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Weekly Bulletin

## Consumer Price Index

Revision after all will not be available for the June reference month. Technical problems have arisen in the new CPI production system. Statistics Canada will advise users of the new month of introduction and apologizes for the inconvenience that may be caused by this delay.

## Consumer Price Indexes, Regional

April consumer price indexes rose in 11 regional cities and declined in three (a 0.5% decline in Winnipeg to a 0.6% increase in Regina and Edmonton). Food prices, notably for beef, other meat, chicken and fresh produce, were largely responsible for rises (also postal rates, air fares, automobile labour repair charges and, in many provinces, tobacco and alcohol products). These increases were partially (in some cases, more than) offset by the varying provincial sales tax reductions effected in the earlier half of the month of April.

March to April percentage increases, with annual change in brackets: St. John's 0.5% (7.8%), Halifax 0.5% (7.1%), Saint John 0.6% (7.5%), Québec -0.1% (7.8%), Montréal -0.2% (8.1%), Ottawa 0.2% (8.0%), Toronto 0.3% (7.9%), Thunder Bay 0.3% (7.7%), Winnipeg -0.5% (7.6%), Saskatoon 0.5% (7.9%), Regina 0.6% (9.5%), Edmonton 0.6% (8.8%), Calgary 0.3% (7.9%) and Vancouver 0.4% (7.3%).

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

## Job Vacancies

Average number of jobs vacant on a daily basis during a three-month period ended April 30 show an increase of 2% from the previous three-month period.

Vacancies for full-time, part-time and casual jobs fell 4,100 to 37,500 compared with the three-month period a year ago. Vacancies for full-time jobs at 33,500 showed a slight increase from the preceding period. Jobs unfilled for more than four weeks remained unchanged at 12,000.

For every 1,000 existing jobs in February-April four were vacant, the same as in the preceding period and a decrease of one from the comparable period a year ago. The highest vacancy rates: Alberta (eight per 1,000) and Saskatchewan (five). Lowest rate: New Brunswick (three per 1,000).

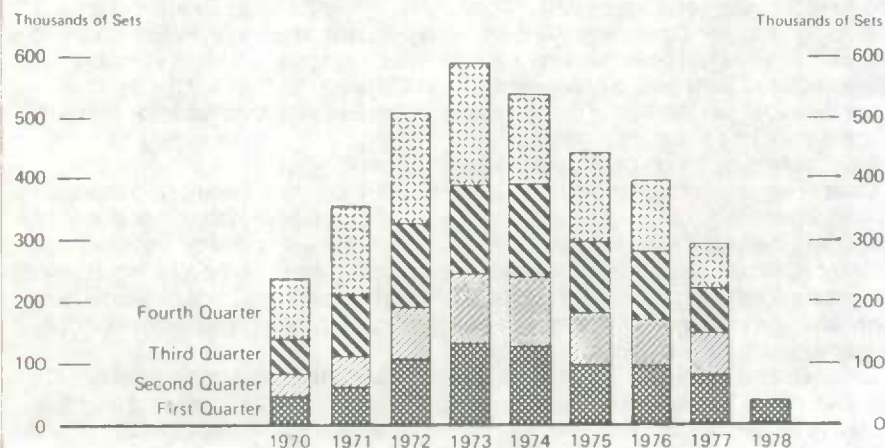
For further information, contact Mlle. M. Beaubien (613-996-7148), Job Vacancy Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada.

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.	260.90p	260.06	6.6
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	9,986.3p	9,877.9p	7.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr.	9.72	9.68	3.5
Unemployed	Apr.	999,000	1,045,000	9.3
<b>INVENTORIES</b>				
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
<b>ORDERS</b>				
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
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Apr.	171.2	170.8	8.4
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Mar.	182.6	181.7	6.8
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Mar.	587.7	586.7	5.9
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Feb.	581.7	1,079.6	-1.6
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Mar.	13,781	47,197	33.0
<b>ENERGY</b>				
Coal Production (thousand tons)	Dec.	2,792.1	31,616.2	12.6
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Feb.	30.2	63.5	9.8
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Feb.	302.0	647.9	2.7
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Mar.	53.7	163.2	-3.1
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>				
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr.*	4,616	16,155	16.4
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr.*	4,649	15,272	13.0
<b>PRODUCTION</b>				
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Apr.*	169.3	630.3	-2.9
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Mar.	1,364.3	3,931.2	6.1
<b>SALES</b>				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	529.7	1,383.7	6.5
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)	Mar.	5,333.2	14,306.3	12.1
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	5,000.9	13,611.5	8.5

