

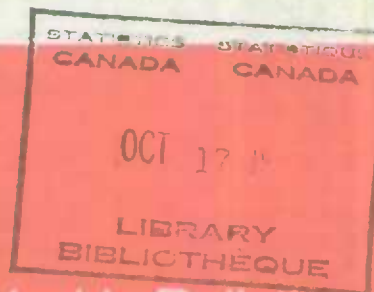


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Weekly Bulletin



Preliminary Statement, Trade

Seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis, exports in August rose 2.8% to \$4,129 million (following a 2% gain in July) — a level slightly below the eight months' average level. Imports dropped 4.8% to \$3,943 million after a 6% advance in July, the August figure again almost matching the monthly average of 1978 imports so far. There was a turnaround of \$309 million from a revised deficit of \$123 million in July to a surplus of \$186 million. Exports declined 9% to \$12,082 million over June-July-August from \$13,297 million in the preceding three months with imports rising fractionally to \$11,981 million. The merchandise trade surplus accumulated in the period March to May contracted from \$1,369 million to \$101 million and at \$2,084 million the surplus for eight months compares with \$1,734 million for January-August 1977.

Seasonally adjusted on a Customs basis, exports to the United States advanced 2.6% to \$3,009 million following a rise of 1% in July. The August figure topped the \$3 billion level again after the recent peak of \$3,280 million in April. Metallic ores rebounded after strikes ended at Québec-Labrador iron mines, exports of chemicals recovered and moderate increases came in other industrial materials. Motor vehicles, automotive parts and other equipment and machinery declined. Exports of \$8,842 million for three months fell 2.5% from March-May.

At \$1,142 million, seasonally-adjusted exports to overseas countries rose 4% from July following that month's 8% gain. Shipments increased to the European Economic Community, fell to Japan and elsewhere. Wheat, barley, some industrial materials and motor vehicles advanced. Coal, lumber, chemicals and non-ferrous metals fell. Over three months, exports of \$3,247 million were 20% below March-April-May.

The proportion of exports going to the U.S. expanded from 68.9% in the first eight months of 1977 to 70.6% in 1978.

At \$2,895 million, seasonally-adjusted imports on a Customs basis from the U.S. slipped 1% below July and slightly above June. A sharp fall in transportation and other equipment (in particular automotive parts) and declines in industrial materials were in part offset by increased arrivals of machinery and coal. The three months'

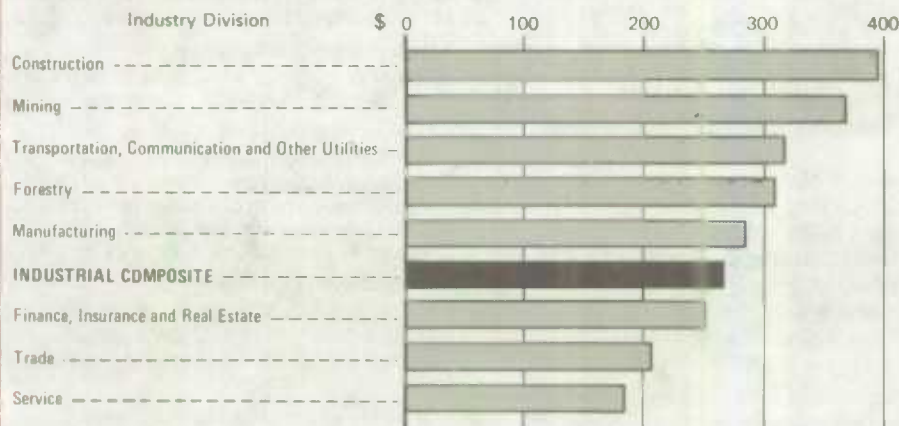
LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
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)	Aug.	10.64	10.64	3.7
Unemployed	Aug.	892,000	927,000	6.4
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	June	1,901.7	2,042.8	12.7
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	July	19,292.4p	19,536.1r	-1.2
Wholesale (\$ million)	July	8,251.8	8,130.4	9.7
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	July	10,093.9p	11,795.5r	24.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	July	11,870.2p	11,861.1r	15.3
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Aug.	177.8	177.7	9.4
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Aug.*	189.2	188.1	7.7
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	July	603.4	604.7	7.0
CONSTRUCTION				
Building Permits (\$ million)	June	1,305.8	5,942.7	0.4
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Aug.*	16,480	118,640	-1.1
ENERGY				
Coal Production (thousand tons)	June	2,476.6	16,474.8	0.1
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	July*	24.0	194.2	7.1
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	June	247.6p	1,771p	-3.4
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	June	58.0	316.8	-3.8
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)	Aug.	1,189.8	10,607.2	7.2
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Aug.*	609.5p	4,308.9p	8.6
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	July	10,084.8p	72,286.9p	15.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	July	812.1	5,918.6	13.5
Retail Sales (\$ million)	July	5,691.0p	37,547.0p	11.5
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	July	5,046.2	35,137.1	9.5

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

Average Weekly Earnings in Canadian Industry

(July 1978*)



Source: Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002)

*First Estimates

total rose 3.8% to \$8,714 million from \$8,392 million for the preceding period.

