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Weekly Bulletin

Shipments, Inventories, Orders

Manufacturers' shipments in February rose 2.8% to \$9,249.2 million from revised January's \$8,994.2 million. The two months reached \$18,243.4 million, up 12.5% from a 1977 two-month total of \$16,212.9 million.

Shipments seasonally adjusted reached \$9,802.3 million, up 1.5% from the January level of \$9,659.3 million. Durable goods industries' shipments rose 1.4% to \$4,510.7 million from \$4,450.3 million; non-durable goods industries, 1.6% to \$5,291.6 million from \$5,209.0 million.

New orders in all manufacturing industries seasonally adjusted: \$9,955.7 million, up 1.0% from \$9,860.2 million in January. At \$4,602.6 million, new orders in durable goods industries fell 1.3% from January's \$4,661.1 million but in non-durable, new orders rose 3.0% to \$5,353.1 million from \$5,199.1 million.

Seasonally-adjusted unfilled orders: \$11,030.5 million, up 1.4% from \$10,877.1 million in January. Total inventory owned in all manufacturing industries: \$18,775.2 million, up 1.2% from \$18,560.6 million. Total inventory held, \$19,944.4 million, was 1.3% higher (\$19,693.1 million) with increases of 1.1%, 1.9% and 1.0% in raw materials, goods in process and finished products.

Seasonally-adjusted ratio of total inventory owned to shipments equalled January's 1.92:1. The finished products to shipments ratio remained at January's 0.67:1.

For further information, order the February 1978 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, 55¢/\$1.50), or contact H.D. Wightman (613-996-7008).

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale sales, February, reached \$4,443,582,000, up 16.1% from \$3,828,367,000 in 1977. Wholesale inventories: \$7,784,312,000, up 5.6% from \$7,368,976,000.

For further information, order the February 1978 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, 15¢/\$1.50).

Iron Ore

Mines shipped 1,479,131 short tons of iron ore in February (1,046,253 short tons a year earlier).

For further information, order the February 1978 issue of *Iron Ore* (26-005, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact Art Symons (613-992-0491).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Jan. 255.47p	253.02p	6.7
Labour Income (\$ million)	Jan. 9,910.5p	10,145.5p	8.1
Persons with Jobs (million)	Mar. 9.68	9.58	3.5
Unemployed	Mar. 1,045,000	1,007,000	10.7

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Dec. 1,669.0	2,159.6	3.4
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.* 18,972.8p	18,703.4r	8.2
Wholesale (\$ million)	Feb.* 7,784.3	7,613.5	5.6

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.* 9,439.5p	9,246.5r	9.1
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.* 11,154.4p	10,964.1r	9.4

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Mar. 170.8	168.9	8.8
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Jan. 180.2p	178.0r	7.6
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Jan. 580.0p	571.9r	8.8

CONSTRUCTION

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Year-to-date %
Building Permits (\$ million)	Jan.* 497.9	497.9	3.6
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb. 11,761	26,719	25.0

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Nov. 2,651	28,824	14.9
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Jan. 33.3	33.3	7.8
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Dec. 350.6p	3,617.3	4.5
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Feb.* 52.9	109.5	-2.1

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Feb. 4,055	7,539	19.2
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Feb. 3,854	7,037	13.8

PRODUCTION

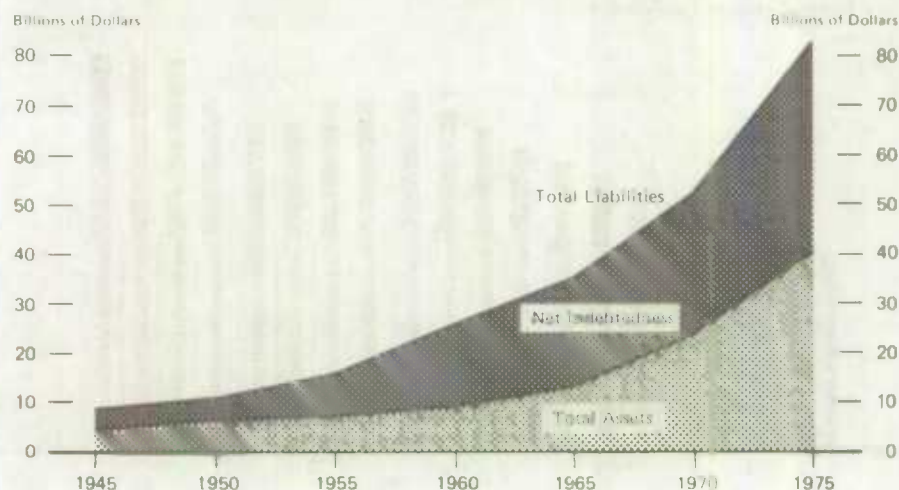
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Feb. 236.1	455.5	-5.7
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Feb. 1,255.5	2,566.9	7.9

SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb. 429.4	854.0	4.2
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.* 9,249.2p	18,243.4	12.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb. 660.1	1,235.9	2.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.* 4,526.5	9,014.4	11.2
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Feb.* 4,443.6	8,610.6	14.9

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

Canada's Balance of International Indebtedness, Year Ends, 1945-1975



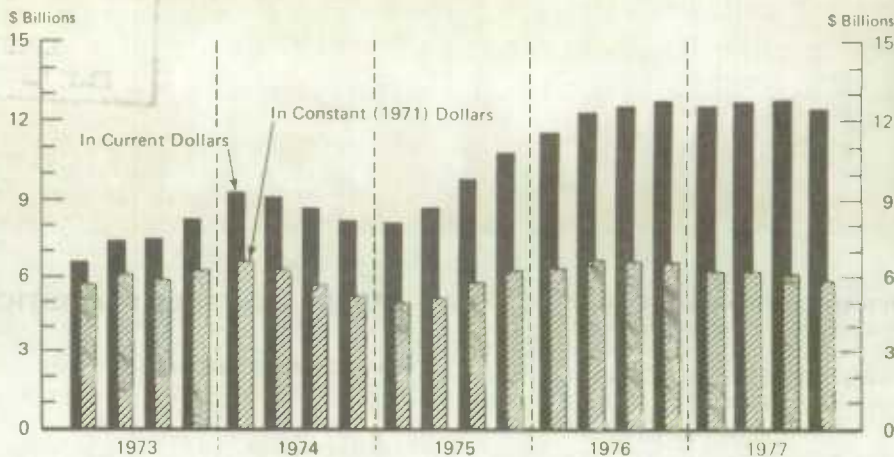
Non-financial Enterprises

Report for 1975, Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act (Part I — Corporations), gives financial characteristics of our leading 500 non-financial enterprises. The 500 accounted for 51% of sales, 59% of assets, 63% of profits and 65% of equity. In number they represented less than 0.25% of all non-financial enterprises. The foreign-controlled sector was dominant in financial terms (280 of the 500). Differences between Canadian- and foreign-controlled enterprises were particularly evident in the leading 25, which accounted for 19% of sales, 22% of assets, 23% of profits and 26% of equity. The foreign-controlled sector had a turnover ratio three times higher than its Canadian counterpart and was more profitable. In 1975, profits of Canadian-controlled corporations declined 7%; those of the foreign-controlled sector declined 2%. The foreign share of non-financial industry profits increased to 45.6%. Foreign-controlled corporations maintained a 33% share of assets and a 37% share of sales. In manufacturing, 2,400 foreign-controlled firms had an average asset size of \$18.4 million compared with \$3.3 million for the 25,000 Canadian-controlled firms. Canadian-controlled corporations continued to be prominent in the construction, utility, trade and service sectors. Foreign-controlled corporations dominated manufacturing and mineral fuels activity.

For further information, order *Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, Report for 1975, Part I — Corporations* (61-210, no charge), or contact Peter Blitt (613-996-7888), Business Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Residential Construction Expenditures

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



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

Mineral Production

February silver production fell to 3,285,889 troy ounces from 3,456,290 in February 1977. Production of refined lead decreased to 17,566 short tons from 17,905. Refined zinc: 41,790 short tons (49,748). Primary copper: 70,285 short tons (72,640). Primary nickel: 12,833 short tons (22,225). Gold: 131,206 troy ounces (136,625).

For further information, order the February 1978 issue of *Silver, Lead and Zinc Production* (26-008, 15¢/\$1.50), *Copper and Nickel Production* (26-003, 15¢/\$1.50), *Gold Production* (26-004, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact Art Symon (613-992-0491), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Eggs

Egg production rose 2.9% to 36.9 million dozen in February from 35.9 million a year earlier. Eggs per 100 layers increased 2.7% to 1,815 from 1,767.