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

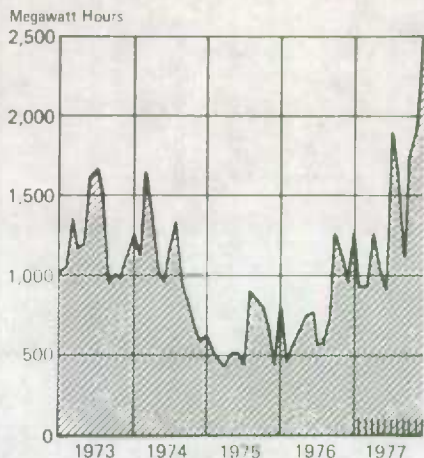
## Manufacturers' Sales of "Made-in-Canada" Colour Television Sets



Source: Radio and Television Receiving Sets (43-004)



## Canadian Net Exports of Electric Power



Source: Electric Power Statistics (57-001)

## Employment/Earnings/Hours

First estimates of the Industrial Composite Index of Employment (1961=100) for March indicated a 0.1% decline from February. All industry divisions registered losses except manufacturing which recorded gains. The Atlantic region and British Columbia showed decreases while the remaining regions remained unchanged.

Average weekly earnings rose 0.4%. Gains were registered in all industry divisions except forestry, construction and finance, insurance and real estate where declines were recorded. All regions participated in the overall increase except the Atlantic which decreased. Average weekly hours advanced in mining (including milling) but decreased in manufacturing and in construction. Average hourly earnings increased in manufacturing and in construction but declined in mining (including milling).

For further information, order the March 1978 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, 70¢/\$7), or contact R. Ouellette (613-992-5613), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

## Construction, 1976-1978

Construction volumes for 1976 and 1977: \$33,131.2 and \$35,753.2 million. Expected to increase to \$37,865.5 million in 1978, the construction program anticipated exceeds the 1977 volume by \$2,112.3 million or 5.9% which compares with increases of 16.8% and 7.9% realized in 1976 and 1977. The increase for 1977 is lower than the 8.1% that was anticipated last year for 1977.

Expenditures in all provinces are expected to increase with notable advances of 12.7% in both Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, 8.3% in Nova Scotia, 8.0% in British Columbia and 7.5% in Saskatchewan. New construction is expected to be up 5.4%. Repair portion: 8.5%.

Value of construction of the engineering type at 42.8% of the total expected volume for 1978 is up 9.4% over 1977 and the building activity portion (57.2%) is up only 3.4%. Building construction will probably rise 3.4% with the largest dollar volume increases in residential buildings and office buildings, stores, warehouses and similar commercial ventures. Expenditures on industrial buildings will decrease \$173.4 million (10.5%).

For additional information concerning construction expenditures by sector, province and by contract-own account breakdown, contact M. Hartley (613-994-9756), Construction Census Section, Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. The full publication *Construction in Canada, 1976-1978* (catalogue 64-201) is planned for issue this month.

## Oil Pipeline Transport

Pipe lines received 2,416,000 B/D (383 927 m3D) of crude oil, condensate, pentanes plus and refined petroleum product in March, 1.7% fewer than 2,459,000 B/D (390 760 m3D) a year earlier. Receipts of domestic petroleum and products decreased 2.7% to 2,116,000 B/D (336 254 m3D); imported petroleum and products receipts increased 5.6% to 300,000 B/D (47 673 m3D).

For further information, order the March 1978 issue of *Oil Pipe Line Transport* (55-001, 30¢/\$3).

