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Weekly Bulletin

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## Gross National Product (GNP)

The economy swung back to a relatively healthy but narrowly-based rate of real growth in the first quarter of 1977. Gross National Product, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, rose 2.2% to a level of \$199.9 billion; measured in real terms, GNP increased 1.3% after having fallen 0.2% in the last quarter of 1976.

Basis for the economy's first quarter performance was largely the strength of a substantial increase in the value of exports and a consequent improvement in the balance of trade in goods and services. An increase in the real value of government current expenditure also contributed a significant amount to the expansion in real output. But personal expenditure on goods and services — which accounted for almost all of last year's real growth — declined 0.4% in real terms as spending on both semi-durable and non-durable goods fell, and there was little strength in gross fixed capital formation.

Despite increases in the implicit price indexes for a number of major expenditure aggregates, the price of national production as measured by the over-all GNP implicit price index rose only 0.8% in the first quarter. This was primarily because the implicit price index for government current expenditure fell 2.4% after increasing 6.4% last quarter, when large retroactive wage payments were made. Removing these payments gives a better measure of the "underlying" rate of price change in the economy, and on this basis, the government and GNP implicit price indexes increased during the quarter by 1.9% and 1.7%, respectively.

For further information, order *National Income and Expenditure Accounts, First Quarter 1977* (13-001, \$1.05/\$4.20).

## Radio Air-Time Sales

Gross national AM and FM radio air-time sales totalled \$6.0 million in March, an increase of 5.3% from \$5.7 million in March 1976.

Agency and other commissions reduced gross national sales to \$5.1 million (up 6.3%).

Net local air-time sales rose 16.1% to \$14.4 million in March from \$12.4 million a year earlier.

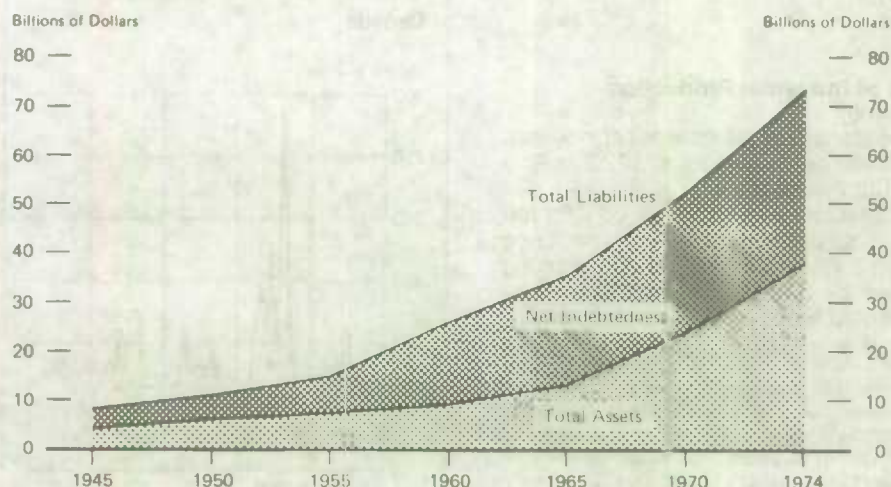
Gross year-to-date radio air-time sales for 1977 reached \$55.1 million, up 6.8% from \$51.6 million. Net sales rose 7.4% to \$49.1 million from \$45.7 million.

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Apr.*	246.12p	244.29p	9.7
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)	Mar.*	1,714	1,686	10.0
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Mar.	17,502p	17,229r	7.6
Wholesale (\$ million)	Apr.*	7,622	7,522	10.7
<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)	Apr.*	14,961	45,041	-15.0
<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.)	Feb.*	297.7	630.5	2.2
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.	3,526	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)	Apr.*	4,368	16,913	8.5

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

## Canada's Balance of International Indebtedness, Year Ends, 1945-1974



## Real Domestic Product

(1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product declined 0.3% to 125.3 in April from a level of 125.7 in March. Output of goods-producing industries decreased 0.5% and service-producing industries were down 0.2%.

In goods-producing industries, only manufacturing increased while declines were recorded in agriculture, forestry, fishing and trapping, construction, mining and utilities. Total manufacturing was up for the second consecutive month; non-durables increased while durables were relatively unchanged from March. Non-durable manufacturing gains were recorded in food and beverages, rubber and plastic products, leather products, textiles, clothing, paper and allied products, printing and publishing and chemicals and chemical products. In durables manufacturing, primary metals, metal fabricating and transportation equipment manufacturers declined but manufacturers of electrical and non-metallic mineral products increased substantially.