For further information, order the February 1978 issue of *Production of Eggs and Poultry* (23-003, 30¢/\$3), or contact J.H. Dickson (613-994-9964), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

Consumer Credit

February consumer credit outstanding rose 11.4% to \$24,873 million from 1977. Balances with percentage change from a year earlier:

- Chartered banks' personal loans: \$19,019 million, up 15.0%.
- Québec savings banks' personal loans: \$88 million, up 18.9%.
- Life insurance companies' policy loans: \$1,289 million, up 3.6%.
- Sales finance and consumer loans: small \$201 million, down 11.1%; large \$1,443 million, down 2.8%; instalment sales paper \$1,058 million, down 4.6%.
- Department, furniture, TV, radio and household appliance stores: \$1,416 million, up 5.4%.
- Trust and mortgage loan companies' personal loans: \$359 million, up 19.3%.

Credit holders reporting quarterly: \$6,434 million at end of fourth quarter 1977, up 15.0% from 1976. Largest — credit unions and caisses populaires — reported \$4,568 million, up 17.6%. (Also included: other retail stores, other credit-card issuers and public utilities). Including quarterly reporters, outstanding balances at end of fourth quarter 1977 totalled \$31,234 million, up 12.6%.

For further information, order the February 1978 issue of *Consumer Credit* (61-004, 30¢/\$3), or contact Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304/telex 053-3585), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

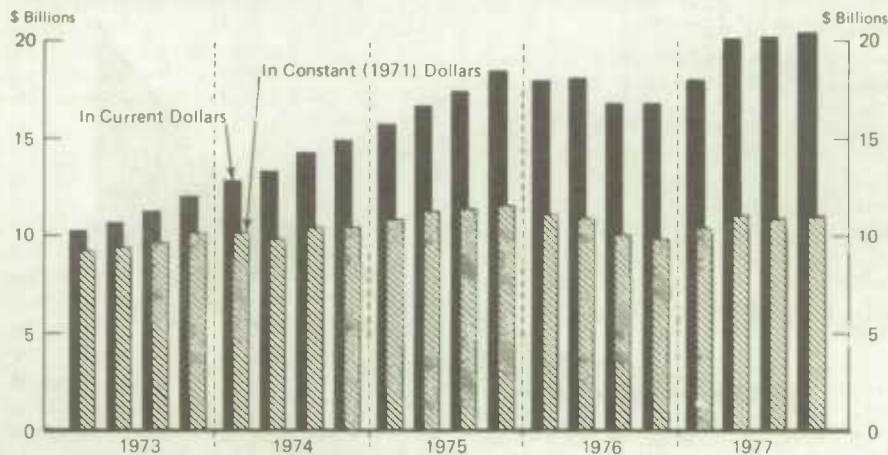
Index of Industrial Production

The seasonally-adjusted Index of Industrial Production increased 0.9% in February to 125.7 from 124.6 in January. Mining (3.0% to 109.1) and manufacturing (0.8% to 124.2) rose; utilities (1.0% to 160.0) fell. Non-durable manufacturing (1.5% to 123.2) and Durable (0.2% to 125.2) rose.

For further information, order the February 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.

Non-Residential Construction Expenditures

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates

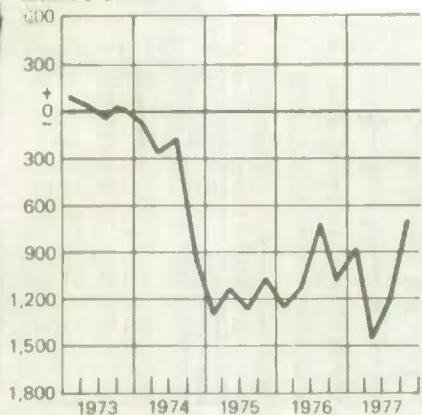


Source: National Income and Expenditure Accounts (13-001)

Canadian Balance of International Payments

Current Account — Seasonally Adjusted

Billions of Dollars



Source: Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments (67-001)

Regional Consumer Price Indexes

Food — especially meats, fresh produce and restaurant meals — plus gasoline and fuel oil spawned the March increases in the Consumer Price Indexes for regional cities. Other services and commodities contributing included selected clothing items, cigarettes (main culprits here were sales tax increases in Ontario and Saskatchewan), television repairs and dental care.

February to March percentage increases, with annual change in brackets: St. John's 1.0% (7.8%), Halifax 1.0% (8.0%), Saint John 0.9% (7.8%), Québec 1.2% (8.7%), Montréal 1.2% (8.6%), Ottawa 1.0% (8.3%), Toronto 1.0% (8.3%), Thunder Bay 1.0% (9.0%), Winnipeg 1.2% (9.0%), Saskatoon 0.8% (8.5%), Regina 1.0% (9.9%), Edmonton 1.0% (8.9%), Calgary 1.5% (8.9%) and Vancouver 1.1% (7.7%).

