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Job Vacancies

November, December, January saw the average number of vacant jobs drop from the previous three-month period and from the comparable period a year earlier. Vacancies for full-time, part-time and casual jobs declined 29% to 35,700 from 50,500 in August-October and 5% (2,000) from the three-month period a year ago.

Vacancies for full-time jobs decreased 26% to 32,300 from the preceding period. Vacancies of four weeks and more declined 24% to 11,700.

For every 1,000 existing jobs four were vacant, down two from August-October (no change from a year ago). Highest vacancy rates came in Alberta (eight per 1,000) and Manitoba (five per 1,000) with the lowest rate (three per 1,000) bedevilling Newfoundland and New Brunswick.

For further information, contact Mlle. M. Séabien (613-996-7148), Job Vacancy Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada.

GNP: Expenditures

Major source of strength in Gross National Product, 1977, was external demand. Real exports were 7.7% higher than in 1976 and, with real imports increasing only 2.0%, real net exports (real exports less real imports) contributed more than one percentage point to the increase in real GNP. Real personal expenditure and real government current expenditure on goods and services grew at rates well below their long-term averages, real gross fixed capital formation declined and inventory investment fell substantially.

In real terms, personal expenditure increased 2.8% in 1977 with the largest percentage increase (5.2%) in spending on services, reflecting higher net expenditure abroad and a large increase in spending on financial and legal services. Growth in durable expenditure fell to 2.4% from 5.4% in 1976 with the largest decline in spending on household appliances. Expenditure on semi-durable goods increased 1.0% as real expenditure on household furnishings was unchanged from the previous year and spending on clothing and footwear declined. Expenditure on non-durables was up 0.7%, reflecting marginal growth in energy products as well as food, beverages and tobacco.

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

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec. 254.06p	256.22p	8.6
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec. 10,140.4p	10,233.2p	6.0
Persons with Jobs (million)	Jan. 9.48	9.73	2.4
Unemployed	Jan. 991,000	882,000	11.5

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Dec.* 1,669.0	2,159.6	3.4
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Dec. 18,473.5p	18,388.8p	8.7
Wholesale (\$ million)	Dec. 7,558.6	7,493.5	5.8

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Dec. 9,241.1p	9,988.0r	13.6
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Dec. 10,849.3p	10,789.4r	13.9

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

Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.* 847.9	12,423.3	1.8
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Nov. 18,022	173,828	-9.5

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Oct.* 2,470	26,172	18.3
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Nov.* 28.4	286.9	7.5
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Nov. 284.4p	3,232.9p	3.0
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Dec. 60.8	660.8	5.6

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Jan.* 3,455	3,455	11.3
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Jan.* 3,143	3,143	4.6

PRODUCTION

Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Jan. 219.4	219.4	-9.7
Steel (Ingots — thousand tons)	Jan. 1,310.3	1,310.3	7.4

SALES

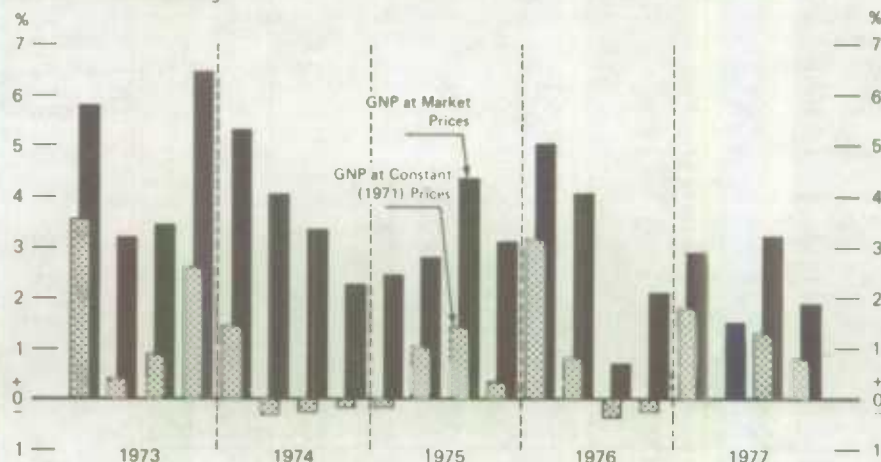
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Dec. 1,049.8	6,939.9	6.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Dec. 9,181.2p	109,798.3	11.4
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Dec. 539.6	8,543.8	10.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Dec. 6,802.1	61,598.6	7.7
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Dec. 4,396.0	55,575.5	11.2