## Trade, Seasonally Adjusted

On a balance-of-payments basis, exports rose for the third consecutive month to reach a record level of \$4,766 million in April, up 10.5% over the revised March figure. The relative increase in imports was almost three times as great to \$4,587 million following about a 10% fall in March. Contracting sharply from the extraordinary level of March, the merchandise trade surplus of \$179 million for April was also well below the average for recent months.

At \$13,306 million, exports for the three months ending in April stood 15.5% above the November-January total. With imports rising 14% to \$12,084 million, the trade surplus expanded 33% from \$917 million to \$1,222 million in the months of February-April.

Exports to the United States on a Customs basis gained 15.5% to a record level of \$3,314 million following a decline of about 2% in March. The increase in the three months ending in April was 9% to \$9,095 million.

The value of shipments to overseas countries has increased for three successive months, including a rise of 3% to \$1,403 million in April. Exports increased to the United Kingdom and Japan, but declined to other destinations. Shipments to overseas markets jumped a third to \$4,088 million in the months of February-April, with the European Economic Community and Japan accounting for some 41% of the gain.

(Over the year, exports of domestic produce unadjusted for seasonal variations advanced 16.5% from \$13,610 million in the first four months of 1977 to \$15,887 million in 1978.)

After receding by 7.5% in March, on a Customs basis imports from the U.S. soared 30.5% to \$3,269 million. The relative quarterly rise was about half as great, rising 14.5% to \$8,471 million in the three months ending in April.

At \$1,351 million, imports from overseas countries were also sharply higher in April, up 28.5% above the unusually low March level of \$1,051 million. In extension of successive quarterly increases, imports from overseas countries rose 13.5% to \$3,670 million in the February-April period. Imports from the E.E.C. and Japan represented increases of 56% for April and 84% for the latest three months.

(Imports without seasonal adjustment advanced close to 13% from \$13,529 million in the first four months of 1977 to \$15,272 million in 1978.)

For further information on area and commodity trade, order the April issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-01, 40¢/\$4).

## Motor Vehicle Shipments

Automobiles totalled 106,536 in April against 113,654 in 1977. January to April production: 392,080 (440,522 a year earlier).

Commercial vehicles totalled 62,766 (53,658). Year to date: 238,224 (208,936).

For further information, order the April 1978 issue of *Motor Vehicle Shipments* (42-002, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact Raj Sehdev (613-992-0388).

## STUDY BENEFITS INDEPENDENT RETAILER OF WOMEN'S CLOTHING

A new series of reports to help small businesses measure their performance nationally and by region has been launched by Merchandising and Services, Statistics Canada. The second study *Operating Results, Independent Women's Retail Clothing Stores, 1975* has just been published. It covers the key costs and results of some 500 unincorporated firms and permits merchants to answer such questions as:

- Are my expenses too high in comparison with those of other businesses in my field?
- Is my inventory too high or too low?
- Am I making as much profit as my fellow clothiers?

Categories of information reported are: net sales; opening inventory; purchases; closing inventory; cost of goods sold; gross profit; employee salaries and wages; employee benefits; property taxes; rent; business taxes, permits and licences; insurance; interest, exchange and bank charges; depreciation; advertising; repairs and maintenance; legal and auditing fees; office and store supplies; telephone, heat, light and water; delivery, express and freight; travel and entertainment; other expenses; total expenses; and net profit.

Order *Operating Results, Independent Women's Retail Clothing Stores, 1975* (63-604, 70¢ in Canada, 85¢ elsewhere). For further information, contact David Van Loven (613-996-9301), Analysis and Development Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



## Average Earnings

Average weekly earnings rose 6.6% to \$260.90 in March from \$244.68 in 1977. Average hourly earnings in manufacturing reached \$6.76 (from \$6.21), in construction \$10.23 (\$9.55) and in mining \$8.55 (\$7.99). First estimates show average weekly earnings were highest in British Columbia (\$294.68) and followed by Alberta \$272.20), Ontario (\$261.00), Québec (\$256.02), Saskatchewan (\$245.88), Newfoundland (\$244.22), Manitoba (\$234.69), New Brunswick (\$233.32), Nova Scotia (\$218.43) and Prince Edward Island (\$191.86).

