9%.

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

## Report on Job Vacancies

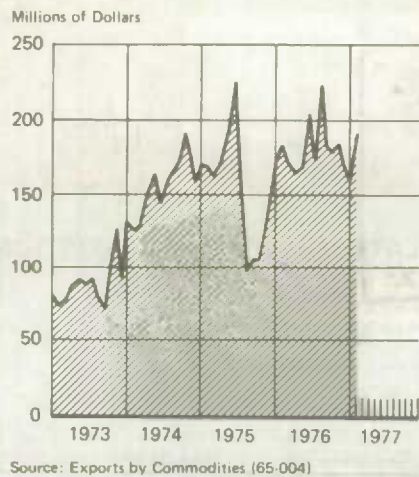
Preliminary estimates for the three-month period ended May 31 show a 10% increase in the average number of vacant jobs from the three-month period ended February 28, 1977 but a decrease of 20% from the comparable period in 1976. In the latest period, the average number of vacancies for full-time, part-time and casual jobs was 42,700.

Vacancies for full-time jobs increased 12% to 38,300 from 34,100 in the preceding period, but longer-term vacancies — jobs unfilled for more than four weeks — decreased 5% to 12,100.

For every 1,000 existing jobs in the latest three-month period, five were vacant, the same as in the preceding period. The comparable rate last year was six per 1,000. The highest vacancy rates were observed in Alberta (nine per 1,000) and in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (both seven per 1,000). The lowest vacancy rate (three per 1,000) occurred in Newfoundland and New Brunswick.

For further information, contact J.A. Boucek (613-992-2006), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

## Canadian Domestic Exports of Wood Pulp



## Consumer Price Index (CPI)

(1971=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada advanced 0.8% to 159.2 in May from 157.9 in April. One-half of the increase was attributable to a 1.4% rise in the food index, the fifth successive month in which this index has registered a relatively-sharp advance. Higher housing charges, including those for household operation items, were responsible for close to an additional one-quarter of this latest advance. While the food index registered a 1.4% rise, the index for all items excluding food increased 0.5%.

Between May 1976 and May 1977, the All-Items Consumer Price Index advanced 7.6%.

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

- Housing, 9.7%; transportation, 8.0%; health and personal care, 7.4%; clothing, 6.6%; food, 6.1%, tobacco and alcohol, 5.6%; and recreation, education and reading, 4.7%.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the all-items index advanced 0.6% between April and May. The current annual rate of change in the CPI, based on the seasonally-adjusted movement since three months earlier was 10.4%, down from the 11.3% rate recorded the previous month.

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

## Electric Power

Net generation of electricity rose 6.0% in February to 26.6 terawatt hours from 25.1 TWh a year earlier.

Hydro generation decreased 5.0% in the latest month; thermal production rose 34.9%.

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact David Madsen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

## Canada's Foreign Trade in Automotive Products

Following the strike-related interruption in the last quarter of 1976, a marked improvement occurred in the two-way trade with the United States in the first quarter of 1977, with both exports and imports reaching record levels. From the largest seasonally-adjusted deficit of 1976 in the fourth quarter, there was a contraction in the first quarter as the rise in exports surpassed that of imports. The latest deficit compared roughly with the level of the April-September period of 1976.

Over the year, exports of automotive products expanded 32% to \$2,452 million in the first quarter of 1977 from \$1,859 million in the same period of 1976. Almost 60% of the \$593 million gain was due to higher shipments of motor vehicles to help supply the first-quarter surge in purchases by American consumers and businesses. Imports of motor vehicles and parts from the United States totalled \$2,589 million, up 19% from the first quarter of 1976. Close to 55% of the \$412 million rise was accounted for by increased parts imports. The pronounced improvement in the vehicle trade balance was, however, largely responsible for the 57% reduction in the automotive deficit from \$318 million to \$137 million.

Exports of motor vehicles and parts to overseas countries advanced 14.5% from \$129 million in the March quarter of 1976 to \$148 million in 1977. Passenger vehicles accounted solely for the gain, as exports of trucks fell. The rise was concentrated in shipments to oil-producing countries in the Middle East and to Venezuela.

Imports of automotive goods declined slightly to \$230 million from the unusually-high first quarter 1976 total of \$233 million. A decline in automotive parts imports was counterbalanced by an increase in the value of tire imports from the European Economic Community and Japan.

The total number of imported cars rose more than 2% from 179,500 units to 183,600 units between the initial quarters of 1976 and 1977.

For further information, contact H.W. Iwasaki (613-992-2663), External Trade Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Farm Equipment Sales, 1976

Sales of farm implements and equipment for 1976 were valued at \$1,134.1 million (dealers' cost), up 17.4% from \$966.3 million in 1975.

Sales of repair parts for farm equipment rose 7.4% in 1976 to \$154.7 million from \$144.0 million.