In service-producing industries, the first monthly decline since May 1976 was recorded, with only community, business and personal services and finance, insurance and real estate showing increases. In transportation, storage and communication, air transport, railway transport, bus transport, urban transit systems and communication systems declined although output of grain elevators increased substantially. In trade, wholesale trade decreased marginally. Retail trade was unchanged from March as declines for department stores, motor vehicle dealers and clothing stores offset increases for food, hardware and drug stores. Public administration and defence services declined substantially due to major decreases in federal, provincial and local administration.

For further information, order the April 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.

## Index of Industrial Production

(1971=100)

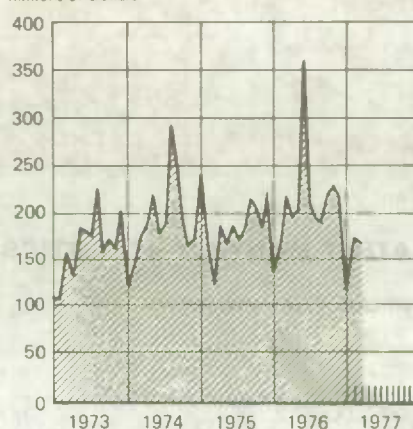
The seasonally-adjusted index of industrial production declined 0.3% to 122.3 in April from 122.7 in March.

Manufacturing output rose 0.2% in the latest month; non-durables manufacturing was up 0.7% and durables manufacturing dropped by 0.1%. Mining production decreased 2.7% and output of electric power, gas and water utilities declined 1.9%.

For further information, order the April 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.

## Commercial Building Permits Issued in Canada

Millions of Dollars



Source: Building Permits (64-001)

## Building Permits

The seasonally-adjusted value of building permits issued in Canada decreased 11.7% to \$975.6 million in April from a revised \$1,104.6 million in March. In April 1976, the corresponding figure was \$1,040.6 million.

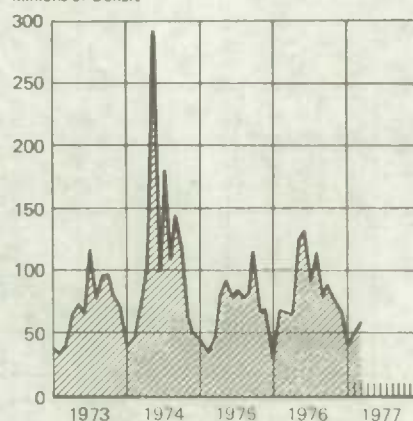
The value of proposed residential construction dropped to \$594.4 million (\$731.6 million in March 1977) when the number of new dwellings authorized decreased, reflecting an annual rate of 225,400 units compared to an unusually high rate of 289,800 in March.

Industrial projects estimated at \$85.1 million remained practically unchanged compared to March (\$86.5 million), commercial projects increased to \$204.5 million (\$155.8 million) and publicly-initiated construction decreased to \$91.6 million (\$130.8 million).

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

## Industrial Building Permits, Canada

Millions of Dollars



Source: Building Permits (64-001)

## Industrial Corporations' Profits

After-tax profits of Canadian industrial corporations were \$2,157 million for the first quarter of 1977, an increase of \$139 million (6.9%) from the first quarter of 1976.

Total sales of \$59 billion increased \$6 billion (11.3%) from the first quarter of 1976. Assets increased \$4 billion (2.4%) over the fourth quarter of 1976 and \$15 billion (9.8%) from the first quarter of 1976.

The figures represent the latest data for the first quarter of 1977 and supersede the preliminary estimates for the same period released last month. The figures are also available on CANSIM.

For further information, order the first quarter issue of *Industrial Corporations, Financial Statistics (61-003, \$1.75/\$7)*, or contact R. St. Germain (613-996-2130), Business Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Housing Starts

New residential construction activity continued to decline in April with housing starts in Canadian centres of 10,000 population and over decreasing 7.7% to 14,961 units from 16,213 in April 1976.

Housing starts recorded in the latest month, by province, with April 1976 figures in brackets: Ontario, 4,760 (5,817); Quebec, 3,366 (3,455); Alberta, 2,631 (2,916); British Columbia, 2,288 (2,260); Saskatchewan, 926 (368); Manitoba, 420 (630); Nova Scotia, 371 (286); New Brunswick, 164 (366); Newfoundland, 33 (107); and Prince Edward Island, 2 (8).

For the first four months of 1977, housing starts in centres of 10,000 population and over totalled 45,041 units, down 15.0% from 53,012 in January-April 1976.

For further information, order the April 1977 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions (62-002, 55¢/\$5.50)*.

## Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in April were estimated at \$4,368 million, up 4.3% from April 1976.

Wholesale inventories were valued at \$7,622 million at the end of April, an increase of 10.7% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the April 1977 issue of *Wholesale Trade (63-008, 15¢/\$1.50)*.

## New Publications

Data previously issued in the Communications Service Bulletin concerning telephone statistics and radio broadcasting will be published separately in future under catalogue numbers 56-002 and 56-003, respectively. Both publications will sell for 15¢ a copy or \$1.50 a year.