Average weekly earnings by industry division were: construction, \$374.98; mining, \$372.55; forestry, \$356.01; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$304.32; manufacturing, \$281.44; finance, insurance and real estate, \$241.13; trade, \$199.65; and service, \$179.32.

For further information, order the March 1978 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 Operating Statistics

Six major railways' net income rose 53.3% to \$13.5 million in February from \$8.8 million a year earlier. Operating revenues: up 7.3% to \$279.9 million. Operating expenses: 5.7% to \$266.4 million. Ton-miles declined 0.4%, freight train-miles 1.5% and freight car-miles 3.1%. Passenger-miles rose 13.5% due to a 16.5% increase in non-commuter or intercity travel. Passenger-miles generated in commuter services fell 13.5%.

First two months operating revenues rose 8.7% above the earlier year level, expenses increased 10.8% and net income (\$11.4 million) more than doubled (\$5.2 million). Cumulative ton-miles were 1.5% higher than a year ago and passenger-miles 25.2%.

For further information, order the February 1978 issue of *Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, 30¢/\$3), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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## Key Economic Series

During June, 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 exceeded on occasion).

**June 6 to 15:** Industry Selling Price Index, April

**June 8 to 15:** Balance of International Payments, 1st quarter

**June 8 to 15:** General Wholesale Price Index, April

**June 9 to 14:** Retail Trade, April

**June 12 to 15:** Building Permits, April

**June 12 to 15:** Gross National Product, 1st quarter

**June 13:** Labour Force Survey, May

**June 13 to 15:** Index of Industrial Production, April

**June 13 to 16:** Wholesale Trade, April

**June 14:** Consumer Price Index, May

**June 15 to 19:** Consumer Credit, April

**June 19 to 23:** Real Domestic Product, April

**June 19 to 28:** Industrial Corporations' Financial Statistics (final data), 1st quarter

**June 22:** Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, May

**June 22 to 26:** Inventories, Shipments and Orders, April

**June 22 to 27:** Labour Income, April

**June 22 to 28:** Employment, Earnings and Hours, April

**June 23 to 28:** Unemployment Insurance Statistics, April

**June 30:** Preliminary Statement of Canadian Trade, May

Notice of advance information availability: *Financial Flows*, 1st quarter 1978, advance information on June 26 to 30; *Field Crop Reporting Series No. 7*, Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces, June 8, at 3 p.m. E.D.S.T.; *Field Crop Report Reporting Series No. 8*, June Intended Acreages and Progress of Seeding; Winter-killing and Spring Condition of Winter Wheat, Fall Rye, Tame Hay and Pasture; Rates of Seeding, June 16, at 3 p.m. E.D.S.T.

For any inquiry concerning the release of these series, contact J. Kerr (613-992-1548), Production Planning and Scheduling Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Telecommunications, 4th Qtr. 1977

Telelobe Canada, Canadian National Telecommunications and Canadian Pacific (Telecommunications Branch) grossed \$79.1 million in fourth quarter 1977, up 5.8% from 1976. Operating expenses rose 8.3% to \$63.2 million and net operating revenue fell 3.0% to \$15.8 million.

Operating revenues, 1977, rose 6.6% to \$292.1 million, expenses 13.5% to \$248.3 million and net operating revenue fell 20.8% to \$43.8 million.

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

## Railway Carloadings

Railways loaded 17.6 million short tons (15.9 million t) of revenue freight in April, down 16.8% from a year earlier. Traffic received from the United States fell 2.5% to 2.0 million short tons (1.8 million t). Showing significant percentage decreases from 1977: iron ore (83.0%) and fuel oil (28.4%). Wheat shipments rose 38.8%; grain shipments 17.6%.

First four months freight loadings fell 4.1% from a year earlier (U.S. connections: down 7.1%). Most notable decrease: iron ore, down 65.2%. Logs, grain, sulphur, pulpwood chips and wheat all increased.

For further information, order the April 1978 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, 30¢/\$3).

