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LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

| | | | Previous Month | % Change From Year Ago |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|
| Average Weekly Earnings (\$) | July | 266.77p | 267.93r | 6.0 |
| Labour Income (\$ million) | July | 10,944.4p | 11,401.9r | 7.6 |
| Persons with Jobs (million) | Sept. | 10.26 | 10.64 | 3.6 |
| Unemployed | Sept. | 854,000 | 892,000 | 7.0 |

INVENTORIES

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Department Store (\$ million) | June | 1,901.7 | 2,042.8 | 12.7 |
| Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million) | Aug. | 20,629.9p | 20,338.9r | 8.4 |
| Wholesale (\$ million) | Aug. | 8,213.7 | 8,251.8 | 11.2 |

ORDERS

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million) | Aug. | 10,603.3p | 9,872.0r | 17.5 |
| Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million) | Aug. | 11,936.7p | 11,845.3r | 14.5 |

PRICES

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Consumer Price Index (1971=100) | Sept. | 177.5 | 177.8 | 8.6 |
| Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100) | Aug. | 189.2 | 188.1 | 7.7 |
| Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100) | Aug. | 610.1 | 603.3 | 8.1 |

CONSTRUCTION

| | | | Year-to-date | |
|----------------------------------------|-------|---------|--------------|------|
| Building Permits (\$ million) | Aug.* | 1,137.5 | 8,317.0 | 0.8 |
| Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units) | Aug. | 16,480 | 118,640 | -5.7 |

ENERGY

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------|---------|----------|------|
| Coal Production (thousand tons) | July | 2,577.2 | 19,052.0 | 10.1 |
| Electricity Generation (terawatt hours) | July | 24.0 | 194.2 | 7.1 |
| Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.) | July* | 261.4p | 2,032.5p | -3.1 |
| Petroleum Refining (million barrels) | Aug. | 59.4 | 435.7 | -3.1 |

FOREIGN TRADE

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------|---------|------|
| Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million) | Aug. | 3,876p | 33,157p | 15.1 |
| Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million) | Aug. | 3,713p | 31,651p | 13.3 |

PRODUCTION

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|---------|----------|------|
| Motor Vehicles (thousand units) | June | 182.6 | 989.6 | -1.0 |
| Steel (ingots — thousand tons) | Sept. | 1,405.8 | 12,013.0 | 9.0 |

SALES

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Department Store Sales (\$ million) | Aug. | 609.5p | 4,308.9p | 8.6 |
| Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million) | Aug. | 10,511.8p | 82,770.9p | 15.9 |
| New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million) | Aug. | 761.2 | 6,679.8 | 13.2 |
| Retail Sales (\$ million) | Aug. | 5,877.2p | 43,358.3p | 11.7 |
| Wholesale Sales (\$ million) | Aug. | 5,214.3 | 40,351.4 | 10.3 |

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

Business Conditions Survey

Manufacturers express more optimism about production for fourth quarter 1978 than was demonstrated for the third quarter—40% expect production to be higher whereas in the July survey only 33% felt this optimism. The proportion expecting production to decline has decreased to 17% from the July survey's 22%. (Management is asked to allow for normal seasonal conditions when responding.) New orders were said to be rising by 46% of the weighted response and declining by 10%—slightly better than the previous quarter when 41% were experiencing rising orders and 12% said they were declining. Current quarter response compares favourably with the same quarter 1977 when only 19% noted rising orders and for 23% they were declining.

For the second time in three years the proportion reporting unfilled orders was higher than normal, at 26% ahead of that (11%) indicating a lower than normal backlog. July showed 19% reporting an increased orders backlog and 18% a lower, and current responses are considerably different from those of the same period last year when only 9% saw their orders backlog as higher than normal and 28% as lower. The level of finished product inventory is seen by only 12% as too high (down 4% from July) and too low by 11% (up 4% from July). One year ago 19% reported finished goods inventories as too high and 6% as too low.

A slightly higher percentage of responding manufacturers reported increased production difficulties, 15% of them citing a shortage of skilled labour and 11% a shortage of raw materials (up from the 12% and 7% of July and also from the 9% and 4% of a year earlier).