Imports from overseas dropped nearly 13% to \$1,071 million, the fall almost entirely borne by countries other than Japan and the E.E.C. Crude oil imports dropped and arrivals of food, some fabricated materials, machinery and apparel and footwear also declined. Increases came in automotive goods, particularly cars. Imports in a three-month comparison receded 8% to \$3,293 million.

The proportion of imports originating in the U.S. rose marginally to 70% in the first eight months of 1978 from the same period 1977. The proportion of imports from the E.E.C. and Japan also expanded but the shares for the remaining countries decreased.

For further information on area and commodity trade, order the August 1978 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, 40¢/\$4).

Refrigerators/Freezers

Manufacturers' August domestic sales of refrigerators: 38,539 compared with 43,591 a year earlier. Domestic sales, home and farm freezers: 35,254 from 32,383 a year earlier.

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers* (43-001, 15¢/\$1.50).

Urban Transit

August saw 56 urban transit systems collect 94,448,590 initial passenger fares with total distance run 32,698,946 miles (52 623 852 km) and operating revenues amounting to \$34,811,684.

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Urban Transit* (53-003, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact the Chief (613-996-9271), Surface Transport Section, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Motor Vehicle Shipments

Automobile production, August: 67,354 compared with 47,404 in 1977. (July's total unavailable for disclosure as origin of manufacture would be revealed.)

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Motor Vehicle Shipments* (42-002, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact Raj Sehdev (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

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Urban Family Spending, 1976

A survey of private households in eight cities was conducted early in 1977 in which families and unattached individuals were asked to recall their expenditures for the previous year. Detailed information was provided by 3,681 families and unattached individuals in St. John's, Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver. Total expenditure averaged \$17,995 of which 16.0% was on food, 15.6% on shelter, 12.2% on travel and transportation and 7.0% on clothing. A full report entitled *Urban Family Expenditure, 1976*, will be published early next year. Advance information in the form of a set of tables showing summaries of family expenditure by family income, family type and by city is available from Family Expenditure Section (613-996-4519), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Railway Operating Statistics

Six major railways' July net income of \$13.0 million rose 55.3% from July 1977. Operating revenues increased 8.6% to \$288.4 million and operating expenses at \$275.4 million held to a 7.0% gain.

Revenue freight ton-miles fell 5.7%, freight train-miles 0.5% and freight car-miles 3.0% from a year earlier. Average revenue per ton-mile of freight reached 2.034 cents against 1.798 cents. Passenger-miles (GO Transit excluded) rose 24.4% with commuter travel advancing 3.9% and intercity movements up 25.1% (a sharp rise in intercity passenger-miles results in part from a 9.8% downward adjustment by Canadian National in figures reported for July 1977).

Seven months' operating revenues rose 8.0% from a year earlier, expenses 7.6% and net income (at \$127.2 million) 15.3%. Cumulative ton-miles were off 2.0% and passenger-miles showed a 5.5% gain.

For further information, order the July 1978 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.

Electric Power Statistics

July net generation increased to 24.0 TW.h from 23.8 TW.h in 1977 (hydro generation up 5.2%, thermal production down 9.2%).

For further information, order the July 1978 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 0T6.

Estimates of Employees

Preliminary July estimates, employees by province and industry, show a seasonally-adjusted marginal decrease from June's 8,365,700 to 8,364,800.

Monthly information is published in 72-008, 40¢ and is also available from G. Mahoney (613-992-3868), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

Building Permits

Preliminary estimates indicate building intentions remained stable during July in the residential and the non-residential sectors — value of authorized construction reached a seasonally-adjusted rate of \$1.098 million against \$1.090 million in June (in July 1977 the value reached \$959 million).

Residential permits estimated at \$613 million (\$616 million in June) were issued for 16,880 dwellings units comprising 9,380 single detached homes and 7,500 multiple dwellings. In June, construction was authorized for 17,807 dwellings of which 9,296 were single detached homes and 8,511 were collective dwellings. On the basis of these figures, starts of single detached homes are projected as stabilizing at an annual rate of approximately 115,000 in the coming months with starts of multiple dwellings decreasing to a rate much below 100,000 units.

