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Weekly Bulletin

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index rose 1.4% from 171.2 (1971=100) in April to 173.6 in May. The twelve-month rise between May 1977 and May 1978 stood at 9.0%. Higher food prices, up 3.3% in the latest month, accounted for about seven-tenths of this rise. Increased housing charges and higher prices for tobacco and alcohol accounted for an additional one-fifth. These latter two components were largely responsible for the 0.6% increase in the index for all-items-excluding-food.

Higher prices for beef cuts and fresh vegetables, especially for tomatoes and lettuce, were largely responsible for the monthly 3.9% rise in the food-at-home index. This was the largest monthly increase in this component since June 1975. Increased prices for powdered skim milk, butter, fresh fruit and chicken also contributed. May 1977 to May 1978, the food index rose 16.9%.

Higher homeownership costs with increased prices for tobacco and alcohol were large contributing factors in the 0.6% rise in the index for all-items-excluding-food. Other notable factors included higher prices for some new automobiles, recreational equipment, tableware and housewares. Between May 1977 and May 1978, the index for all-items-excluding-food advanced 6.2%.

Viewed in terms of goods and services, the price level of goods, including food, increased 1.9% in the latest month while that for services was up 0.4%. As a result, between May 1977 and May 1978, the price level of goods increased 10.2%, that for services 7.1%.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the index advanced 1.2% between April and May; this comprised a 2.6% increase in the food index and a 0.6% rise in the index for all-items-excluding-food.

In May, the current annual rate of change in the CPI, based on the seasonally-adjusted movements in the latest three-month period, was 11.3%.

For further information, order the May 1978 issue of the Consumer Price Index (62-801, 30¢/\$3).

Steel Ingots

Steel ingots production, May, reached 1,423,376 short tons (1 291 265 t).

For further information, order the May 1978 issue of Steel Ingots and Pig Iron (41-001, 15¢/\$1.40).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.	260.90p	260.06	6.6
Labour Income (\$ million)	Mar.*	10,366.2p	10,238.3p	8.5
Persons with Jobs (million)	May*	10.12	9.75	3.0
Unemployed	May*	933,000	999,000	13.2

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Feb.	1,734.2	1,582.1	1.7
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Mar.	19,197.3	19,136.7	7.7
Wholesale (\$ million)	Mar.	13,611.5	7,784.3	8.5

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	10,777.6	9,600.6	9.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	11,720.6	11,311.4	12.5

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Apr.	171.2	170.8	8.4
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Apr.*	185.0	182.8	7.1
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Mar.	587.7	586.7	5.9

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar.	940.3p	2,019.9	-6.7
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Mar.	13,781	47,197	33.0

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Jan.*	2,745.6	2,745.6	3.6
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Mar.	30.7	94.2	11.0
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Feb.	302.0	647.9	2.7
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Apr.*	47.2	210.4	-2.3

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	4,616	16,155	16.4
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	4,649	15,272	13.0

PRODUCTION

Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Apr.	169.3	630.3	-2.9
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	May*	1,423.4	6,744.7	7.8

SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Apr.*	560.0	1,945.9	6.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Mar.	10,368.5	28,616.1	10.7
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	931.0	2,997.5	6.9
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Apr.*	5,575.5	19,881.8	11.0
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Apr.*	4,942.2	18,553.7	9.7

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

Canadian Merchandise Exports and Imports*

Quarter-by-Quarter Movements



Labour Force

Employment reached 10,118,000 in May (9,822,000 in May 1977). Unemployment was 933,000 (824,000). The unemployment rate: 8.4 compared with 7.7 twelve months earlier; participation rates: 62.9 and 61.9; the employment population ratios: 57.6 and 57.1.

