

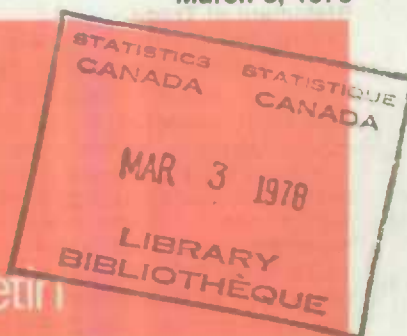


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Weekly Bulletin



Gross National Product

The Gross National Product, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, rose 1.9% in the fourth quarter to a level of \$214.7 billion. In real terms GNP grew 0.8%. Exports rose 4.7% in volume terms and real imports fell 1.5%.

The drop in import volume was caused in part by a 0.6% decline in final domestic demand, with declines in personal expenditure, government current expenditure and gross fixed capital formation.

Fourth quarter movements left 1977 up 9.3% from 1976. This translates into a real increase of 2.6% compared with 4.9% in 1976.

The changes from the fourth quarter of 1976 illustrate the extent to which the real sector of the economy was dominated in 1977 by the decline in the international value of the Canadian dollar and the price movements which resulted from it.

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

Labour Income

December labour income rose 6.0% from 1976's \$9,565.2 million to \$10,140.4 million and at annual levels labour income rose \$10.7 billion (almost 10%) from \$107.6 billion in 1976 to \$118.3 billion in 1977.

Preliminary estimates for wages and salaries were: service, \$2,402.4 million; manufacturing, \$2,097.4 million; trade, \$1,288.6 million; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$977.3 million; public administration and defence, \$870.3 million; construction, \$701.4 million; finance, insurance and real estate, \$608.8 million; mining, \$244.6 million; forestry, \$103.6 million; and agriculture, \$66.4 million.

Supplementary income for December reached \$767.7 million.

See detailed estimates in the October-December 1977 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.

Federal Government Employment

General employees, federal government, metropolitan areas, rose 3.9% from 1976 to 276,924 (revised) in 1977.

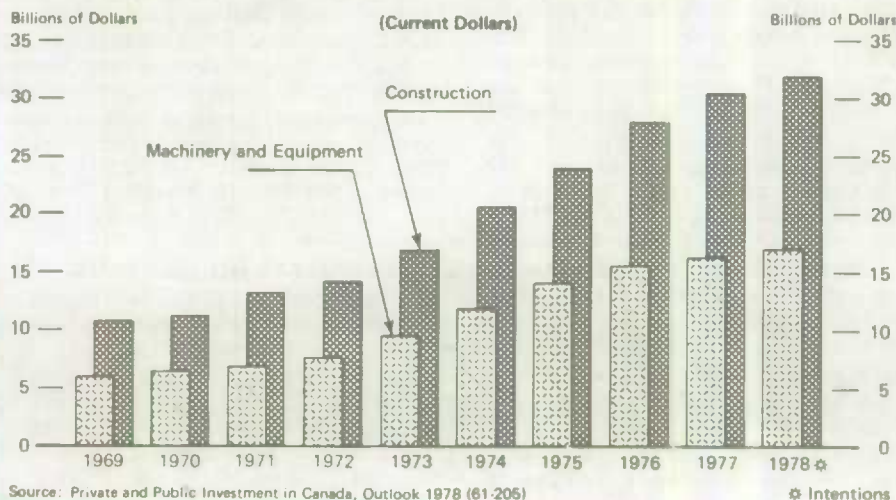
Details by sex, occupational category and department are available. Direct requests to T. Moore (613-995-0669), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec.*	254.06p	256.22p	8.6
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec.*	10,140.4p	10,223.2p	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)	Nov.*	2,159.6	2,105.3	8.0
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	10,789.4p	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)	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.)	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)	Dec.*	4,061	44,199	16.2
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Dec.*	3,488	42,070	12.5
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.

Capital Expenditures, Canada, 1969-77 and Intentions 1978



Statement of Trade

Exports and imports, seasonally adjusted on a balance-of-payments basis, fell sharply in January compared with the substantial increases in the preceding month. Unusually severe winter weather conditions in Canada and abroad contributed to the decline. Exports dropped 16.9% to \$3,525 million (slightly higher than the November total) and imports declined 15.5% to \$3,219 million (a shade under November). At \$306 million, the merchandise trade surplus stood 29.7% below the revised surplus of \$435 million for December.

Following a rise of some 17.5% in December, January exports to the United States, on a Customs basis and seasonally-adjusted, declined nearly 8% to \$2,747 million. This total corresponded with about the average level for the final quarter of 1977. Value of shipments at \$8,267 million for the three months ending in January was, however, 6% higher than exports for the August-October period.