Information on telecommunications will continue to appear in the Communications Service Bulletin (Catalogue No. 56-001, \$1.40 a year).

For further information, contact the Transportation and Communications Division (613-996-9274), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

### Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act totalled \$354 million in April, up 13% from \$314 million disbursed a year earlier.

Persons receiving unemployment insurance benefits were 6% more than a year earlier, at 859,000, but 4% fewer than in March 1977. Persons seeking benefit filed 200,000 claims in April, down 6% from March but 3% more than in April 1976.

For the first four months of 1977, net payments under the Act amounted to \$1,553 million, an increase of 11% from \$1,395 million paid out in January-April 1976. A rise of 9% to \$101.01 in average weekly benefits accounted for most of the increase.

For further information, order the April-June 1977 issue of *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, \$1.05/\$4.20) 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.

### Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Between April and May, consumer price indexes rose in all 14 regional cities with increases ranging from 0.4% in Winnipeg to 0.8% in six other cities.

Higher food prices — notably for beef, fresh produce, coffee, soft drinks, butter and sugar — along with increased shelter charges were major contributors to the increases. Other important factors included higher prices for barber and hairdressing services, seasonal recreation equipment, new cars and for beer and liquor.

Between May 1976 and May 1977, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities with increases recorded as follows: Regina, 9.5%; Edmonton, 8.6%; Calgary, 8.5%; Quebec City, 8.5%; Halifax, 8.1%; Montreal, 8.1%; Saskatoon, 8.1%; Ottawa, 7.9%; Thunder Bay, 7.7%; St. John's, 7.4%; Toronto, 7.4%; Saint John, 7.3%; Winnipeg, 7.3%; Vancouver, 6.2%.

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

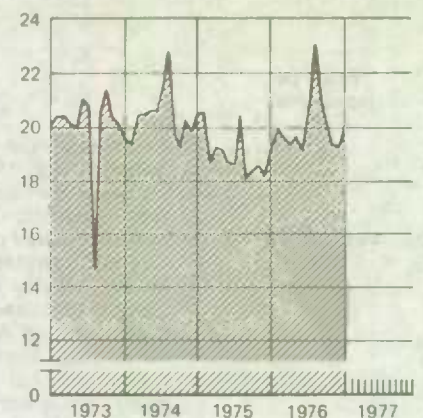
### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Department Store Sales by Regions, May  
Estimates of Labour Income, March  
Industry Selling Price Index, May  
Motor Vehicle Production, May  
New Motor Vehicle Sales, May  
Summary of External Trade, May

### Rail Revenue Freight Loaded

(Seasonally Adjusted)

Millions of Tons



Source: Railway Carloadings (52-001)

### Teaching Qualifications

Teachers surveyed nationally in 1973-74 indicated qualifications at public elementary schools improved significantly over the previous year. Only 75% of staff had more than two years of post-secondary education in 1971-72, compared with 83% in the latest survey.

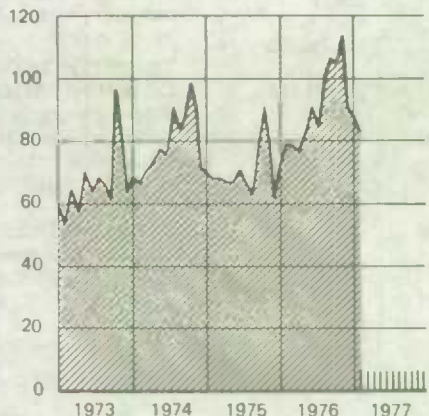
At the secondary level, where qualifications have been traditionally higher, the change was not so marked. Both categories, however, shared a decline in the number of females in the teaching force, from 59% to 56%. Over a ten-year period, the decline was 8%.

Median salaries rose 11% to \$9,704 for elementary teachers and 9% to \$12,990 at the secondary level.

For further information, contact the *Elementary-Secondary Education Section*, (613-995-9795), Education, Science and Culture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Canadian Imports of Communication and Related Equipment

Millions of Dollars



Source: Imports by Commodities (65-007)

### Distributional Effects of Health and Education Benefits, Canada, 1974

For the first time it has been possible to observe the distribution of benefits received from health and educational services by family income and other characteristics. It is estimated that in 1974, on average, each family unit in Canada received over \$1,500 worth of benefits.

The analysis indicates that benefits accruing from the utilization of health and educational services have an equalizing effect on income distribution, though this effect is not as strong as that of government transfers paid in cash to persons.

Low income families and unattached individuals receive more than their "share" of benefits; this is true of health as well as educational benefits.

For further information, order *Distributional Effects of Health and Education Benefits, Canada, 1974* (13-561, \$2.10), or contact Mrs. A. Paoliello (613-992-4742), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Employment, Earnings and Hours

Average weekly earnings in Canadian industry at \$246.12 in April were up 9.7% from \$224.40 a year earlier.