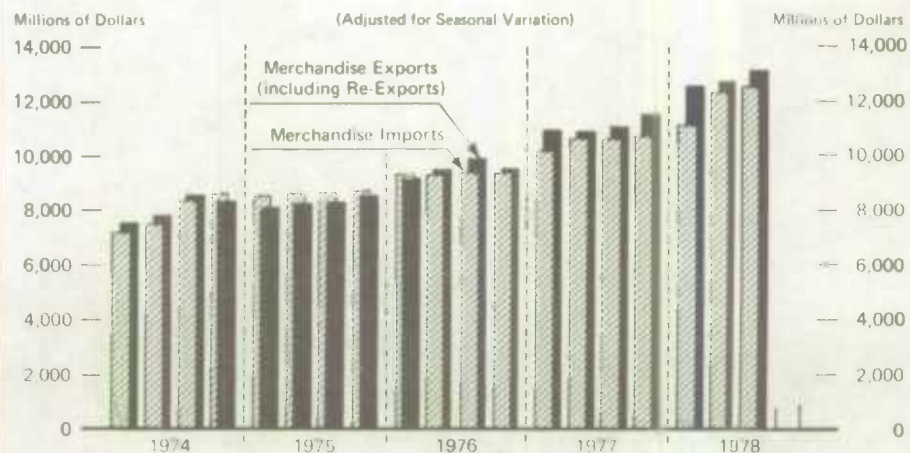
The proportion of respondents in export-based industries expecting increased production is now 50%, up 16% from July (those expecting lower production dropped from 10% to 8%).

Response from the October survey represented more than 6,100 manufacturing establishments with shipments of goods of own manufacture representing about 50% of all shipments in these industries in 1975.

For further information, contact the Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section (613-996-7008), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Canadian Merchandise Exports and Imports*

Quarter-by-Quarter Movements



Source: Summary of External Trade (65-001)

*Customs Basis

Real Domestic Product

The seasonally-adjusted Index of Real Domestic Product advanced 0.1% to 132.7 in August from revised July's 132.6, the Index of Industrial Production declining 0.8% with goods-producing industries down 0.6% and service-producing industries up 0.6%.

In goods-producing industries, output was down in manufacturing, construction and agriculture. In manufacturing, non-durable manufacturing increased 0.4% and durables manufacturing recorded a substantial 4.1% decline, the largest decline since January 1975 (5.4%). Construction declined for the fourth consecutive month resulting from decreases in both residential and non-residential building activity which were affected by prolonged strikes. The slight drop in agriculture was attributed to lower production levels for dairy, poultry and livestock.

In service-producing industries, major increases were recorded in trade and finance, insurance and real estate, with modest gains in community, business and personal services and public administration and defence services. Transportation, storage and communication services declined. In trade, advances were significant in both wholesale and retail trade. Banks and other deposit accepting establishments accounted for the growth in finance, insurance and real estate services. Public administration and defence services recorded the largest monthly gain to date this year. The decline in transportation, storage and communication services resulted when two short strikes disrupted air transport services. However, railway transport and grain elevators advanced significantly.

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Building Permits

Building permits issued during August decreased 10.5% to a seasonally-adjusted level of \$1,000 million from revised July's \$1,117 million. The level even fell below the \$1,010 million of a year earlier.

Reflecting weaknesses of the industrial and commercial sectors in most provinces except Saskatchewan and Alberta non-residential permits decreased 18.4% to \$402 million from \$493 million in July. Industrial projects estimated at \$87 million in July dropped to \$70 million in August and commercial projects reached only \$222 million (\$297 million in July). Government projects rose marginally to \$110 million (\$108 million).