For further information, order the March 1978 issue of *Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities* (62-009, 30¢/\$3).

Water Carriers, 1976

Preliminary results of the 1976 Water Carriers — Financial Survey show 479 Canadian-domiciled commercial and charter carriers generated gross transport revenues of \$1.17 billion in 1976.

For further information, contact D. Chartrand (613-996-9274), Chief, Water Transport Section, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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Building Permits

Building permits, seasonally adjusted, issued January, reflected projected construction shrinking 16.7% to \$961 million from \$1,155 million in December (January 1977: \$967 million).

The number and value of residential permits had reached record levels in November and December. January: \$570 million worth authorized (\$788 million in December). A slight increase in single-detached homes (8,453 in December to 8,865) was offset by a major decrease in the rate of multiple dwellings (16,301 to 8,839). January figures become annual rates of 106,400 singles and 106,000 multiples (corresponding, December: 101,400, 195,600).

Non-residential: \$391 million, 6.6% above December's \$367 million. Only the government sector experienced greater activity in January with projects estimated at a seasonally-adjusted rate of \$150 million compared with \$81 million. Industrial projects totalling \$89 million showed little change from December but commercial projects declined from \$194 million to a seasonally-adjusted \$151 million.

Regionally, the relative share of new building construction authorized in Ontario decreased from 30.0% of the national total in December to 21.3% in January (7.4% to 4.5% in the Atlantic provinces and 14.0% to 12.9% in Québec). The Prairie provinces gained a larger share, 45.1% from 35.7%, and British Columbia accounted for 15.9% (12.8%). Municipalities indicate residential permits remain weak, suggesting housing starts will probably drop sharply in the second quarter 1978.

For further information, order the January 1978 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, 70¢/\$7), or contact J.P. Delisle (613-994-9312), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Federal Employment

Including the military, federal government employees totalled 589,030 as of December 1977, up 12,886 from 1976. Addition of enterprises such as Petro Canada, de Havilland Aircraft, Canadair and Connaught Laboratories brought 8,774. Gross payroll for the fourth quarter 1977: \$2,181.6 million, \$61.6 million above the corresponding quarter, 1976.

For further information, order the fourth quarter 1977 issue of *Federal Government Employment* (72-004, 70¢/\$2.80), or contact T. Moore (613-995-0669), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Refined Petroleum

Refineries produced 52,942,000 barrels of petroleum products in February, down 1.1% from 53,528,000 a year earlier. Net sales totalled 55,132,000 barrels, up 2.6% from 53,719,000.

For further information, order the February 1978 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, 40¢/\$4), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

INFOMAT QUESTIONNAIRE

From time to time, *Infomat* canvasses its readership. Such a survey is planned for the immediate future. The single sheet insert will check that the weekly's receipt is still wanted and solicit ideas for change. *Infomat's* mailing list will be updated on the basis of non-response=deletion.

Retail Trade

Seasonally-adjusted retail sales, February, rose 4.3% to \$5,633.8 million from \$5,403.6 million in January. All groups advanced with sporting accessories (26.3%) and household appliance stores (12.3%), plus service stations (8.7%), recording largest increases. Provincial gains ranged from 7.1% in Nova Scotia to 0.2% in Prince Edward Island. Decreases: Manitoba (1.6%), Saskatchewan (1.3%) and Newfoundland (0.2%).

February seasonal adjustment reached \$4,526.5 million, up 13.0% from 1977. Sales increased in 26 of 28 trade groups. Specialty shoe (10.8%), furniture, television, radio and appliance stores (10.5%) decreased. Largest gainers: garages (27.9%) and food stores (25.9%). Provinces, bar Saskatchewan, increased sales over February 1977, from 17.2% in British Columbia to 11.2% in Québec. Montréal sales rose 12.5%, Toronto 14.8%, Winnipeg 15.6% and Vancouver 17.6%.

Revised total, unadjusted, for January becomes \$4,379.6 million, up 6.5% from 1977.

For further information, order the February 1978 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 K1A 0V4.

Occupation Data

Data on occupation from the 1971 Census on the basis of the 1961 occupation classification now available, permitting trend analysis which can range from the 1931 Census to the 1971 Census on the basis of the 1961 classification. Contact the User Inquiry Service (996-5254), Census Field, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T7.



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