Seasonally-adjusted, the level of employment was 10,023,000, up 27,000 from April. The level increased for persons 15 to 24 and 25 and over. The increase (17,000) among the younger group followed a decline (13,000) in the previous month and the increase (10,000) for persons 25 and over continued the trend started in December 1976. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment level increased by 14,000 in May to 949,000. The level showed a small decline for men (3,000), and increased by 12,000 for women 15-24 and by 5,000 for women 25 and over. The seasonally-adjusted unemployment level increased in Québec (11,000), British Columbia (4,000) and Newfoundland (3,000) and decreased in New Brunswick (3,000), Alberta (3,000) and showed little or no change in the other provinces.

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.6, unchanged from April and March. The rate increased for women in both age groups, by 0.8 to 14.2 among those aged 15-24 and 0.2 to 8.0 among those 25 and over. The rate declined 0.3 to 15.8 for men 15-24 and remained at 5.4 for men 25 and over.

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate increased by 1.6 to 17.9 in Newfoundland, 0.3 to 11.5 in Québec, 0.3 to 8.0 in British Columbia and 0.1 to 7.5 in Ontario. The rate decreased by 1.1 to 12.9 in New Brunswick, 1.0 to 10.1 in Prince Edward Island, 0.4 to 4.4 in Alberta, 0.3 to 5.3 in Saskatchewan, 0.2 to 10.8 in Nova Scotia and 0.1 to 6.7 in Manitoba.

For further information, order the May 1978 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, 55¢/\$5.50).

Retail Trade

Total retail trade sales, April: \$5,575.5 million, up 9.1% from \$5,106.9 million in 1977. Sales increased for 23 trade groups: the food group with sales to \$1,415.6 million, up 9.5%; motor vehicle dealers \$1,249.8 million, up 12.8%; pharmacies, patent medicine and cosmetic stores \$161.0 million, up 11.2%; the "all other stores" group \$618.0 million, up 12.1%. The significant declines included general merchandise stores where sales fell 0.5% to \$127.2 million; variety stores, 8.6% to \$65.7 million; sporting goods and accessories stores, 2.5% to \$62.2 million.

Provincially, sales expanded in all provinces ranging from 6.1% in Manitoba to 16.3% for Prince Edward Island. Metropolitan sales rose 6.2% in Montréal, 9.1% in Toronto, 4.8% in Winnipeg and 14.0% in Vancouver.

Revised total retail trade sales for March: \$5,300.1 million, up 12.3% from \$4,719.2 million in 1977.

For further information, order the April 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*.

General Wholesale Index

The General Wholesale Index rose 1.8% to 599.3 in April from revised March's 588.5, up 6.9% from 1977 (560.4). The wood products index rose 3.7% reflecting an increase of 7.4% for newsprint and wrapping paper. Iron products: up 2.1% due in part to a rise of 2.4% for rolling mill products. In vegetable products, with a 1.6% increase, grains rose 5.7%, rubber and products 5.8%. Fresh fruits decreased 22.0%.

An increase of 4.4% for copper contributed to a rise of 2.2% in the non-ferrous metals group.

For further information, order the April 1978 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (61-011, \$1.40/\$5.60).

