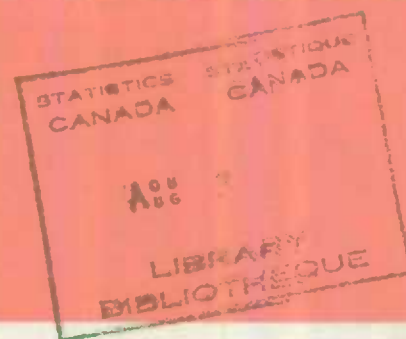




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Weekly Bulletin



Labour Income

May labour income rose 9.2% from May 1977's \$9,945.7 million to \$10,864.3 million.

Preliminary estimates for wages and salaries (millions of dollars) were: primary industries \$105.8; forestry \$103.3; mines quarries, oil wells \$241.7; manufacturing \$2,255.7; construction \$777.5; transportation, communication, other utilities \$1,043.7; trade \$1,305.1; finance, insurance, real estate \$651.4; commercial, personal service \$928.3; education, related services \$1,057.3; health, welfare services \$637.5; federal administration, other government offices \$385.4; local administration \$234.6; and provincial administration \$307.2.

Supplementary income for May reached \$829.7 million.

See detailed estimates in the April-June 1978 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.

Trade

Seasonally-adjusted exports, on a balance of payments basis, declined 9% to \$3,717 million in June following a drop of nearly 15% in May. June's total was the smallest in 1978. Imports rose nearly 1% to \$3,810 million after a sharp decline of some 18% in May. A monthly merchandise trade deficit (\$93 million) was the first since November 1976.

In the second quarter, exports gained marginally to \$12,594 million and imports increased 10% to \$12,203 million. The trade surplus contracted sharply from \$1,457 million in the first quarter to \$391 million in the second.

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

Crude Petroleum/Natural Gas

Crude petroleum production for April averaged 1,215,000 barrels/day (193 000 cubic metres/day), down 8.6% from 1,330,000 (211 000) in 1977. Net new production of natural gas averaged 6,690,000 Mcf/day (274 500 thousands of cubic metres/day), a decrease of 4.2% from 10,118,000 (286 000 thousands).

For further information, order the April 1978 issue of *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, 30¢/\$3).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Apr	262.09p	261.01	6.1
Labour Income (\$ million)	May*	10,864.3p	10,528.5	9.2
Persons with Jobs (million)	June	10.4	10.12	3.5
Unemployed	June	903,000	933,000	10.9

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Mar.	1,809.9	1,734.2	5.6
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	May*	19,416.8p	19,568.8r	9.4
Wholesale (\$ million)	May	8,195	8,242	9.9

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	May*	11,349.1p	10,654.6r	21.5
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	May*	11,732.2p	11,516.7r	13.3

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	June	175.1	173.6	9.2
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	May	186.3	185.6	7.3
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	May	600.6	600.0	7.0

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Apr.	1,133.5	3,153.4	-3.1
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	May	16,441	69,558	6.0

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Apr.*	2,734.7	11,286.0	1.1
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Apr.	26.4	121.0	9.1
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Apr.	290.7	1,254.5	-0.9
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	May	48.3	258.7	-5.0

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	June*	4,324.1	25,202.4	14.7
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	June*	4,363.8	24,062.8	12.3

PRODUCTION

Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	May	176.7	807.0	-1.6
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	June	1,363.6	8,108.3	9.7

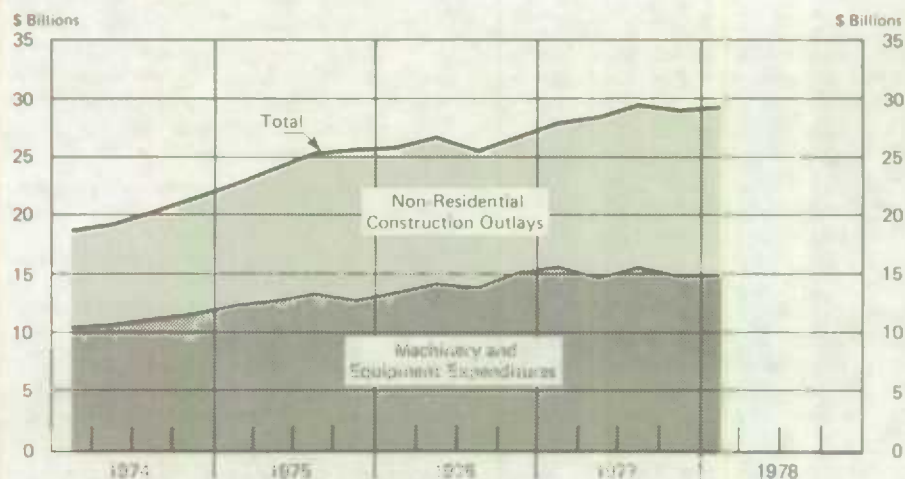
SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	May	603.0p	2,548.8p	7.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	May*	11,142.6p	50,470.8p	14.1
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	May	1,082.3	4,079.8	10.9
Retail Sales (\$ million)	May	6,038.5p	25,706.9p	10.8
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	May	5,828.6	24,382.3	8.7