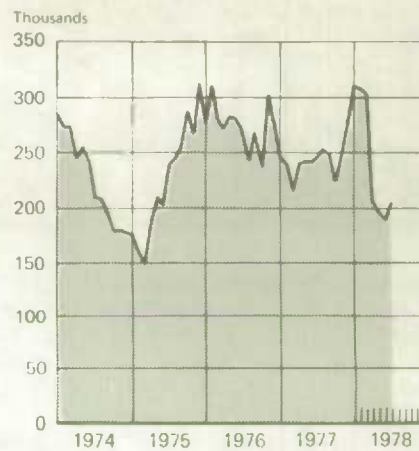
Residential permits remained stable at 17,111 units (17,267 in July); 8,775 new single detached homes and 8,336 collective dwellings were authorized compared with 9,709 singles and 7,558 multiples in July. In annual terms these figures suggest potential housing starts at a rate of 206,000 units in a month or two. Value of all residential permits (including permits for home improvements) was estimated at a seasonally-adjusted \$598 million against \$624 million in July.

Eight months' value of permits rose from a year earlier in the Atlantic (22.9%) and the Prairie provinces (24.9%) and fell in Québec (13.0%), Ontario (4.5%) and British Columbia (16.3%). Among cities Toronto enjoyed the largest volume of building construction at \$1,151 million (\$1,176 million in 1977) followed by Calgary, \$657 million (\$476 million); Edmonton, \$607 million (\$445 million); Montréal, \$523 million (\$834 million); Vancouver, \$451 million (\$576 million) and Québec, \$248 million (\$198 million).

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, 70¢/\$7), or contact J.P. Delsile (613-995-8215), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Housing Starts in Canada

Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



Source: Housing Starts and Completions (64-002)

Sales Financing

Sales finance companies purchased \$275.8 million of retail finance paper in August, up 13.9% from \$242.1 million purchased in 1977. Purchases comprised \$70.3 million for passenger cars, \$35.9 million for other consumer goods, \$98.8 million for commercial vehicles and \$70.9 million for other commercial and industrial goods.

Wholesale financing during second quarter 1978: \$2,571.3 million, 1.9% over \$2,523.0 million financed a year earlier.

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Sales Financing* (63-013, 30¢/\$3), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304 or telex 053-3583), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Job Vacancies

Average number of jobs vacant, daily basis, third quarter, reached 50,000, up 10% from 45,600 in the second quarter and compared with third quarter 1977 down 5% to 2,700. Vacancies for fulltime jobs rose 13% to 44,900 from 39,800 in the second quarter and jobs unfilled for more than four weeks increased 17% to 15,800.

For every 1,000 existing jobs five were vacant as in the previous quarter. Comparable rate a year earlier: six per 1,000. Highest vacancy rates: Alberta (12 per 1,000) and Manitoba (six). Lowest: Newfoundland with three per 1,000.

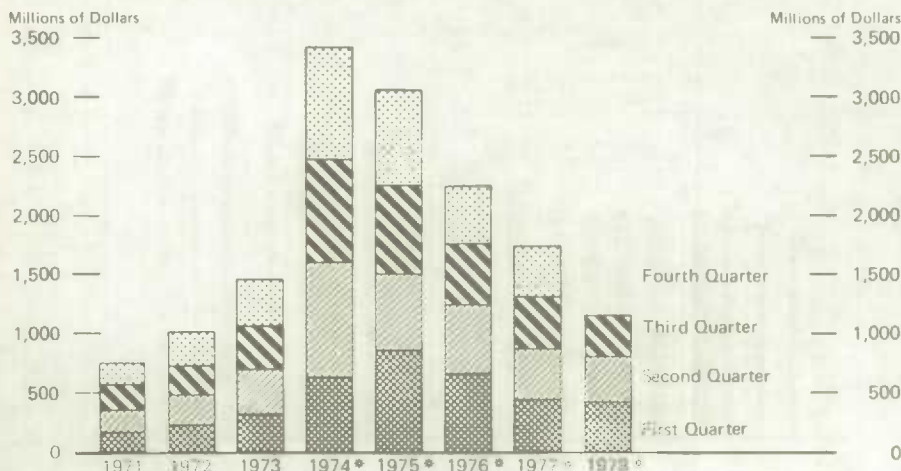
For further information J.A. Boucek (613-992-2006) or Ms M. Beaubien (613-996-7148), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Industrial Production Index

The seasonally-adjusted Index of Industrial Production declined 0.8% to 130.5 in August from 131.5 in July with mining and utilities up and manufacturing output down.