After a sharp recovery in December, seasonally-adjusted exports to overseas countries fell some 38.5% to \$779.5 million, the smallest total in the past 12 months. The relative drop in exports for the months of November-January to \$2,888 million was about half as great. This decline was distributed 10.5% to the European Economic Community, 21.5% to Japan and 68% to the remaining countries.

Following an increase of 11% in December, Customs basis, seasonally-adjusted imports from the U.S. dropped roughly 12.5% to \$2,280 million in January, which was a shade below the total for the same month in 1977. Imports for the latest three-month period declined more moderately: to \$7,233 million from \$7,380 million in the months of August-October.

At \$948 million, seasonally-adjusted imports from overseas countries stood about 23.5% below the high December total and also slightly under the November rate. Imports in the months of November-January fell less drastically to \$3,143 million from \$3,310 million in the preceding three-month period.

Exports and imports for the three months ending in January dropped from the period preceding but much less sharply than in the latest single month. Exports declined 2.2% to \$11,234 million, and imports 3.3% to \$10,283 million. The surplus rose 10.3% to \$951 million from \$862 million in August-October.

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

Inventories/Shipment/Orders

Shipments (manufacturing) for 1977 reached an estimated \$109,798.3 million, up 11.4% from 1976's \$98,597.3 million. December's shipments fell 6.6% from the revised November value of \$9,828.4 million to \$9,181.2 million.

Seasonally-adjusted shipments reached a level of \$9,688.7 million, 4.1% above the revised November level of \$9,307.8 million. Durable goods industries' shipments rose 2.8% to \$4,412.6 million from \$4,290.5 million and those of non-durable goods industries increased 5.2% to \$5,276.1 million from \$5,017.3 million. New orders in all manufacturing industries, seasonally adjusted, rose 2.1% to \$9,681.0 million from \$9,482.4 million in November. Durable goods new orders dropped 1.6% to \$4,370.2 million from \$4,442.7 million and non-durable goods new orders increased 5.4% to \$5,310.8 million from \$5,039.7 million.

Unfilled orders, seasonally adjusted, fell to \$10,815.6 million, 0.1% below the revised November level of \$10,823.3 million. Total inventory owned, seasonally adjusted, fell to \$18,510.2 million, 0.3% below the revised November level of \$18,573.1 million. Total inventory held, seasonally adjusted, estimated at \$19,672.9 million, fractionally below the revised November level of \$19,702.9 million, saw decreases of 0.4% and 1.6% in raw materials and finished products and an increase of 2.0% in goods in process.

The seasonally-adjusted ratio of total inventory owned to shipments stood at 1.91:1 against 2.00:1 as revised for November.

Finished products to shipments ratio was 0.66:1 compared with the revised November ratio, 0.70:1.

For further information, order the December 1977 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.

Automobile Fabric Accessories

The automobile fabric accessories industry shipped \$305.5 million worth of products of own manufacture in 1976, up 34.5% from 1975. Value added increased 39.0% to \$138.2 million, employees increased 14.7% to 5,557 and total salaries and wages increased 29.8% to \$73.4 million.

For further information, order *Automobile Fabric Accessories Industry* (34-222, 70¢), or contact Elliott Gluck (613-992-2231), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Key Economic Series

During March, release of key economic series data is to be as outlined below. Where a range of dates applies, this represents the period within which publication can be reasonably expected given the circumstances peculiar to each series. (A range may be unexpectedly exceeded on rare occasions.)

March 3 to March 8: Unemployment Insurance Statistics, month of January;

March 7 to March 10: Retail Trade, month of January;

March 8 to March 17: Industry Selling Price Index, month of January;

March 10 to March 21: General Wholesale Price Index, month of January;

March 14: Labour Force Survey, month of February;

March 14: Canadian Balance of International Payments, months of October-December 1977;

March 14 to March 17: Index of Industrial Production, month of January;

March 15: Private and Public Investment in Canada — Outlook by Provinces, 1978 (Final Figures);

March 15: Consumer Price Index (National), month of February;

March 15 to March 17: Consumer Credit, month of January;

March 16 to March 17: Wholesale Trade, month of January;

March 17 to March 28: Industrial Corporations, Financial Statistics (Final Data), months of October-December 1977;

March 20 to March 23: Real Domestic Product, month of January;

March 20 to March 28: Employment, Earnings and Hours, month of January;

March 21 to March 23: Inventories, Shipments and Orders, month of January;

March 23: Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, month of February;

March 23 to March 29: Labour Income, month of January;

March 31: Preliminary Statement of Canadian Trade.

For further information, please contact Jack Kerr (613-992-1548), Production, Planning and Scheduling Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa.