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

Business Investment in Plant and Equipment

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



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

Shipments/Inventories/Orders

Manufacturers' shipments, May, rose 7.4% to \$11,142.6 million from the revised April value of \$10,372.8 million. Cumulative shipments: \$50,470.8 million, up 14.1% from the revised 1977 January-May total of \$44,227.3 million.

(Estimates of inventories, shipments and orders in manufacturing from January 1975 to May 1978 have been adjusted and are now based on 1975 Census of Manufactures data. Preliminary estimates for May are not directly comparable with previously-published series, incorporating as they do newly-calculated factors for seasonal adjustment, a number of changes in the panel of reporting establishments and a large number of reported values that were not received in time for use in calculating the data published previously).

Comparable data from January 1975 forward are now in CANSIM databank and will be published in the May 1978 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, 55¢/\$5.50). For further information, contact H.D. Wightman (613-996-7008), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Sales Financing

Sales finance companies purchased \$346.7 million of retail finance paper in May, up 30.4% from \$265.9 million in 1977. Purchases: \$80.0 million for passenger cars, \$36.4 million for other consumer goods, \$143.0 million for commercial vehicles and \$87.3 million for other commercial and industrial goods.

First quarter wholesale financing: \$2,029.0 million, up 3.8% from \$1,953.8 million in January-March 1977.

For further information, order the May 1978 issue of *Sales Financing* (63-013, 30¢/\$3), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304, telex 053-3583), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

CANADA HANDBOOK 1978

On the general public's behalf, responsibility is vested with Statistics Canada to maintain on an annual basis an integrated word picture of the nation's state. One vehicle through which the public has access to this updated, timely and accurate picture is *The Canada Handbook*. And to gild the word portrait, articles are illustrated with scores of photographs — 250 of them in the 1978 edition now on sale in the bookstores. *The Handbook* in Canada is \$3.75 (\$4.50 elsewhere) and may be ordered by mail (quoting catalogue no. 11-203E) from Printing and Publishing, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa K1A 0S9, or, Publications Distribution, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. Cheques or money orders should be made payable to: Receiver General for Canada.

Railway Transport: Part II, 1977

From 1976 to 1977 railway operating revenues rose 10.8% to \$3,538.1 million. Operating expenses rose 8.9% to \$3,349.0 million and income after taxes of \$189.0 million 62% from \$116.6 million. Freight revenues rose 11.6% accounting for 83.0% of total operating revenues with federal government payments up 12.9% to \$355.2 million and passenger receipts \$99.0 million (10.3%).

Road and equipment maintenance: 13.0% to \$1,291.7 million (38.6% of total operating costs). Expenses for transportation operations accounted for 38.8%. Retained income balance at close of 1977: \$760.3 million compared with \$765.6 million at the beginning, total assets increasing \$592.1 million to \$13,898.2 million.

For further information, order the 1977 edition of *Railway Transport: Part II* (52-208, \$1.05), or contact J.R. Slaterry (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Employment/Earnings/Hours

The Industrial Composite Index of employment for May indicated a 0.1% decline over April. Industry divisions recorded losses except mining, construction and trade, which increased. Ontario and the Prairie region declined but other regions posted gains. Average weekly earnings rose 0.6%, gains being recorded in all industry divisions (except mining) and in all regions. Average weekly hours fell in mining, remained unchanging in manufacturing and rose in construction. Average hourly earnings remained the same in mining, increased in manufacturing but decreased in construction.

For further information, order the May 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.

Industrial R & D: An Evaluation

For over 20 years Statistics Canada has surveyed the expenditures and manpower devoted to scientific research and experimental development by industry. During that time the questionnaires, collection procedures and processing methods have changed in response to experience, new technology and user needs. In the summer of 1977 all respondents were invited to evaluate the survey. Slightly under 200 useable evaluation forms were returned (a 53% response rate) by the firms participating in the sample survey.