Value of non-residential permits (\$473 million in June) rose to \$486 million reflecting increased activity in the commercial sector with projects estimated at \$293 million against \$237 million in June. Permits activity in the industrial sector: \$86 million in July from \$102 million in June. In the public sector: \$106 million in July from \$134 million.

Value of permits for seven months rose only 1.8% from the corresponding period of 1977. The relative share of permits issued in the Atlantic region rose from 4.9% of the national total in 1977 to 5.8% and in the Prairies 24.0% to 30.1%. In Québec the share fell from 20.8% to 17.8%, in Ontario the share went to 33.2% from 35.7% and in British Columbia 12.8% from 14.4%.

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

Housing Starts

Residential building in August in centres of 10,000 population and above was marked by housing starts dropping 11.6% to 16,480 from 18,641 a year earlier.

Provincial figures with August 1977 totals in brackets: Ontario 7,283 (7,207), Québec 2,388 (3,410), Alberta 2,959 (3,497), British Columbia 1,750 (1,964), Manitoba 1,003 (644), Saskatchewan 360 (740), Nova Scotia 388 (833), New Brunswick 222 (221), Newfoundland 111 (104) and Prince Edward Island 16 (21).

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, 55¢/\$5.50).

Provinces' Government Payrolls

Provincial (bar B.C.) and territorial governments' gross payrolls, second quarter 1978, rose 3% to \$1,311 million from \$1,274.0 million the previous quarter.

For further information, order the second quarter 1978 issue of *Provincial Government Employment* (72-007, \$1.05/\$4.20), or contact Mrs. M. C. Roberts, (613-995-0676), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Industry Selling Price Index

The Industry Selling Price Index for manufacturing rose 0.6% to 189.2 in August from revised July's 188.1 and 7.7% from 1977 (175.5). Major groups with most effect:

- Primary metal industries' 1.7% gain due largely to smelting and refining 4.1% increase
- Increase of 2.7% in wood industries mainly attributed to sawmills and planing mills 3.9% increase
- Food and beverage industries, up 0.3%, saw increases of 1.3% for slaughtering and meat processors, 4.9% for cane and beet sugar processors, 1.8% for poultry processors and 0.9% for fruit and vegetable canners and preservers. Decreases came in miscellaneous food processors (1.0%), fish products (1.7%) and feed industry (0.6%)
- Paper and allied industries show a 0.7% increase primarily from a 0.8% rise for pulp and paper mills.

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact the Information Unit (613-995-5761), Industrial Sub-division, Prices Division.

Railway Carloadings

Railways loaded 23.5 million short tons (21.3 million t) of revenue freight in August, up 3.5% from 1977, with carriers receiving an additional 1.9 million short tons (1.7 million t) from the United States, a gain of 12.5%. Notable percentage changes in volume movements include pulpwood, up 37.0%, grain (other than wheat), up 85.8%, crude gypsum, up 48.8%, newsprint paper, up 17.9%, copper-nickel ore, down 84.4%, potash, down 10.6% and wheat, down 6.4%.

Eight months' freight loadings fell 7.8% from January-August, 1977, to 154.1 million short tons (139.8 million t). Receipts from the U.S. decreased 0.6%. Iron ore and concentrates suffered the most significant decline (42.1%) in loadings. Shipments of wheat were down 0.7% but other grain showed a 19.2% gain over the eight months. Sulphur, potash and coal movements were also higher.

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, 30¢/\$3), or — for seasonally-adjusted revenue freight loadings — contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Farm Products Indexes

The Farm Products Index, August, fell 0.4% to 202.4 from July.

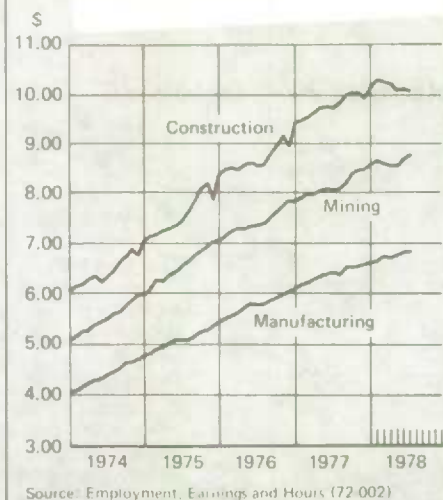
For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact Information Unit, *Industrial Prices* (613-995-5761), Statistics Canada.