Motor Vehicle Production

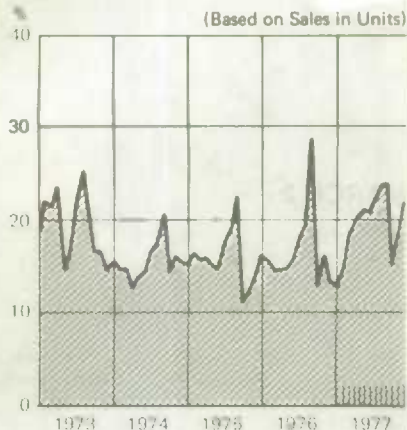
Production of automobiles totalled 84,154 in January (98,286 in January 1977). Commercial vehicles totalled 135,238 against 144,765.

For further information, order the January 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.

FAMILIES AND PERSONS IN FAMILIES IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS

On June 1, 1976, the total of families in private households stood at 5,727,895, up 13.4% from 1971's 5,053,170. The number of persons in families increased 5.3% from 18.8 million to 19.8 million. This increase was accompanied by a decrease in the average number of persons per family — from 3.7 to 3.5. Further information including geographic detail will be published soon in Catalogue 93-821, Bulletin 4-2. In the meantime, information on families and persons per family in private households for census divisions (counties, regional districts, regional municipalities, etc.) is available from Census Information Services (613-996-5254), Statistics Canada, Ottawa.

Share of Canadian Passenger Car Market Held by Overseas Manufacturers



Source: New Motor Vehicle Sales (63 007)

Real Domestic Product

In 1977, Real Domestic Product increased 2.8% from 124.2 to 127.7. The Index of Industrial Production rose 3.3% to 124.5. Real Domestic Product less agriculture recorded an increase of 3.0%. Goods-producing industries advanced 2.0% against a 3.3% increase in service-producing industries.

The seasonally-adjusted Index of Real Domestic Product increased 0.7% to 128.7 in the fourth quarter of 1977 from 127.8 in the third quarter. The Index of Industrial Production increased 0.7% in the fourth quarter. Goods-producing industries were up 0.4%, while service-producing industries advanced 0.9%.

The seasonally-adjusted Index of Real Domestic Product advanced 0.1% to 129.0 in December from 128.9 in November. The Index of Industrial Production increased 0.2% in December. Goods-producing industries were up 0.2% and service-producing industries were unchanged from the November level.

Year-over-year changes, December 1976 to December 1977, major groupings and special groupings: Agriculture, 100.4 to 96.4 (-4.0%); Forestry, 108.5 to 119.6 (10.2%); Fishing/Trapping, 102.0 to 112.3 (10.1%); Mines, 110.4 to 114.2 (3.4%); Manufacturing Industries, 120.0 to 123.7 (3.1%); Construction Industry, 116.6 to 114.9 (-1.4%); Transportation/Storage/Communication, 130.5 to 136.4 (4.5%); Utilities, 137.8 to 145.1 (5.2%); Trade, 133.1 to 134.4 (1.0%); Finance/Insurance/Real Estate, 128.2 to 134.6 (5.0%); Community-/Business/Personal Service Industries, 127.7 to 132.4 (3.7%); Public Administration/Defence, 122.8 to 125.0 (1.8%); Non-durable Manufacturing, 117.3 to 120.9 (3.1%); and Durable Manufacturing, 122.7 to 126.5 (3.1%).

For further information, order the December 1977 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (61-055, 40¢/\$4), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Import/Export, Price/Volume

Fourth quarter 1977 saw the Import Price Index (current weighted) increase 1.5% over the third quarter, down significantly from 6.8% and 3.0% increases in first and second quarters of the year.

As a result of weight shifts the Export Price Index showed no change in the fourth quarter. (Excluding weight-shift effects the index rose significantly less than in the first two quarters.)

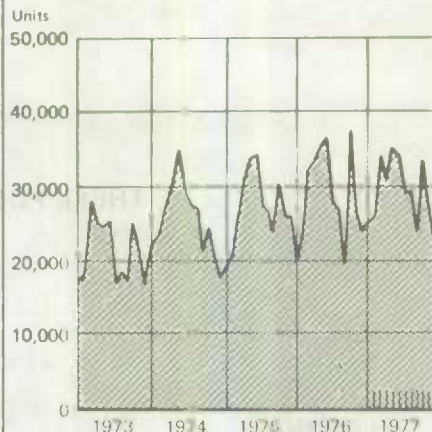
For the year import prices increased 10%, export prices 6%.

Import volume was at about the same level as the third quarter, still substantially lower than in the first half year. Export volume increased 4% over the third quarter, its highest level since 1971.