Copies of the questionnaires (two versions) and evaluation form are contained in the *Annual Review of Science Statistics, 1977* (13-212, \$2.10). Data from the responses to the evaluation are contained in *Science Statistics Service Bulletin Volume 2, No. 5* (13-003, \$1.40 a year).

Asbestos

Producers' shipments of asbestos: 115,941 short tons in May against 129,691 a year earlier.

For further information, order the May 1978 issue of *Asbestos*, (26-001, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact Art Symons (613-992-0491).

Consumer Price Indexes Regionally

June consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities, 0.5% going on prices in St. John's and Thunder Bay, 1.0% in Halifax. Beef cuts and homeownership charges were largely responsible. Other important contributing factors: poultry, fresh fruit, selected clothing items, some imported and North American model cars and train and inter-city bus fares. Lower prices were recorded for fresh vegetables (especially for lettuce and tomatoes), automobile insurance premiums and, in some cities, gasoline.

Percentage increases with annual change in brackets: St. John's 0.5% (7.2%), Halifax 1.0% (7.0%), Saint John 0.8% (7.7%), Québec 0.7% (7.9%), Montréal 0.9% (9.0%), Ottawa 0.8% (8.5%), Toronto 0.9% (8.4%), Thunder Bay 0.5% (8.0%), Winnipeg 0.8% (8.4%), Saskatoon 0.8% (8.2%), Regina 0.7% (10.0%), Edmonton 0.9% (9.7%), Calgary 0.9% (8.7%) and Vancouver 0.8% (8.2%).

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

Business Conditions Survey

Manufacturers expressed considerable optimism for expected production levels during the third quarter. Although those anticipating higher production (33% of weighted response) fell four points from the April survey and those expecting it to decline rose to 23% from 13%, the current survey results indicate a strong change from a year earlier. Then, 33% forecast lower production in the third quarter of 1977 and 21% expected it would be higher.

It was the first time since the quarterly survey was initiated in January 1976 that the proportion of manufacturers reporting unfilled orders higher than normal — 19% — edged ahead of that indicating a lower-than-normal backlog — 18%. Year earlier proportions: 8% higher, 33% lower.

New orders levels are rising for 41% and declining for 11%. Comparable April figures were 30% rising and 16% declining. A year ago these proportions were 20% rising, 27% declining.

For further information, contact Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section (613-996-7008), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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Real Domestic Product

The seasonally-adjusted Index of Real Domestic Product fell 0.2% to 132.1 in May from 132.4 in April, the index of industrial production decreasing 0.8%, with goods-producing industries sliding 0.5%, service-producing 0.1%.

In goods-producing industries, agriculture, fishing and trapping, mining, manufacturing and utilities all recorded declines in output, forestry and construction experienced gains. Lower dairy and poultry production accounted for the decline in agriculture. The decline in mining was almost entirely due to a drop in metal mines output, affected by a further cutback in the production of nickel and copper. Mineral fuels output was down slightly due to declining natural gas production. In manufacturing, non-durable manufacturing declined sharply, durable manufacturing was unchanged from the April level. Output in utilities declined for the third consecutive month, reflecting continued weakness in demand for electric power and natural gas. Increased logging activity and pulpwood production accounted for the second consecutive monthly increase in forestry. The construction industry recorded its fourth monthly increase since February.

The decline in service-producing industries was mainly attributable to transportation, storage and communications services — down 0.8% — and community, business and personal services. Trade, finance insurance and real estate, and public administration and defence services were relatively unchanged from April. In transportation, storage and communication, substantial decrease were recorded in railway transport and grain elevators. Wholesale and retail trade were relatively unchanged from the April level. The decrease in community, business and personal services was due mainly to declines in services to business management and accommodation and food services.

For further information, order the May 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.

Job Vacancies

Average number of jobs vacant, daily basis, second quarter: 46,200, up 22% from 37,900 in the first quarter and, compared with second quarter 1977, a decrease of 3,500 (7%). Vacancies for fulltime jobs increased 17% to 40,300 from 34,300 in the first quarter. Jobs unfilled for more than four weeks increased 12% to 13,700.

For every 1,000 existing, five jobs were vacant, up one from the first quarter. Comparable 1977 rate: six per 1,000. Highest vacancy rates: Alberta with nine, Manitoba and Saskatchewan at six per 1,000. New Brunswick suffered a low of three per 1,000.

For further information, contact J.A. Boucek (613-992-2006), Job Vacancy Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada.