Further information will be contained in *Farm Implement and Equipment Sales, 1976* (63-203, 70¢). Advance details may be obtained from Merchandising and Services Division (613-996-9307), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.



## Retail Trade

Seasonally-adjusted retail sales for April increased 0.2% from March to a level of \$5,032.9 million.

Total retail trade without seasonal adjustment reached \$5,154.5 million in April, up 6.5% from a year earlier. All provinces except Saskatchewan (-1.2%) reported increased sales over April 1976 with the largest advance in British Columbia (9.0%). Sales were up 8.8% in Winnipeg, 7.5% in Toronto, 6.1% in Vancouver and 5.0% in Montreal.

Year-to-year increases were registered in 24 of the 28 trade groups with the largest gains posted by used car dealers (27.5%) and book and stationery stores (22.9%).

Revised data for March show retail sales for the month at \$4,679.5 million, up 10.7% from March 1976.

For further information, order the April 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.

## Mineral Production

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

- Gold, 135,661 troy ounces (137,551) — 561,097 troy ounces (563,335).
- Silver, 3,840,966 troy ounces (3,722,053) — 15,201,101 troy ounces (14,142,885).
- Primary copper, 55,142 short tons (53,292) — 284,501 short tons (259,852).
- Primary nickel, 22,899 short tons (23,521) — 94,605 short tons (92,645).
- Refined lead, 18,898 short tons (17,588) — 74,927 short tons (73,696).
- Refined zinc, 51,963 short tons (46,437) — 210,383 short tons (168,410).

For further information, order the April 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 enplaned and deplaned passengers at Toronto International Airport increased 9.9% to 5,339,878 in the last six months of 1976 from 4,859,078 in the corresponding period of 1975.

Similar figures for Montreal Mirabel and Dorval airports combined show an increase of 6.0% to 3,472,973 in the last six months of 1976 from 3,276,959 passengers in the corresponding period of 1975.

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

## Exports of Newsprint Paper



## Data on Canadian Universities

A report entitled *Canadian Universities — Statistical Bulletin* is now available on request. This bulletin presents summary statistics on enrolments, degrees awarded, full-time teaching staff, university income and expenditures and some advance statistics.

For further information, contact N. Dev Uppal or Louise Desramaux (613-995-1105), Education, Science and Culture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

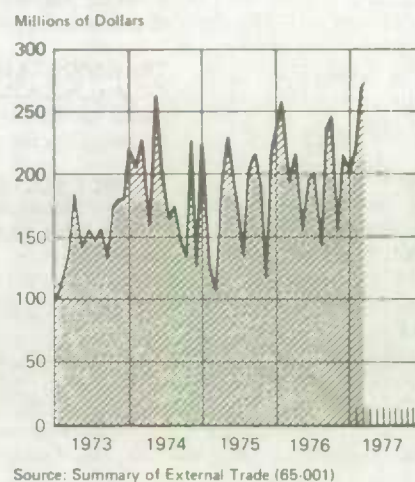
## Urban Transit

Urban transit systems carried 101.1 million fare passengers in April and had operating revenues amounting to \$33.9 million. Revenue vehicle-miles run totalled 29.5 million.

For further information, order the April 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.

## Canadian Exports to Japan

(Seasonally Adjusted)



## Canadian Balance of International Payments

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, Canada's current account deficit decreased to \$841 million in the first quarter of 1977 from \$1,092 million in the previous quarter. With the exception of the third quarter of 1976, it was the smallest quarterly deficit recorded since the fourth quarter of 1974. Merchandise exports rose an extraordinary 12% while imports showed a sharp increase of 8%; the resulting surplus of \$780 million was almost double that for the preceding quarter.

The strength of exports was mainly concentrated in sales of automotive products, aluminum, lumber and iron ore. Sales of crude petroleum, newsprint, nickel and barley were down. There was an increase of 15% in exports to the United States, Canada's major trading partner, which recorded a rate of growth of more than 5% in Real Gross National Product in the first quarter of 1977 despite one of the most severe winters on record. Exports to Japan rose 13% and to the European Economic Community only 2%.

The growth rate for imports was the highest since the first quarter of 1974 and followed slight growth in the last quarter of 1976. On a commodity basis, the largest increases in imports occurred in automotive products, chemicals, beverages, agricultural and industrial machinery. There were reductions in imports of wearing apparel, coal, crude petroleum and non-ferrous metals. Both the U.S. and Japan showed an increase of 10% in the value of their sales to Canada. The level of purchases from the European Economic Community remained practically unchanged. For all other countries an increase of 5% was recorded.

Total capital movements, unadjusted for seasonal variations, produced a net capital inflow of \$810 million during the first quarter of 1977, about 30% less than in the last quarter of 1976. This capital inflow represented just over half the size of the unadjusted current account deficit and Canada's official reserves were reduced by \$766 million.

For further information, order the first quarter 1977 issue of *Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments* (67-001, \$1.05/\$4.20).

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