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Weekly Bulletin

Consumer Price Index

January's Consumer Price Index advanced 0.4% from 167.2 in December to 167.8. The increase between January 1977 and January 1978 reached 9.0%, down 0.5% from the December rate.

Food prices rose 0.8% and accounted for three-fifths of this 0.4% advance. Increased charges for housing and transportation had notable upward impact. Lower prices for clothing partially offset the effect. The index for all-items-excluding-food rose by 0.2%.

Higher prices for beef, pork and other meats were large contributing factors to the 0.8% rise in the food index. Other notable increases were for fish, sugar, processed fruit and vegetables, restaurant meals and soft drinks. Lower prices for poultry and some fresh fruit and vegetables partially dampened the impact. The 0.8% increase in the food-at-home index brought this index to 193.0, 17.0% above its level of January 1977.

Higher electricity rates in many Ontario and Québec urban centres and increased shelter charges were important contributing factors in the 0.2% rise in the index for all-items-excluding-food. Other notable factors included higher prices for imported automobiles, seasonally-higher train fares and increased charges for household help services. Lower prices for both men's and women's outerwear and for footwear lessened the impact of these increases. Between January 1977 and January 1978, the index advanced 6.8%.

In terms of goods and services, the price level of goods, including food, increased 0.2% in the latest month. That for services was up 0.6%. Between January 1977 and January 1978 goods increased 10.0%, services 7.4%.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the CPI advanced 0.3% from December. In January the current annual rate of change in the CPI, based on the seasonally-adjusted movement in the latest three-month period, rose 7.7%, down from the 11.2% rate calculated in the previous month.

For further information, order the January 1978 issue of the Consumer Price Index (62-001, 30¢/\$3).

Steel Ingots

Steel ingots production in January totalled 1,310,252 short tons (1,220,000 in 1977).

For further information, order the January 1978 issue of Steel Ingots and Pig Iron (41-002, 15¢/\$1.50).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Nov. 256.17p	257.94p	8.3
Labour Income (\$ million)	Nov. 10,225.7	10,351.0	9.2
Persons with Jobs (million)	Jan. 9.48	9.73	2.4
Unemployed	Jan. 991,000	882,000	11.5

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Oct. 2,105.3	1,707.3	2.2
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Nov. 18,330.5p	18,035.3	9.4
Wholesale (\$ million)	Dec. 7,558.6	7,493.5	5.8

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Nov. 9,853.7p	9,870.9r	14.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Nov. 10,644.4p	629.8r	9.9

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Jan.* 167.8	167.2	9.0
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Dec.* 177.8p	177.5r	7.4
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Dec.* 572.1p	571.5r	8.9

CONSTRUCTION

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Year-to-date %
Building Permits (\$ million)	Oct. 980.1	10,436.4	0.6
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Nov. 18,022	173,828	-9.5

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Aug. 2,222	21,065	22.6
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Sept. 23.6	229.3	7.8
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Oct. 299.7p	2,948.5p	4.0
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Dec.* 60.8	660.8	5.6

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Nov. 3,618	40,042	15.3
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Nov. 3,524	38,499	12.0

PRODUCTION

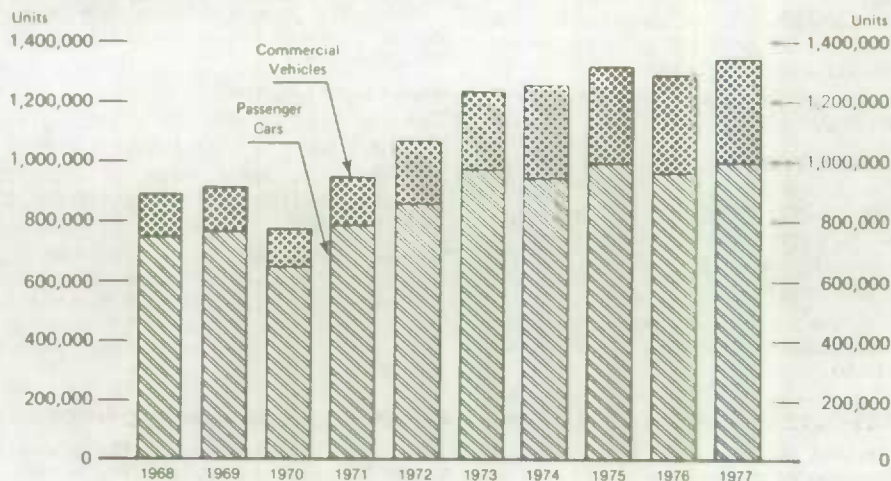
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Dec.* 131.5	1,775.4	8.3
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Jan.* 1,310.3	1,310.3	7.4

SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Dec.* 1,049.8	6,939.9	6.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Nov. 9,839.1p	100,627.8p	11.4
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Dec.* 539.6	8,543.8	10.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Dec.* 6,802.1	61,598.6	7.7
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Dec.* 4,396.0	55,575.5	11.2

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

Canadian Sales of New Motor Vehicles



Source: New Motor Vehicle Sales (63-007)

Retail Trade

Retail trade for December reached \$6,802.1 million, an increase of 7.7% from December 1976. Sales increased in 24 of 28 trade groups. Largest gains: family shoe stores (25.5%) and sporting goods and accessories stores (25.3%). All provinces recorded increased sales ranging from 15.5% for Alberta to 4.2% for Saskatchewan. Montréal sales rose 6.5%, Toronto 1.8%, Winnipeg 8.5% and Vancouver 13.9%. (Revised total for November is \$5,629.8 million, an increase of 12.2%.)

Seasonally-adjusted retail sales: \$5,395.2 million, down 0.3% from the \$5,412.2 million recorded in November. Sales increased in 15 of 28 trade groups. Specialty shoe stores (13.6%) and sporting goods and accessories stores (7.7%) enjoyed the largest increases. Variety stores (8.2%) and department stores (5.7%) recorded largest decreases. Eight provinces' decreased sales ranged from 0.2% for Manitoba to 4.6% for Newfoundland. Increases were recorded by Prince Edward Island (0.5%) and British Columbia (0.2%).

For further information, order the December 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*.

Department Store Sales

Department store sales totalled \$1,049.8 million in December, an increase of 7.6% from a year earlier.

Department store sales by regions with percentage gains over December 1976 in brackets were: Ontario, \$404.0 million (8.5%); Québec, \$197.1 million (6.4%); British Columbia, \$156.9 million (6.8%); Alberta, \$129.3 million (6.8%); Atlantic Provinces, \$73.9 million (9.5%); Manitoba, \$58.8 million (7.9%); and Saskatchewan, \$29.7 million (5.5%).

For further information, order the December 1977 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$1.50 a year), or contact the *Retail Trade Section* (613-996-9304).

Distilleries

Distilleries shipped \$503.9 million worth of products of own manufacture in 1976, up 0.7% from 1975. Value added decreased 2.6% to \$328.9 million, employees decreased 4.7% to 5,708 and salaries and wages increased 4.6% to \$85.3 million.

For further information, order *Distilleries 1976* (32-206, 70¢).

Wholesale Trade

December sales by wholesale: \$4,395,972,000, a 13.4% increase from \$3,877,679,000 in December 1976. Wholesale inventories: \$7,558,596,000, up 5.8% from \$7,144,215,000.

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

New Motor Vehicle Sales

New motor vehicles sold in December dropped 14.0% to 79,768 from December 1976. Automobiles made in the United States and Canada fell 24.9% to 44,654 and Canadian and U.S. Commercial vehicles 7.3% to 21,573.

Automobiles from overseas rose 36.2% to 12,508 from 1976 and overseas-made commercial vehicles increased 21.1% to 1,033. Value of the cars rose 40.4% to \$64.1 million and the commercial vehicles were worth \$5.7 million, up 43.7%. Value of U.S. and Canadian cars sold declined 20.5% to \$284.9 million; commercial vehicles rose 5.6% to \$184.9 million.

Sales value of all vehicles decreased 7.4% to \$539.6 million, including 272 coaches and buses valued at \$9.7 million. January-December figures are up 10.2% to \$8,543.8 million from 1976 with total new vehicles sold reaching 1,344,946 from 1,291,463.

Seasonally-adjusted sales of automobiles manufactured in Canada and the U.S. decreased 14.4% from November to 55,665 and those of cars from overseas rose 18.8% to 19,178. Seasonally-adjusted sales of all commercial vehicles declined 10.9% to 28,081.

For further information, order the December 1977 issue of *New Motor Vehicles Sales* (63-007, 30¢/\$3), or contact M. Kwilecki (613-996-9304), *Retail Trade Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4*.