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Canadian Exports of Crude Petroleum to the United States



Source: Exports by Commodities (65-004)

* Includes the export tax

Productivity, 1977

Output per man-hour for all commercial industries increased 2.8% in 1977. This followed an increase of 5.0% in 1976 and virtually no change in 1975 and 1974. The growth in output per man-hour in 1977 reflects increases of 3.4% in output and 0.7% in man-hours worked. Some (understanding can be gained) of performance in recent years by setting them in the historical perspective of more than three decades of observation, although... year-to-year changes exhibit considerably more variation than do longer trends. Productivity performance was low in the years preceding the mid-point of the present decade and the average annual rate of growth in output per man-hour for the last five years is 2.0%, half the average rate of growth for the entire 31-year period. For the past 15 years the average rate of growth is 3.5% per year. Thus the increase in 1977, (though) above the average rate of growth for the last five years, is below longer-run averages. For the two components in output per man-hour the growth in both output and in man-hours is below the longer-run averages. The growth in output of 3.4% in 1977 is noticeably below the average rate of growth for the past five, 15 and 31 years of 4.1%, 5.3% and 5.0% respectively. Man-hours increased 0.7% in 1977, compared with 2.1% for the past five years, 1.7% for the past 15 years and 0.9% for the whole post 1946 period.

Abstracted from *Aggregate Productivity Measures (System of National Accounts)*, 1946-77, catalogue number 14-201, \$1.05.

Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance beneficiaries in the week of August 13 totalled 679,000, up 1% from July and 6% from 1977. Females made up 50%, about the same proportion as a year earlier.

August benefits reached \$341 million, up 11% from July and a year earlier.

Eight months' payments reached \$3.317 million, up 20% from 1977. Year-to-date data show about a 10% increase from a year earlier in both the average weekly payment and the number of weeks of benefit paid.

Claims received from persons seeking benefit in August totalled 206,000, down 4% from July but 3% more than in 1977. Eight months saw 1,762,000 claims filed, 4% more than in 1977.

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of the *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, 40¢/\$4), or contact George Fincham (613-992-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Shipping (Seaborne), 1977

Cargo transported in international shipping to and from Canadian ports totalled 196,929,094 tons (178 652 269 metric tonnes) in 1977, a 4.3% increase over 1976. The number and registered net tonnage of vessels increased to 46,830 and 264,413,866 tons (a 6.6% and a 6.4% rise) with wheat 18,870,299 tons (17 118 855 t), alumina and bauxite ores 4,107,760 tons (3 726 500 t), bituminous coal 27,838,831 tons (25 254 973 t), gypsum 5,464,566 tons (5 122 578 t), fuel oil 4,639,759 tons (4 209 143 t) and containerized freight 6,667,427 tons (6 048 588 t) the major contributors to the total international traffic increase.

A total of 23,456 vessels with a registered net tonnage of 132,147,120 tons departed from Canadian ports carrying 132,023,109 tons (119 770 049 t) of cargo. The countries receiving the largest portions of these cargoes: United States 50,870,008 tons (46 148 543 t), Japan 22,867,856 tons (20 745 384 t), United Kingdom 9,375,077 tons (8 504 935 t) and Netherlands 8,636,286 tons (7 834 723 t).

Some of the countries showing increases in tonnages received from Canada and the commodities that contributed to these increases were: Algeria 1,091,616 tons (990 304 t) with barley totalling 66,234 tons (60 087 t), wheat 775,167 tons (703 222 t) and lumber and timber 95,535 tons (86 667 t); Peoples Republic of China 3,924,000 tons (3 559 794 t) with wheat totalling 3,418,952 tons (3 101 622 t) and sulphur 242,186 tons (219 708 t); Philippines 861,762 tons (781 785 t) with iron ore amounting to 579,672 tons (525 870 t).