## "An Econometric Model"

"One of the purposes of Economics 43.606 (Economic Models and Policy Applications) is to prepare graduate students for quantitative research. An aspect of this should be an introduction to a complete, simultaneous equation macro-econometric model of the Canadian economy. What we have done in Economics 606 is to provide students with a small scale model. Like many contemporary models, most individual behavioral equations in our model are nonlinear. Yet it is an interesting feature of these models that they behave, as a whole, as if each equation were linear. One importance of this to a government policy maker is that the effects on real GNP per unit change in government purchases will be independent of the total increase in purchases contemplated. Herein also lies another important lesson for the students: the behavior of the economy as a system may be quite different from one's intuition about this behavior if it is intuition based on consideration of the constituent parts taken alone."

From an article in *The Newsletter*, Vol. 8, No. 9, Instructional Development, Carleton University. For further information, contact Stanley Winer (613-231-4377), Department of Economics, Carleton University, Ottawa.

## Trust and Mortgage Companies

Quarterly Statements of Mortgages Outstanding

Billions of Dollars



Source: Financial Institutions,  
Financial Statistics (61-006)





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## These publications released May 26 — June 1

	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Report on Livestock Surveys, Pigs, April 1, 1978	23-005	/ \$1.40	Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables, March 1978	32-011	30¢/\$3
The Wheat Review, December 1977	22-005	55¢/\$5.50	Dairy Factory Production, April 1978	32-002	15¢/\$1.50
<b>BALANCE OF PAYMENTS</b>					
Security Transactions With Non- residents, February 1978	67-002	40¢/\$4	Fish Freezings and Stocks, March 1978	24-001	40¢/\$4
<b>CENSUS</b>					
Dwellings and Households: Occupied Private Dwellings by Private Household Characteristics, 1976 Census of Canada	93-803	\$1.50	Fruit and Vegetable Production, May 1978	22-003	40¢/\$3
Families: Families by Size, 1976 Census of Canada	93-821	\$3	Gas Utilities, February 1978	55-002	30¢/\$3
<b>EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE</b>					
Annual Review of Science Statistics, 1977	13-212	\$2.10	Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, March 1978	24-002	40¢/\$4
Culture Statistics, Performing Arts, 1976	87-610	70¢	Oils and Fats, March 1978	32-006	30¢/\$3
<b>SERVICE BULLETIN</b>					
Education, Science and Culture Division — Vol. 7, No. 2, Travel Survey, Sponsored by Trans- port Canada, April-June 1977	81-001	N/C	Oil Pipe Line Transport, January 1978	55-001	30¢/\$3
<b>EXTERNAL TRADE</b>					
Imports by Commodities, February 1978	65-007	80¢/\$8	Peeler Logs, Veneers and Plywoods, February 1978	35-001	30¢/\$3
Summary of External Trade, March 1978	65-001	40¢/\$4	Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies (Excluding Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island), February 1978	35-002	30¢/\$3
<b>LABOUR</b>					
Estimates of Employees by Province and Industry, February 1978	72-008	40¢/\$4	Refined Petroleum Products, 1976	45-208	70¢
Preliminary Unemployment Insu- rance Statistics, February 1978	73-001P	N/C	<b>SERVICE BULLETIN</b>		
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>					
Asbestos Mines, 1976	26-205	70¢	Minerals — Vol. 6, No. 1, Consum- tion of Chrome Ore and Manganese Ore, 1977	41-010	/ \$2.80
<b>USER ADVISORY OFFICES</b>					
When amplification of summaries would be helpful, additional information can often be obtained from the regional User Advisory staff of Statistics Canada or from its Central Inquiries Service, Ottawa (613-992-4734).					
Toll-free access to the regional statistical information service is provided in Charlottetown, Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John and Sydney by calling the operator and asking for ZENITH 22066. Throughout Saskatchewan, the Regina office can be reached by dialing 1-800-667- 3524. Throughout Alberta, the Edmonton office can be reached by dialing 1-800-222-6400.					
<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>					
Diesel and Natural Gas Engine Sales Survey, 1977					
Funeral Director, 1976					
Operating Results, Independent Women's Retail Clothing Stores, 1975					
<b>PRICES</b>					
Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, April 1978					
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>					
<b>SERVICE BULLETIN</b>					
Aviation Statistics Centre — Vol. 10, No. 5, Canadian Air Transport Industry					

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