General Wholesale Price Index

The General Wholesale Price Index rose 0.1% to 572.1 in December from a revised November level of 571.5, up 8.9% from 525.2 in 1976. A 2.2% increase in the animal products index was attributable largely to increases of 5.0% for fresh meats, 1.9% for livestock and 2.7% for fish. The vegetable products index 0.6% decline reflected decreases of 4.3% for grains (most heavily-weighted commodity in the group) and 24.8% for fresh fruit. Sugar and its products showed a partially offsetting increase of 5.8%. The non-ferrous metals group, down 1.2%, also had a major influence on the total index.

For further information, order the December 1977 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, 55¢/\$5.50).

Fisheries Statistics

Total landings of sea and inland fish for 1976 totalled 2,419,809,000lbs. valued at \$391,672,000. Total value of fisheries products and by-products amounted to \$975,835,000.

For further information, order *Fisheries Statistics of Canada — Canada Summary, 1976* (24-201, 70¢), or contact R. Ralph (613-992-2231), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

Gross National Product Inventory Change Values

A new publication, *Inventory Accounting Methods in Manufacturing Industries 1975*, contains the results of a survey undertaken to support the underlying calculations of GNP inventory change values. It illustrates the proportions of book values of manufacturers' inventory which have been derived by the application of various accounting procedures and definitions.

Knowledge of the methods used to determine the aggregate book values of inventory in each industry is essential to calculate the value of physical change and the inventory valuation adjustment components of the GNP. The survey determined prevailing inventory accounting practices in 3,900 establishments whose book value of stocks represented about two-thirds of all manufacturers' inventory in 1973.

Data are expressed as proportionate percentages of inventory values represented by response from each industry for inventory as a whole and each of the four categories of stocks common to most firms: raw materials; goods in process; finished products; and goods purchased for re-sale.

For further information, order *Inventory Accounting Methods in Manufacturing Industries, 1975* (31-524, \$2.10), or contact Richard Dornan (613-996-7008), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

To order this or any other Statistics Canada publication, please send request to:

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Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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Title of Report;
Month, Quarter or Year of issue;
Catalogue Number.

Please enclose money order or cheque made payable to the order of: Receiver General for Canada.

Trusted Pension Funds

Trusted pension funds continued rapid, steady growth in 1976. Book value of assets climbed to a new high of over \$25 billion, an increase of \$4 billion from 1975. Employees and employers contributed \$3.4 billion, up from \$2.7 billion a year earlier.

Detailed information on asset portfolios and income and expenditures will be published shortly in *Trusted Pension Plans Financial Statistics, 1976* (74-201, \$1.40).

Fur Production

Pelts sold during 1976-77 totalled \$72,137,585, up 34% from the previous season. Wildlife pelts brought in \$47,821,085, farm production \$24,316,500.

For further information, order the 1976-77 issue of *Fur Production* (23-207, 70¢), or contact J.H. Dickson (613-994-9974).

SELECTED TABULATIONS, CANCER INCIDENCE, CANADA/PROVINCES

Advance details on the forthcoming publication *New Primary Sites of Malignant Neoplasms in Canada, 1975* (Catalogue No. 82-207) are now available. For further information, please contact: J. Silins, Chief, Vital Statistics and Disease Registries Section (613-995-0864), *Health Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Business Conditions Survey

Optimism again outruns pessimism within the manufacturing industry as it anticipates more production in the first three months of 1978 than in the last quarter of 1977, according to the January Business Conditions Survey. Results show 28% of the weighted response expects a higher volume of production compared with 22% expecting output to decline. (Comparable expectations from last October's survey showed 26% looked to higher production in the last quarter of 1977 and 24% lower.)

The level of new orders was reported to be rising by 24% of respondents and declining by 22%. In October, comparable values were 19% rising and 23% declining. Queried about the level of their finished products inventory, 19% of the January response, the same proportion as in October, indicated it was "too high" and 4% that it was "too low". The remainder considered their level to be "about right".

Six per cent cited a shortage of skilled labour as a source of production difficulties compared with 9% three months earlier.

As in October, there was a wide spread in production expectations of different manufacturing groups when results were classified by economic use or type of market served by the producer. Greatest optimism for the current quarter was expressed in the export-based industries where 43% of the total of the weighted response expects increased output in the current quarter and 11% foresees a decline. October figures showed 33% looked to higher production in the last quarter, 14% lower.

Only 20% of the response from durable consumer goods industries indicated one could expect higher production in the first quarter of 1978 and 43% expects a decline. Comparable predictions for the last three months of 1977, compiled from the October survey, were evenly balanced at 31% higher, 31% lower, with the rest foreseeing no change.