INDUSTRY: A PORTRAIT

Economic Characteristics '51-'71

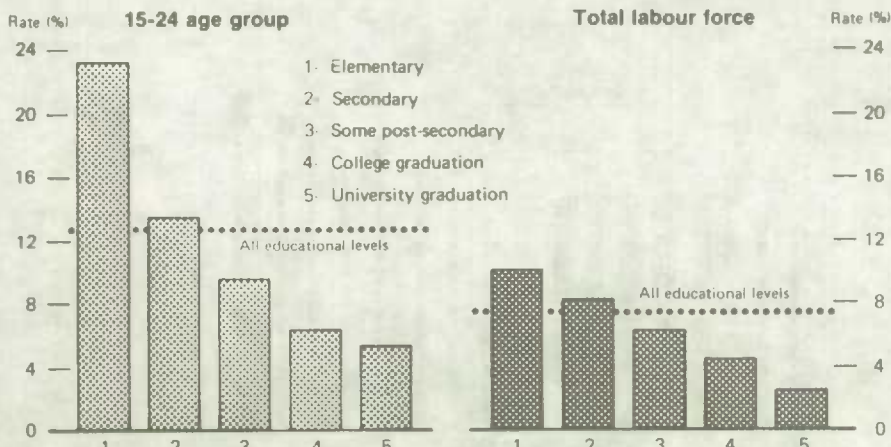
Historical Census data show the labour force rose from 5,286,400 in 1951 to 8,626,900 in 1971, an annual average growth of 2.5% and an increase of 63.2% for the 20 years. Services, the fastest growing sector, rose from 795,487 to 2,041,390 with a 4.8% growth rate and a 20-year increase of 156.6%. Among the seven major groups of services for which comparable historical data are available, change was most rapid in the combined group of services to business management and miscellaneous services (7.1% and 300.0%) and least rapid in personal services (0.4% and 9.0%). Above-the-industry-average growth was achieved by the combined group of services to business management and miscellaneous services, education and related services, health and welfare services and amusement and recreation. All of the major groups save religious organizations and personal services outpaced the all-industries averages.

Tables comprising *Economic Characteristics, Industry Trends 1951-1971* include:

- The Labour Force, 15 years and over, by industry divisions, comparable major industrial groups and classes (1970 classification), for Canada and provinces, 1951-1971 Censuses
- The Male Labour Force, 15 years and over, by industry divisions, comparable major industrial groups and classes (1970 classification), for Canada and provinces, 1951-1971 Censuses
- The Female Labour Force, 15 years and over, by industry divisions, comparable major industrial groups and classes (1970 classification), for Canada and provinces, 1951-1971 Censuses
- The Labour Force, 15 years and over, by selected industries (1970 classification) and sex, showing age groups, for Canada and provinces, 1951-1971 Censuses
- The Labour Force, 15 years and over, by selected industries (1970 classification) and sex, showing marital status and level of schooling, for Canada and provinces, 1951-1971 Censuses
- The Labour Force, 15 years and over, by selected industries (1970 classification) and sex, showing ethnic groups, for Canada and provinces, 1951-1971 Censuses

For further information, order *Economic Characteristics, Industry Trends 1951-1971* (94-793/SE-2, \$1.05).

Average Spring Unemployment Rate, by Educational Level, Canada, 1974-77



Source: Labour Force Survey Division

JOBSEEKERS: YEAR OF '78

605,000 Enter Labour Force

More than half a million students enter the labour force this year. The projected 605,000 — down from last year's estimated 615,300 — are children born at the height of a baby boom in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Their ranks shrink by 1986 to about 500,000. According to *Out of School — Into The Labour Force (Trends and prospects for enrolment, school leavers and the labour force in Canada: the 1960s through the 1980s)* present growth of the work force could require up to 285,000 new jobs each year until 1980 to prevent unemployment exceeding 8%. To reduce the rate to 6.5% by 1980 would require up to 370,000 jobs a year and to 4% by 1986 up to 280,000. The economy has generated an average of 260,000 jobs a year since 1970 (360,000 annually during a strong expansionary period 1972-74 and 190,000 a year since 1975.) Although unemployment is high among all young people, analysis shows better-educated job-seekers are more likely to find work. Average 1974-77 spring unemployment of the total labour force was 10.1% for those with elementary education, 8.2% among those with secondary and 2.5% for university degree-holders. Surveys of 1974 and 1975 graduates of Ontario's colleges and universities showed that those qualified in areas such as business and engineering had lower unemployment rates and higher starting salaries than those with degrees in the humanities, behavioural and social sciences and fine arts. Generally, little change in totals of university students is now projected to the early 1980s with a decline of roughly 2% annually expected for the 1983-86 period. However, some provinces, notably Ontario, saw an enrolment drop in 1977.