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

Canada's Gross National Product (GNP)

Quarter-to-Quarter Change

All data Seasonally Adjusted



Source: National Income and Expenditure Accounts (13-001)

Building Permits

December's seasonally-adjusted value of building permits issued by municipalities rose 17.3% to \$1,168 million from \$996 million in 1976, the highest level ever attained. Reflecting the residential permit activity in western Canada, December exceeded November's \$1,120 million level by 4.4%.

The year 1977 closed with current-dollar value of permits rising 1.8% to \$12,423 million from \$12,200 million in 1976. Moderate increases marked the housing and institutional sectors (both benefitting from government intervention) but the private business sector remained weak.

During December, building permits issued for single, detached homes levelled off at a seasonally-adjusted rate of 8,514 (8,601 in November) and the number of authorized multiple dwellings rose to 17,323, a substantial increase over 14,744 approved in November. The value of residential permits totalled a record \$810 million (\$727 million in November). Non-residential permits, however, were down again, dropping 8.7% to \$359 million from \$393 million in November, a moderate increase in new industrial building projects (from \$83 million to \$90 million) being more than offset by decreases in the commercial sector (from \$202 million to \$190 million) and the public sector (from \$108 million to \$78 million).

Regionally, only Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Alberta enjoyed increased building permit (real) activity during 1977. In the other provinces moderate increases in the value of new construction were offset by price changes (Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan) or the value of permits issued in effect decreased (New Brunswick, Québec, Manitoba, British Columbia).

For further information, order the December 1977 issue of Building Permits (64-001, 70¢/\$7), or contact J.P. Delisle (613-994-9312), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Residential Building Construction Input Price Indexes, January 1978

Input Price Indexes for residential building construction in January 1978 saw the December level of 180.8 rise 0.6% to 181.9 with an 8.2% increase from the 169.7 level a year earlier.

Regionally, the Atlantic provinces level rose 1.2% to 192.0 from December's 189.8, Québec's rose the same to 184.7 from 182.6, Ontario's sank marginally to 175.6 from 175.9, the Prairie provinces went up 1.1% to 192.0 from 189.9 and British Columbia sustained the biggest increase, 1.3% to 181.7 from 179.4.

For further information, order the January 1978 issue of Construction Price Statistics Monthly Bulletin (62-007, 40¢/\$4), or contact Mrs. G. A. John (613-994-5807), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

Number of Children at Home by Age Groups, 1976

Census 1976 found 8,886,745 children in families in private households, a decrease of 276,355 from Census 1971. Distribution of children living at home by age group showed that, nationally, 41.4% were 6 to 14, 23.0% were under 6, 16.6% were 18 to 24, 14.9% were 15 to 17 and 4.1% were 25 and over. This ranking of age groups is comparable at the provincial level. However, in Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Yukon and Northwest Territories there were more children in the 15-17 year age group than the 18-24 year age group.

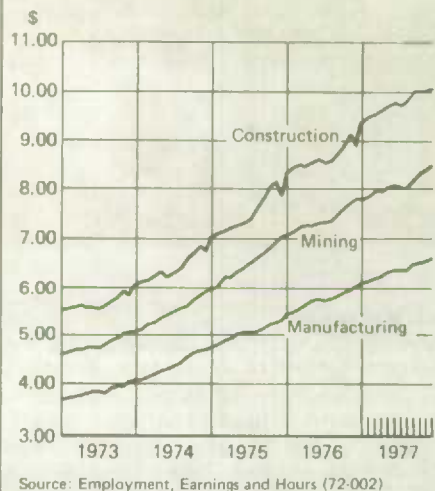
Further information, with more geographic detail, will be published this year in Catalogue 93-831, Bulletin SF-1.