Major commodities (67.2% of total) loaded included iron ore 48,754,803 tons (44 229 617 t), wheat 17,915,198 tons (16 252 401 t), bituminous coal 10,970,613 tons (9 952 375 t), lumber and timber 5,577,507 tons (5 059 818 t) and gypsum 5,446,466 tons (4 940 953 t). A total of 23,374 vessels with a total registered net tonnage of 132,266,746 tons were reported as arrivals. Cargoes totalled 64,905,985 tons (58 882 220 t). Some of the countries reporting increased tonnage of shipments to Canadian ports were: Columbia 74,145 tons (67 263 t), Guinea 1,545,171 tons (1 401 756 t), Jamaica 254,482 tons (230 865 t), Kuwait 214,844 tons (194 903 t), Netherland Antilles 1,003,094 tons (909 993 t), Saudi Arabia 5,482,000 tons (4 973 188 t), Sierra Leone 367,382 tons (333 284 t), Trinidad-Tobago 1,683,233 tons (1 527 008 t) and Venezuela 6,753,195 tons (6 126 400 t). Main commodities showing increases in tonnages unloaded at Canadian ports: bituminous coal 16,868,218 tons (15 302 598 t), alumina and bauxite ores 4,084,093 tons (3 705 030 t) and containerized freight 3,133,052 tons (2 842 228 t).

For further information, order the 1977 issue of the *Shipping Report, Part 1, International Seaborne Shipping By Country* (54-202, \$2.80).

Inventories/Shipments/Orders

Manufacturers' shipments, August, rose 6.3% to \$10,511.8 million from revised July's \$9,887.8 million. Shipments for eight months: up 15.9% to \$82,770.9 million from \$71,442.1 million a year earlier.

Seasonally adjusted, shipments reached a level of \$10,780.8 million, 1.0% below revised July's \$10,891.7 million. Durable goods shipments dropped 3.9% to \$4,910.1 million from \$5,109.4 million, non-durable goods shipments rose 1.5% to \$5,870.7 million from \$5,782.3 million.

Seasonally-adjusted new orders in all manufacturing industries dropped 0.3% to \$10,787.0 million from \$10,819.2 million. Durable goods new orders: \$4,900.4 million, down 1.5% from \$4,974.9 million. Non-durable new orders: up 0.7% to \$5,886.6 from \$5,844.3 million. Seasonally-adjusted unfilled orders in all manufacturing industries were estimated at \$11,872.5 million, fractionally up on revised July's \$11,866.3 million.

Total inventory owned, seasonally adjusted: up 1.6% to \$19,821.4 million from \$19,504.4 million. Total inventory held: up 1.3% to \$20,820.6 million from \$20,553.7 million with increases of 2.0%, 1.4% and 0.3% in raw materials, goods in process and finished products.

The seasonally-adjusted ratio of total inventory owned to shipments: 1.84:1 compared with 1.79:1 for revised July. Finished products to shipments ratio reached 0.63:1 from 0.62:1.

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact H.D. Wightman (613-996-7008), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Numbers Of Families, 1971-78

Census families, 1971-78, rose 17% to 5,892,700 from 5,042,600.