First estimates show that (unadjusted) average weekly earnings (by province) were highest in British Columbia (\$276.22), followed by Alberta (\$257.83), Ontario (\$246.38), Quebec (\$241.00), Newfoundland (\$237.87), Saskatchewan (\$231.42), Manitoba (\$223.33), New Brunswick (\$223.03), Nova Scotia (\$207.20) and Prince Edward Island (\$181.24).

Average weekly earnings in April (by industry division) were as follows: construction, \$361.36; mining, \$343.23; forestry, \$323.64; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$285.59; manufacturing, \$262.88; finance, insurance and real estate, \$227.87; trade, \$189.53; and service, \$168.47.

Compared with April 1976, average hourly earnings were up 13.1% in construction, 11.2% in manufacturing and 9.2% in mining.

For further information, order the April 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.

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	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 8, June Intentions of Specified Crop and Summer-Fallow Acreages, Prairie Provinces, 1977	22-002	\$5.60 series	Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, April 1977	43-005	15¢/\$1.50
The Wheat Review, January 1977	22-005	55¢/\$5.50	Footwear Statistics, April 1977	33-002	30¢/\$3
			Gold Production, April 1977	26-004	15¢/\$1.50
<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>					
Changes to Municipal Boundaries, Status and Names, 1976	12-201	\$2.10	Miscellaneous Food Preparations, Quarter Ended March 31, 1977	32-018	35¢/\$1.40
<b>CONSUMER INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>					
Distributional Effects of Health and Education Benefits, Canada, 1974	13-561	\$2.10	Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, April 1977	24-002	40¢/\$4
			Particle Board, April 1977	36-003	15¢/\$1.50
<b>EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE</b>					
Expenditures of Provincial Non- Profit Industrial Research Institutes, 1975	13-209	70¢	Peeler Logs, Veneers and Plywoods, February 1977	35-001	30¢/\$3
Salaries and Qualifications of Teachers in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, 1972-73 and 1973-74	81-202	\$1.40	Primary Iron and Steel, March 1977	41-001	40¢/\$4
			Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, April 1977	41-011	15¢/\$1.50
<b>EXTERNAL TRADE</b>					
Exports by Countries, January- March 1977	65-003	\$2.10/\$8.40	Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, March 1977	35-003	30¢/\$3
Summary of External Trade, April 1977	65-001	40¢/\$4	Products Made From Canadian Clays, March 1977	44-005	15¢/\$1.50
			Raw Hides, Skins and Finished Leather, April 1977	33-001	30¢/\$3
<b>FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTI- NATIONAL ENTERPRISES</b>					
Financial Flow Accounts, Fourth Quarter 1976	13-002	\$1.75/\$7	Selected Meat and Meat Prepara- tions, April 1977	32-020	15¢/\$1.50
International Travel — Advance Information, April 1977	66-002	15¢/\$1.50	Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, April 1977	26-008	15¢/\$1.50
Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, January-March 1977	66-001	\$1.75/\$7	Specified Chemicals, April 1977	46-002	15¢/\$1.50
			Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, April 1977	41-006	15¢/\$1.50
<b>LABOUR FORCE SURVEY</b>					
The Labour Force, May 1977	71-001	55¢/\$5.50	Stoves and Furnaces, April 1977	41-005	30¢/\$3
			Wooden Box Factories, 1975	35-209	70¢
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>					
Asphalt Roofing, April 1977	45-001	15¢/\$1.50	<b>SERVICE BULLETINS</b>		
Biscuits and Confectionery, Quarter Ended March 31, 1977	32-016	35¢/\$1.40	<b>Electrical Products — Vol. 6, No. 8,</b>		
Breweries, April 1977	32-019	15¢/\$1.50	Electric Lamps, April 1977		
Cement, April 1977	44-001	15¢/\$1.50	<b>Metals and Minerals — Vol. 4,</b>		
Coal and Coke Statistics, March 1977	45-002	40¢/\$4	No. 15, Consumption of Non-Metallic Minerals, 1975		
Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, April 1977	33-003	30¢/\$3			
Copper and Nickel Production, April 1977	26-003	15¢/\$1.50	<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>		
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, February 1977	26-006	30¢/\$3	Department Store Sales and Stocks, March 1977		
Distilled Beverage Spirits and Industrial Ethyl Alcohol, April 1977	32-021	15¢/\$1.50	Merchandising Inventories, March 1977		
			New Motor Vehicle Sales, April 1977		
			Sales Financing, March 1977		
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			Industry Price Indexes, January 1977		
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			Telephone Statistics, April 1977		
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			<b>Railway Transport — Vol. 7, No.</b>		
			7, Railway Carloadings, April 1977		