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

Battery Manufacturers

Battery manufacturers shipped \$126.1 million worth of products of own manufacture in 1976, up 10.4% from 1975. Value added increased 4.5% to \$74.4 million, employees increased 7.8% to 2,969 and total salaries and wages increased 23.6% to \$34.5 million.

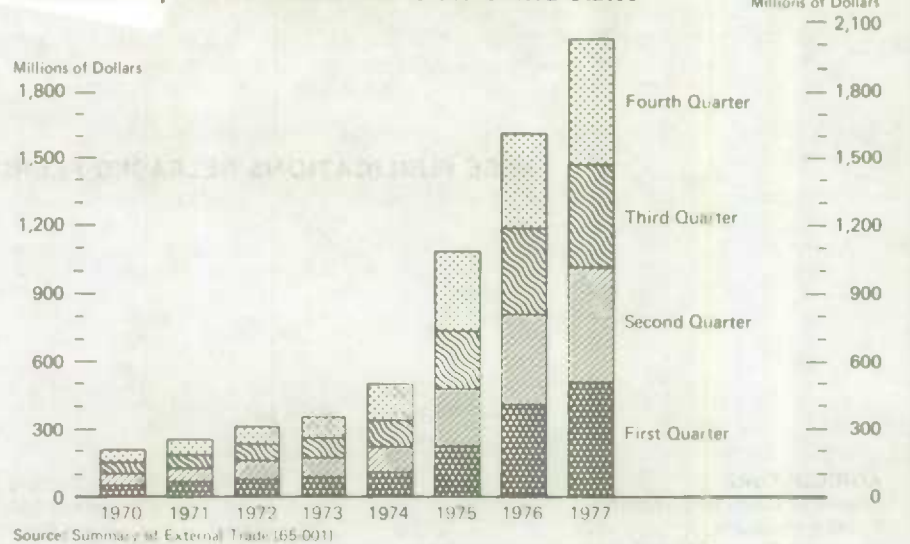
For further information, order *Battery Manufacturers, 1976* (43-208, 70¢), or contact T. Raj Sehdev (613-992-0388).

Phonograph Records/Tapes

Manufacturers produced 7,356,814 phonograph records in December, up from 5,603,916 in December 1976. Production of pre-recorded tapes (8-track cartridges and cassettes) decreased to 1,062,332 from 1,436,926.

For further information, order the *December 1977 issue of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada* (47-004, 15¢/\$1.50).

Canadian Exports of Natural Gas to the United States



Railway Operating Statistics

Six major railways report net income of \$23.1 million in November, down 9.7% from \$25.6 million in November 1976. Operating revenues: up 4.4% to \$289.5 million. Operating expenses: 5.9% to \$266.4 million. Ratio of operating expenses to operating revenues: 90.25% (87.72% in 1976).

Freight ton-miles: a 3.5% decline. Freight train-miles: up 13.5%. Freight car-miles were down 4.2%. Passenger-miles (excluding GO Transit) decreased 3.7% with commuter and non-commuter services sharing in the decline.

In 11 months, operating revenues were 10.8% above January-November 1976; expenses were 7.4% higher and net operating income was 96.0% above the previous-year level. (Increase in net income was due mainly to a significant improvement in Canadian National results.)

Cumulative freight ton-miles increased 4.3% and passenger-miles rose 0.6% ahead of the 1976 pace.

For further information, order the *November 1977 issue of Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, 30¢/\$3).