Volume of imports for the year was 2% higher than 1976 and export volume increased 9%.

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

Sales of New Commercial Vehicles



Source: New Motor Vehicle Sales (63 007)

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Some 824,000 persons paid unemployment insurance benefits for week ending December 10 rose 20% from November, 13% from a year earlier. Beneficiaries reporting some work earnings during December totalled 7%.

Net benefit paid amounted to \$318 million, up 1% from the previous month, and 17% from 1976. Net coverage for 1977 rose 15% over 1976 to \$3,885 million.

Average weekly benefit rose 9% from December 1976 to \$101.00 and the number of weeks of benefit increased 7%.

Claims filed reached 317,000 in December, down marginally from November. Normally, the claim load rises in December; percentage increases from 1971 to 1976 ranged from 3% to 31% between these two months. Compared with a year earlier, a 4% rise was recorded. Claims for the calendar year 1977 reached 2,806,000, up 5% over 1976.

For further information, order the December 1977 issue of *Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001p), *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, Quarterly), or contact George Fincham (613-992-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

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Average Earnings

Average weekly earnings rose 8.6% to \$254.06 in December from \$233.99 in 1976. Average hourly earnings in manufacturing reached \$6.62 (from \$6.02), in construction \$10.09 (\$8.96) and in mining \$8.51 (\$7.85).

First estimates show average weekly earnings were highest in British Columbia (\$284.67) and followed by Alberta (\$263.13), Ontario (\$254.41), Québec (\$249.87), Newfoundland (\$242.65), Saskatchewan (\$241.84), Manitoba (\$229.77), New Brunswick (\$227.56), Nova Scotia (\$214.88) and Prince Edward Island (\$196.10).

Average weekly earnings by industry division were: construction, \$355.65, mining, \$359.73; forestry, \$252.01; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$297.69; manufacturing, \$274.04; finance, insurance and real estate, \$236.20; trade, \$197.60; and service, \$175.38.

For further information, order the December 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.

Railway Carloadings

Railways loaded 18.3 million short tons (16.6 million t) of revenue freight in January, up 8.0% from a year earlier. Traffic from the United States totalled 1.4 million short tons (1.3 million t), a drop of 19.8%. Commodity loadings recording significant percentage increases in volume include: coke (96.9%), grains other than wheat (66.6%), fuel oil (21.3%), potash (18.0%) and iron ore (14.9%). Loadings of alumina again showed a sharp advance reflecting the lingering effects of the 1976-1977 strike in that industry. Significant decreases came in potatoes (56.7%), other vegetables (46.7%) and livestock (26.9%).

For further information, order the January 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.

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	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE					
Farm Cash Receipts, December 1977	21-001	30¢/\$3	Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies (Excluding Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island), November 1977	35-002	30¢/\$3
The Dairy Review, December 1977	23-001	40¢/\$4	Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, November 1977	35-003	30¢/\$3
BUSINESS FINANCE					
Industrial Corporations Financial Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1977	61-003	N/C	Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, December 1977	25-001	15¢/\$1.50
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Agriculture, New Brunswick, 1976	96-804	\$4.25	SERVICE BULLETINS		
Census of Canada	96-808	\$5.75	Rubber and Plastics Products Industries — Vol. 6, No. 9, Production and Shipments of Plastic Bottles		
Agriculture, Saskatchewan, 1976				47-002	/ \$1.40
Census of Canada	96-823	\$7	Fruit and Vegetable Preservation — Vol. 6, 1977: No. 13, Pack of Processed Blueberries; No. 14, Pack of Canned Pears		
Population: Demographic Characteristics, Five-year Age Groups, 1976 Census of Canada				32-023	/ \$1.40
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Trusted Pension Plans Financial Statistics, 1976	74-201	\$1.05	Tobacco and Tobacco Products — Vol. 6, No. 16, Tobacco Stocks, Stocks of Unmanufactured Tobacco in Canada, December 31, 1977		
				32-022	/ \$1.40
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Footwear Statistics, December 1977	33-002	30¢/\$3	Motion Picture Theatres and Film Distributors, 1976		
Gold Production, December 1977	26-004	15¢/\$1.50	New Motor Vehicle Sales, December 1977		
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Manufacturing Industries of Canada: Sub-provincial Areas, 1974	31-209	\$6	Wholesale Trade, December 1977		
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, January 1978	32-001	15¢/\$1.50	TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS		
Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, December 1977	24-002	40¢/\$4	Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports, Second Quarter 1977		
Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, December 1977	26-007	15¢/\$1.50	International Air Charter Statistics, July-September 1977		
			Shipping Statistics, October 1977		
			Telephone Statistics, December 1977		