Copies of a summary version of *Out of School — Into the Labour Force* are available immediately from the Projections Section — Education, Science and Culture Division, 16-A, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa K1A 0T6. Publication of the report under catalogue no. 81-570 is scheduled for this summer. For further information, contact Dr. Z. Zsigmond (613-995-9685), chief Projections Section — Education, Science and Culture Division.

See charts, this issue, for illustration of Average Spring Unemployment Rate, by Educational Level, and School Level with Bachelor Degrees and "New" Teachers Hired Directly after Graduation, Historical and Projected.

The Book That Says It All — About Canada

In the bookstores shortly will be the 1978 edition of Statistics Canada's annual showpiece publication — *The Canada Handbook*. In 365 pages, the *Handbook* describes the physical environment, outlines recent social, cultural and economic developments and summarizes government services. Information is provided by divisions of Statistics Canada, other government departments and outside authors who specialize in subject areas that government agencies cannot cover. Articles are superbly illustrated by 250 photographs, 244 of them in full colour.

The 1978 *Canada Handbook* (catalogue 11-203E) is available by mail from Printing and Publishing, Supply and Services Canada, and Publications Distribution, Statistics Canada. The book will also be widely available in retail bookstores across the country, priced at \$3.75. For further information, call 613-995-6697.

Capacity/Utilization, Manufacturing

The first quarter rate of capacity utilization in manufacturing declined 0.6 (82.7% against 83.3%, fourth quarter 1977). The rate as applied to durable manufacturing showed a decline of 1.9 to a level of 79.9% of capacity. Non-durable: up 0.8 to a level of 85.5%.

Rates incorporate new trends in capital investment and adjustments made to capital stock estimates take into account capital expenditures for water and air pollution control.

For further information, contact R. Hoyt (613-994-5601), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Industrial Production Index

The seasonally-adjusted Index of Industrial Production decreased 0.2% to 126.2 in April from 126.5 in March. Mining and utilities declined; manufacturing increased.

For further information, order the April 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.

Wholesale Trade

April wholesale sales: \$4,942,241,000, up 13.2% from \$4,367,860,000 in 1977. Inventories: \$8,241,655,000, up 8.1% from \$7,621,998,000.

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

Mineral Production

April silver production fell to 3,795,557 troy ounces from 3,840,966 in 1977. Production of refined lead decreased to 17,627 short tons from 18,898. Refined zinc: 42,065 short tons (51,963). Primary copper: 67,809 short tons (55,412). Primary nickel: 18,874 short tons (21,772). Gold: 148,100 troy ounces (135,661).

For further information, order the April 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.

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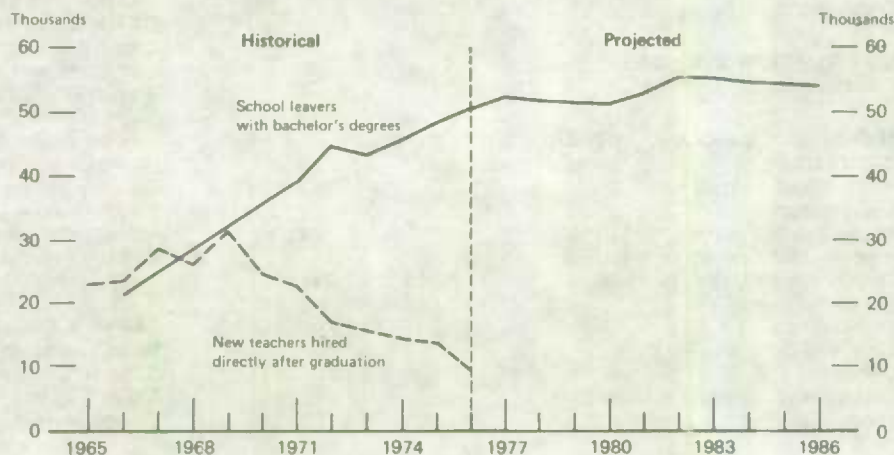
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