Television Sets

Manufacturers' December domestic sales of "Made in Canada" TVs reached 21,673 sets, little more than half the 40,485 sold in December 1976.

For further information, order the December 1977 issue of Radio and Television Receiving Sets (43-004, 30¢/\$3), or contact T. Raj Sehdev (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Average Hourly Earnings in Canadian Industry



Sales Financing

Sales finance companies purchased \$227.0 million of retail finance paper during December, down 3.7% from \$235.8 million in December 1976. Total purchases comprised \$35.6 million for automobiles, \$36.9 million for other consumer goods, \$86.1 million for commercial vehicles and \$68.4 million for other commercial and industrial goods. Wholesale financing undertaken during the third quarter totalled \$1,706.8 million, up 13.2% from \$1,507.2 million a year earlier.

For further information, order the December 1977 issue of Sales Financing (63-013, 30¢/\$3), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304 or telex 053-3585), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Oil Pipeline Transport

Lines received 2,820,100 B/D (448 142 m3D) of crude oil, condensate, pentanes plus and refined petroleum product in December, up 0.2% from 2,813,200 B/D (447 062 m3D) a year earlier. Receipts of domestic petroleum and products decreased 0.4% to 2,488,500 B/D (395 448 m3D) and imported petroleum and products receipts increased 5.3% to 331,600 B/D (52 695 m3D).

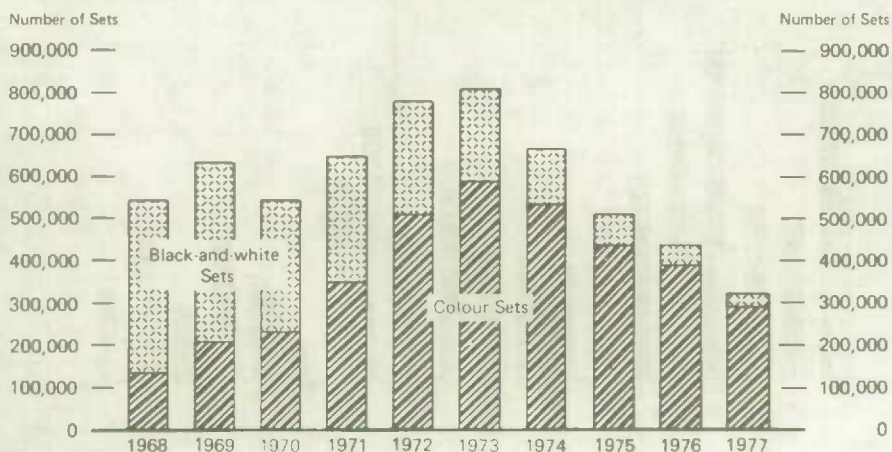
For further information, order the December 1977 issue of Oil Pipe Line Transport (55-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact G. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

International Travel

January United States visitors dropped 7.3% to 1.1 million from January 1977. Canadian residents returning from the U.S. fell 3.3% to 2.2 million. Visitors from other countries rose 1.4% to 40,200 and Canadian residents returning from abroad declined 2.2% to 189,600.

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

Manufacturers' Sales of 'Made-in-Canada' Television Sets



Balance of Payments

October-December developments decreased the seasonally-adjusted current account deficit to \$692 million from \$1,220 million in the previous quarter. A balance of payments deficit measured by net official monetary movements stood at \$291 million which, with a net capital inflow of \$443 million, financed a current account deficit (unadjusted for seasonal variations) of \$734 million.

A small increase in the current account deficit to \$4,238 million marked 1977 as a whole. (A \$1.9 billion drop from 1976 in net capital inflow to \$2,817 million required additional financing to meet the deficit through a reduction in official reserves of \$1,421 million.)