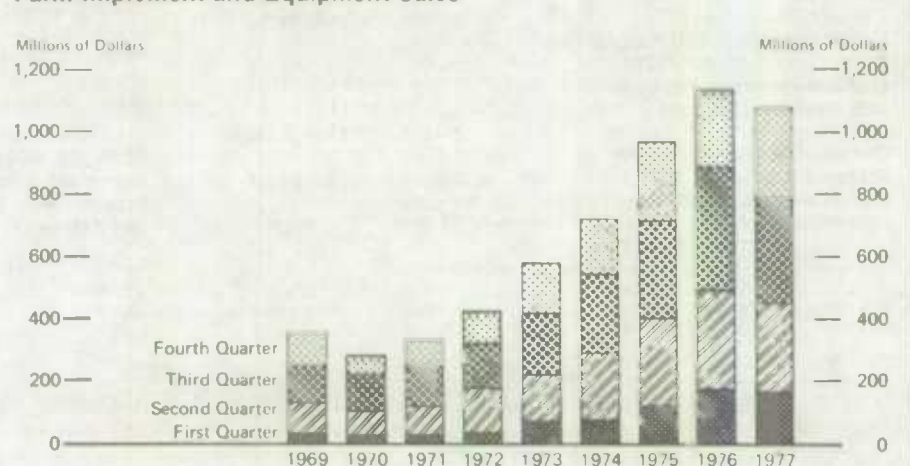
Farm Cash Receipts

Cash receipts from farming operations (bar Newfoundland) totalled \$10,070.9 million in 1977 (\$9,975.0 million in 1976). Estimates include cash receipts from the sale of farm products, Canadian Wheat Board participation payments, cash advances on farm-stored grains and deficiency payments by the Agricultural Stabilization Board. (No deduction made for costs in the production of commodities sold)

The breakdown of total cash receipts on a provincial basis (with 1976 totals in brackets): Prince Edward Island \$90.6 million (\$104.8 million); Nova Scotia \$129.1 million (\$124.0 million); New Brunswick \$106.6 million (\$114.0 million); Québec \$1,428.5 million (\$1,359.8 million); Ontario \$2,855.0 million (\$2,769.9 million); Manitoba \$892.1 million (\$897.2 million); Saskatchewan \$2,107.2 million (\$2,286.2 million); Alberta \$1,968.2 million (\$1,847.6 million); and British Columbia \$493.6 million (\$471.5 million).

For further information, order the *January-December 1977 issue of Farm Cash Receipts* (21-001, 30¢/\$3).

Farm Implement and Equipment Sales*





THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FEBRUARY 9 — 15

	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE					
Stocks of Dairy and Frozen Poultry Products, January 1978	32-009	30¢/\$3	Motor Vehicle Shipments, December 1977	42-002	15¢/\$1.50
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, January 1978	32-012	30¢/\$3	Oils and Fats, November 1977	32-006	30¢/\$3
			Salt, December 1977	26-009	15¢/\$1.50
			Type of Organization and Size of Establishments, 1975	31-210	\$2.10
CONSTRUCTION					
Building Permits, November 1977	64-001	70¢/\$7	SERVICE BULLETINS		
Housing Starts and Completions, November 1977	64-002	N/C	Metals and Minerals — Vol. 5, No. 14, Aluminum, 1976	41-010	/ \$2.80
			Miscellaneous Industries — Vol. 6, No. 4, Papermakers and Other Felts, Quarter Ended December 31, 1977	47-003	/ \$1.40
EXTERNAL TRADE					
Exports by Commodities, November 1977	65-004	80¢/\$8	Fabricated Metal Products — Vol. 6, December 1977; No. 64, Cemented Tungsten Carbide Blanks and Tools; No. 65, Sanitaryware	41-009	/ \$2.80
Imports by Commodities, November 1977	65-007	80¢/\$8			
Summary of External Trade, December 1977	65-001	40¢/\$4	MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES		
			Farm Implement and Equipment Sales, January 1 to December 31, 1977	63-009	15¢/\$1.50
FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTI-NATIONAL ENTERPRISES					
International Travel, December 1977	66-002	15¢/\$1.50	Merchandising Inventories, November 1977	63-014	40¢/\$4
Structural Aspects of Domestic and Foreign Control in the Manufacturing, Mining and Forestry Industries, 1970-1972	31-523	\$2.80	Restaurant Statistics, December 1977	63-011	15¢/\$1.50
INDUSTRY PRODUCT					
Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry Including the Index of Industrial Production, November 1977	61-005	40¢/\$4	PRICES		
			Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, October-December 1977	62-010	\$1.40/\$5.60
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES					
Asbestos, December 1977	26-001	15¢/\$1.50	Farm Input Price Index, 4th Quarter 1977	62-004	35¢/\$1.40
Cement, December 1977	44-001	15¢/\$1.50	TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS		
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, October 1977	26-006	30¢/\$3	Motor Carriers — Freight and Household Goods Movers, 1977	53-222	\$2.10
Distilled Beverage Spirits and Industrial Ethyl Alcohol, December 1977	32-021	15¢/\$1.50	Railway Carloadings, December 1977	52-001	30¢/\$3
Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers, December 1977	43-001	15¢/\$1.50	Urban Transit, December 1977	53-003	15¢/\$1.50
Fish Freezings and Stocks, November 1977	24-001	40¢/\$4	SERVICE BULLETIN		
			Communications — Vol. 8, No. 1, Broadcasting Statistics — Radio and Television, 1976	56-001	/ \$1.40