Farm Implements and Equipment

Sales of farm implements and equipment for January-August rose 12.0% to \$796.8 million, from \$711.5 million in 1977. Repair parts, 14.5%, \$132.1 million (\$115.4 million).

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *Farm Implements and Equipment Sales* (63-009, 15¢/\$1.50).

Average Hourly Earnings in Canadian Industry



Labour Income

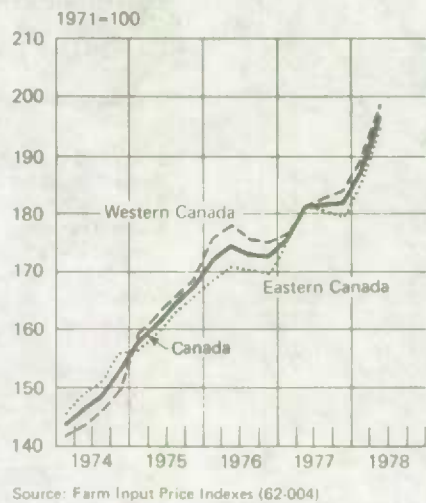
Total wages and salaries, July, rose 7.2% to \$10,109.5 million from \$9,427.5 million a year earlier.

Breakdowns for wages and salaries (millions of dollars) were: primary industries \$155.6; forestry \$122.7; mines, quarries, oil wells \$264.3; manufacturing \$2,298.6; construction \$798.0; transportation, communication, other utilities \$1,097.9; trade \$1,300.5; finance, insurance, real estate \$665.9; commercial, personal service \$982.7; education, related services \$786.0; health, welfare services \$660.8; federal administration, other government offices \$400.8; local administration \$250.8; and provincial administration \$324.9.

Supplementary income for July reached \$835.0 million.

See detailed estimates in the April-June 1978 issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, \$1.05/\$4.20), or contact Mrs. G. Gauthier (613-995-8067), Labour Income Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

Farm Input Price Indexes



Average Earnings

Average weekly earnings rose 6.0% to \$266.77 in July from \$251.62 in 1977. Average hourly earnings in manufacturing reached \$6.83 (from \$6.40), in construction \$10.09 (\$9.75) and in mining \$8.77 (\$8.05).

Provincial breakdowns show average weekly earnings were highest in British Columbia (\$305.41) and followed by Alberta (\$278.47), Ontario (\$264.71), Québec (\$264.29), Saskatchewan (\$253.82), Newfoundland (\$253.65), Manitoba (\$240.90), New Brunswick (\$231.47), Nova Scotia (\$224.32) and Prince Edward Island (\$198.10).

Average weekly earnings by industry division were: construction \$396.09, mining \$367.98; forestry \$309.23; transportation, communication and other utilities \$315.12; manufacturing \$282.08; finance, insurance and real estate \$249.94; trade \$206.63 and service \$182.73.

For further information, order the July 1978 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, 70¢/\$7), or contact R. Ouellette (613-992-5613), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

Radio Broadcasting

Gross radio air-time sales fell 3.4% to \$8.5 million in May from \$8.8 million in 1977. After deduction of agency and other commissions net sales fell 4.0% to \$7.2 million from \$7.5 million. Net local air-time sales rose 11.8% to \$18.9 million in May from \$16.9 million a year earlier.

Five months' gross sales rose 13.4% to \$122.1 million from \$107.7 million in January-May 1977 with net sales rising 12.7% to \$113.5 million from \$100.7 million.

For further information, order the April 1978 issue of *Radio Broadcasting* (56-003, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact P.T. Crosby, (613-996-9274), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa.

Import/Export, Price/Volume Indexes

Import and export current-weighted price indexes rose in July largely because of seasonal changes in composition of trade. Fixed-weighted price indexes, unchanged from June, have each risen 5.5% since December 1977. Import volume, seasonally adjusted, July, rose 4.7% and export volume 1.9%. Average import volume of June-July is 3.7% lower than the second quarter average, export volume: 6.9% lower.

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of the *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, 40¢/\$4).

International Travel

Almost unchanged from a year earlier, 5.3 million United States visitors arrived in August. Canadian residents returning from the U.S. rose 1.8% to 4.6 million. Visitors from countries other than the U.S. totalled 296,900, up 25.8%, and residents returning from such countries decreased 1.8% to 230,200.

For further information, order the August 1978 issue of *International Travel — Advance Information* (66-002, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact Mike Valiquette (613-995-0847), International Travel Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



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