Main features of 1977 include:

- The virtual tripling of the merchandise trade surplus to \$2,907 million which was more than offset by a \$2.0 billion increase in the deficit on non-merchandise transactions
- Within the non-merchandise account, increases of \$900 million and about \$500 million in net payments of interest/dividends and on travel account
- New issues sold abroad of \$5,778 million, down \$3.8 billion from a record 1976 level
- Return to a net inflow for long-term direct investment from foreign sources totalling \$410 million
- Net outflow of \$790 million for direct investment abroad, up more than 40% from 1976
- Twofold increase to \$532 million in the outflow to expand export credits granted directly or indirectly at risk of the federal government
- Sharp reduction to \$422 million in the net inflow from non-residents for the acquisition of Canadian money market instruments
- Doubling of the net outflow, to \$497 million, for the acquisition of non-bank holdings of short-term funds abroad
- Decline of US\$1,236 million in the level of official international reserves to US\$4,607 million at year's end
- Depreciation of the dollar vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar, plus a weighted average of 7.8% and 9.4% of the currencies of our major trading partners as the Canadian dollar proceeded to depreciate even more sharply against overseas currencies than against the U.S. dollar.

For further information, contact D.K. McAlistar (613-995-0743), Balance of Payments Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. Main tables in machine-readable form are available from the CANSIM base.

Dairy Review

An estimated 1,196,388,000lbs. of milk produced in December rose 7.0% from December 1976 and brought the year's total to 17,070,911,000lbs., up 0.75% from 1976.

For further information, order the January 1978 issue of the Dairy Review (23-001, 40¢/\$4), or contact C.M. Riach (613-994-9974), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

YEAR BOOK SPECIAL EDITION BRIDGES CHANGE TO METRIC SYSTEM

Canada Year Book 1976-77 reviews economic, social and political developments. This special issue covers information for two years and bridges our transition to metric measure from imperial measure. Textual and table use of imperial measure is accompanied by the metric equivalents and a special article on the move to metric is accompanied by a table of factors for conversion of weights and measures in the imperial and United States systems to the International System (SI) of metric measurement. Use of colour coding makes plain the difference between imperial and metric tables. (Future *Year Books* will carry metric-only measurements concerning the many social and economic areas where conversion has been completed.) The current volume's 1,100 pages also cover two years of change and development in agriculture, banking, culture, communications, education, energy, federal and provincial governments, health, housing, incomes, labour, manufacturing, merchandising, population, resources, scientific research and transportation. Appendices include information on recent legislation, national events, honours, plus a list of books about Canada.

Bound in hardcover and available in either English or French, the book costs \$12.50 in Canada and \$15.00 elsewhere. Order copies through Publications Distribution, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, Printing and Publishing, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa K1A 0S9, or from your bookseller.

Telecommunication Statistics

Teleglobes Canada, Canadian National Telecommunications and Canadian Pacific (Telecommunications Branch) quarterly revenues rose 3.0% from third quarter 1976 to \$73.8 million in 1977. Operating expenses were \$63.2 million, an increase of 16.4%. Net operating revenue reached \$10.5 million, down 39.2% from the third quarter of 1976.

For further information, order the *Communications Service Bulletin, Telecommunications Statistics, Third Quarter, 1977* (56-001, \$1.40), or contact Patrick Crosby (613-996-9274), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Gross National Expenditure

The implicit price index for non-residential construction had a relatively modest fourth quarter 1977 increase, largely because of weak building material price increases. The implicit price index for personal expenditure, however, rose 1.8%, with the largest increase in the non-durable goods implicit price index. The implicit price index for GNE rose 1.0%.

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

Phonograph Records/Tapes

Manufacturers produced 5,033,099 phonograph records in January compared with 4,298,592 in January 1977. Production of pre-recorded tapes (8-track cartridges, cassettes) rose 15.4% to 934,654.

For further information, order the January 1978 issue of *Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada* (47-004, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact R. Ralph (613-992-2231), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Electric Power

November net generation of electricity increased to 28.4 TWh from 26.1 TWh in 1976. Hydro generation increased 14.4%, thermal production decreased 3.9%.