Mid-year Review of Capital Expenditures Program 1978

Intended capital expenditures in 1978: \$49,950 million, 2% above the first estimate of \$48,983 million and 7.4% above 1977's \$46,491 million shown in the *Infomat* summary of March 17 on *Private and Public Investment in Canada, Outlook 1978* (61-205, \$1.50).

Construction Rises 0.8%

The new total for capital outlays for all construction at \$32,169 million is 0.8% above the \$31,913 million estimated earlier for 1978 and 6.3% higher than the \$30,270 million for 1977. However, this small change masks the offsetting effects in the two principal components where a further gain of 3.2% for non-residential construction was counter-balanced by a decline of 3.5% for housing construction since the first estimates for 1978. Non-residential construction is now expected to reach \$21,226 million compared with \$20,569 million shown earlier for 1978. The new amount is 9.8% above the \$19,338 million for 1977. Residential construction in 1978 is now estimated at \$10,943 million compared with the \$11,344 million estimated earlier for 1978 and only marginally above the \$10,932 million for 1977.

Capital spending plans for the acquisition of new machinery and equipment during 1978 now total \$17,781 million, 4.2% above the earlier estimate of \$17,070 million and 9.6% higher than the \$16,221 million for 1977.

Both the business and social capital groups show gains at mid-year with the business group showing a further increase of 3.7% for a total gain of 10.3% over 1977. The increase by the social capital group (institutions and governments) is 3.3% over the earlier estimate for 1978 and 7.5% above 1977. Of the further gains in the business sector, estimates for agriculture show much more strength in the purchases of farm machinery than was expected earlier. The 1978 total for agriculture and fishing is now \$3,247 million, 10.5% above the \$2,939 million estimated earlier and 11.4% above the \$2,914 million for 1977.

Manufacturing Revised to 8.3%

The earlier projection in manufacturing of 4.8% over 1977 is now revised to 8.3% for a new total of \$6,503 million. Most industries of this sector show further increases, the largest being in chemicals and chemical products.

In the trade, finance, commercial group, more strength is indicated for 1978 than was expected earlier in the year. Further gains in capital spending plans of real estate developers, lessors of machinery and equipment, and of trade, contribute to most of the increase of \$334 million (6.3%) to a new group total of \$5,616 million. The new level is now up 12.4% over the \$4,996 million in 1977.

"Social Capital" Up \$225 million

In the primary industries group the decrease from 1977 projected earlier for mining has been moderated by gains for uranium mining in the metals group and by coal in the non-metal mines group. However, additional declines for iron mining and for copper-gold-silver widen further the decrease of the metal mines group where the new total of \$553 million is 40.6% below the \$932 million in 1977 following completion of major development work last year.

In the social capital group, planned capital spending for 1978 by all three levels of government is increased at mid-year by \$225 million (3.8%) to a new total of \$6,166 million, 7.9% above the 1977 total of \$5,713 million.

In the provincial pattern of changes the following are the new year-over-year changes for 1978 with the mid-year revision in parentheses: Nova Scotia 19.2% (6.9%), Newfoundland 15.9% (-0.1%), New Brunswick 14.3% (-0.6%), British Columbia 11.6% (-0.5%), Saskatchewan 8.1% (5.5%), Alberta 7.3% (3.8%), Prince Edward Island 7.2% (-1.2%), Ontario 7.0% (2.5%), Yukon and Northwest Territories 6.2% (3.9%), Québec 4.7% (0.5%), Manitoba 0.5% (1.6%).

For further information, contact Duncan Lusick (613-994-9546), Construction Division, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Eggs

Egg production rose 0.8% to 40.2 million dozen in May 1978 from 39.9 million a year earlier. Average number of layers was down 1.9% to 23.6 million.

For further information, order the May 1978 issue of *Production of Eggs and Poultry* (23-003, 30¢/\$3).

Farm Debt

Farm debt outstanding rose 15% to \$9.8 billion in 1977 from \$8.5 billion in 1976.

An historical series for 1970-1976 and any further information may be obtained from Michael Trant (613-994-9876), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

Coal Statistics

April coal production increased 5.6% to 2,734,680 tons (2 480 860 metric tonnes) from 2,590,775 (2 350 312) a year earlier. Industrial consumers used 2,382,458 tons (2 161 330 metric tonnes), up 471,965 (428 159).

For further information, order the April 1978 issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics* (45-002, 40¢/\$4).

Peat

Peat industry total value added, 1976: \$23,725,806, up 15% from \$20,555,608 in 1975.

For further information, order the 1976 issue of *Peat Industry* (26-212, 70¢).

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