Preliminary estimates, 1977-1978, will be published in the next few months (91-204, 35¢) with characteristics of families and data sources. For further information, contact Miss G. Caron (613-995-2213), Population Estimates and Projections Division, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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| Fruit and Vegetable Production, October 1978 | 22-003 | 40¢/\$3 | Production and Shipments of Floor Tiles, September 1978 | 47-001 | 15¢/\$1.50 |
| Grains and Oilseeds Review, August 1978 | 22-007 | 70¢/\$2.80 | Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, August 1978 | 41-011 | 30¢/\$3 |
| Grain Trade of Canada, 1975-76 | 22-201 | \$2.10 | Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, August 1978 | 26-007 | 15¢/\$1.50 |
| Production of Eggs and Poultry, August 1978 | 23-003 | 30¢/\$3 | Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, July 1978 | 35-003 | 30¢/\$3 |
| Report on Fur Farms, 1977 | 23-208 | 70¢ | Products Made from Canadian Clays, August 1978 | 44-005 | 15¢/\$1.50 |
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| BALANCE OF PAYMENTS | | | | | |
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| CONSTRUCTION | | | | | |
| Fixed Capital Flows and Stocks, 1926-1978 | 13-568 | \$5.25 | Refined Petroleum Products, July 1978 | 45-004 | 40¢/\$4 |
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| Culture Statistics, 1972-73 to 1974-75 | 87-652 | 70¢ | Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, August 1978 | 43-003 | 15¢/\$1.50 |
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| SERVICE BULLETIN | | | | | |
| Science Statistics — Vol. 2, No. 7, The Survey of Industrial Research and Development, 1963-1978 | 13-003 | /\$1.40 | Service Bulletin Electrical Products — Vol. 7, No. 4, Factory Shipments of Unit Heaters, 1973-1977. Vol. 7, No. 5, Factory Shipments of Electrical Switchgear and Protective Equipment Except Telephone Switchboard, 1977 | 42-007 | /\$1.40 |
| EXTERNAL TRADE | | | | | |
| Exports by Commodities, July 1978 | 65-004 | 80¢/\$8 | MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES | | |
| Imports by Commodities, July 1978 | 65-007 | 80¢/\$8 | Direct Selling in Canada, 1977 | 63-218 | 70¢ |
| Summary of External Trade, August 1978 | 65-001 | 40¢/\$4 | Retail Trade, August 1978 | 63-005 | 55¢/\$5.50 |
| LABOUR | | | | | |
| Estimates of Employees by Province and Industry, July 1978 | 72-008 | 40¢/\$4 | Sales Financing, 1977 | 63-211 | 70¢ |
| MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES | | | | | |
| Concrete Products, August 1978 | 44-002 | 15¢/\$1.50 | POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS | | |
| Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, August 1978 | 33-003 | 30¢/\$3 | Estimates of Population for Canada and the Provinces, June 1, 1978 | 91-201 | 35¢ |
| Copper and Nickel Production, August 1978 | 26-003 | 15¢/\$1.50 | Quarterly Estimates of Population for Canada and the Provinces, July 1978 | 91-001 | 35¢/\$1.40 |
| Factory Shipments of High Pressure Decorative Laminate Sheet, Quarter Ended September 30, 1978 | 47-005 | 35¢/\$1.40 | PRICES | | |
| Fish Freezings and Stocks, August 1978 | 24-001 | 40¢/\$4 | Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, September 1978 | 62-009 | 30¢/\$3 |
| Footwear Statistics, August 1978 | 33-002 | 30¢/\$3 | PUBLIC FINANCE | | |
| Gas Utilities, July 1978 | 55-002 | 30¢/\$3 | Federal Government Employment, April-June 1978 | 72-004 | \$1.05/\$4.20 |
| Gold Production, August 1978 | 26-004 | 15¢/\$1.50 | TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | | |
| Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, July 1978 | 31-001 | 55¢/\$5.50 | Air Passenger Origin and Destination, 1977 | 51-205 | \$9.75 |
| Iron Castings and Cast Iron Pipe and Fittings, August 1978 | 41-004 | 15¢/\$1.50 | Railway Freight Traffic, First Quarter 1978 | 52-002 | \$1.05/\$4.20 |
| Iron Ore, August 1978 | 26-005 | 15¢/\$1.50 | Railway Freight Traffic, 1977 | 52-205 | \$2.80 |
| Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, September 1978 | 32-001 | 15¢/\$1.50 | Railway Operating Statistics, July 1978 | 52-003 | 30¢/\$3 |
| Peeler Logs, Veneers and Plywoods, July 1978 | 35-001 | 30¢/\$3 | Telephone Statistics, August 1978 | 56-002 | 15¢/\$1.50 |
| | | | Shipping Report, Part I | | |
| | | | International Seaborne Shipping (by country), 1977 | 54-202 | \$2.80 |