For further information, order the November 1977 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, 30¢/\$3).

Radio Air-Time Sales

Gross national radio air-time sales rose 4.8% to \$8.8 million in October from \$8.4 million in 1976. Agency and other commissions reduced gross national sales to \$7.4 million, up 4.2% from \$7.1 million. Net local air-time sales rose 7.8% to \$16.6 million from \$15.4 million a year earlier.

Sales 1977 to date reached \$222.2 million, an increase of 11.1%. Net sales rose 11.0% to \$206.2 million.

For further information, order the October 1977 issue of *Radio Broadcasting* (56-003, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact P.T. Crosby (613-996-9274), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Provincial Finance

Financial assets of provincial and territorial governments as at March 31, 1975, and as at March 31, 1976, amounted to \$24,380 million and \$28,658 million for an increase of \$4,278 million or 17.5% between these dates. Their liabilities amounted to \$25,024 million in 1975 and \$30,964 million in 1976 for an increase of \$5,940 million (23.7%).

For further information, order the 1975 issue of *Provincial Government Finance, Assets, Liabilities and Sources and Uses of Funds* (68-209, \$2.10), or contact the Public Finance Division (613-995-0718), Provincial Government Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE			Motor Vehicle Shipments, January 1978	42-002	15¢/\$1.50
Stocks of Dairy and Frozen Poultry Products, February 1978	32-009	30¢/\$3	Oil Filters and Cartridges, January 1978	41-016	15¢/\$1.50
Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, February 1, 1978	32-010	30¢/\$3	Oil Pipe Line Transport, November 1977	55-001	30¢/\$3
CENSUS			Oils and Fats, December 1977	32-006	30¢/\$3
Population: Demographic Characteristics, Marital Status, 1976			Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, January 1978	32-024	15¢/\$1.50
Census of Canada	92-824	\$4.25	Production and Shipments of Floor Tiles, January 1978	47-001	15¢/\$1.50
CONSTRUCTION			Soaps and Synthetic Detergents, December 1977	46-003	30¢/\$3
Housing Starts and Completions, December 1977	64-002	55¢/\$5.50	Shipments of Prepared Stocks and Poultry Feeds, December 1977	32-004	40¢/\$4
EXTERNAL TRADE			Tobacco Products Industries, 1976	32-225	70¢
Exports by Commodities, December 1977	65-004	80¢/\$8	SERVICE BULLETIN		
JUSTICE STATISTICS			Fruit and Vegetable Preservation — Vol. 6, No. 15, Pack of Processed Beets, 1977	32-023	/ \$1.40
Statistics of Criminal and Other Offences, 1973	85-201	\$6.00	MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES		
LABOUR			Department Store Sales and Stocks, December 1977	63-002	40¢/\$4
Estimates of Employees by Province and Industry, October 1977	72-008	40¢/\$4	PRICES		
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin, February 1978	62-007	40¢/\$4
Abrasives Manufacturers, 1976	44-202	70¢	Industry Price Indexes, October 1977	62-011	55¢/\$5.50
Builders and Shelf Hardware, January 1978	41-014	15¢/\$1.50	PUBLIC FINANCE		
Cane and Beet Sugar Processors, 1976	32-222	70¢	Federal Government Enterprise Finance, 1976	61-203	\$1.05
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables, Monthly, December 1977	32-011	30¢/\$3	SERVICE BULLETIN		
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, January 1978	36-004	15¢/\$1.50	TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS		
Fish Freezings and Stocks, December 1977	24-001	40¢/\$4	Water Transport — Vol. 8, No. 2, Cargo Loaded and Unloaded in Coastwise Shipping by Vessels of Foreign Registries, October-December 1977 and 1976	54-003	/ \$1.40
Gas Utilities, November 1977	55-002	30¢/\$3			
Leather Tanneries, 1976	33-202	70¢			
Leather Glove Factories, 1976	33-204	70¢			
Lime Manufacturers, 1976	44-209	70¢			