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Weekly Bulletin

November 2, 1979

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Some 568,000 claimants qualified for unemployment insurance benefits in the week of August 11, down 1% from July and 18% from August 1978. Fifty-two percent of the beneficiaries were females compared with 49% a year earlier.

Unemployment insurance payments in August: \$266 million, down 5% from July and 22% a year earlier. Year-to-date benefits total \$3,007 million, down 9%. Weeks of benefit paid are down 8% and the average weekly amount declined 1% to \$107.87.

Claims filed by persons applying for benefits in August: 165,000, down 16% from July and 20% from a year earlier. January-August saw 1,618,000 claims received, down 8% from a year earlier. For provinces and territories, decreases ranged from 1% in Prince Edward Island to 13% in the Yukon and Manitoba.

For further information, order the August 1979 issue of *Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics (73-001P)*, the *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.

Labour Income

Labour income, August, rose 11.7% to \$12,274.1 million from \$10,988.7 million a year earlier. Wages and salaries rose 0.8% to \$11,351.9 million from \$11,266.5 million in July.

Breakdowns for wages and salaries (millions of dollars) were: primary industries \$195.5; forestry \$141.1; mines, quarries, oil wells \$318.9; manufacturing \$2,680.1; construction \$884.8; transportation, communication, other utilities \$1,195.2; trade \$1,456.1; finance, insurance, real estate \$772.6; commercial, personal service \$1,090.2; education, related services \$903.2; health, welfare services \$709.0; federal administration, other government offices \$420.7; local administration \$260.8; and provincial administration \$323.7.

Supplementary income for August reached \$922.1 million.

See detailed estimates in the July-September 1979 issue of *Estimates of Labour Income (72-005, \$5/\$20)*, or contact Mrs. G. Gauthier (613-995-8431), Labour Income Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

		Aug.	Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Aug.	291.19p	290.77p	9.0
Labour Income (\$ million)	July	12,130.7p	12,373r	10.5
Persons with Jobs (million)	Sept.	10.53	10.91	3.9
Unemployed	Sept.	719,000	772,000	-14.8

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	July	2,385.0p	2,227.9p	19.2
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Aug.*	23,876.9p	23,393.5r	22.0
Wholesale (\$ million)	Aug.*	10,282.7p	10,421.1r	25.2

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Aug.*	12,558.1p	11,684.8r	20.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Aug.*	16,871.1p	16,508.7r	35.3

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Sept.	194.5	192.8	9.6
Non-food (CPI) Component	Sept.	180.1	178.2	8.6
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Sept.*	111.4	110.6	4.1
22-city Composite Wage, Building (1971=100)	July	230.3	230.3	6.7
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Aug.	218.4p	217.5r	13.9

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Aug.	1,440.5	9,098.2	7.4
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Sept.*	12,742	107,851	-19.0

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand metric tonnes)	Aug.*	2 567.1	21 613.5	9.8
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	June	25.8	179.9	5.6
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	June	7 866.4	54 450.0	8.7
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Aug.	10.17p	75.84p	9.5

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Aug.	5,362.9p	40,917.8p	21.8
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Aug.	5,641.0p	41,026.5p	28.4

PRODUCTION

Steel (ingots — thousand metric tonnes)	Sept.	1 264.1p	11 737.2p	7.7
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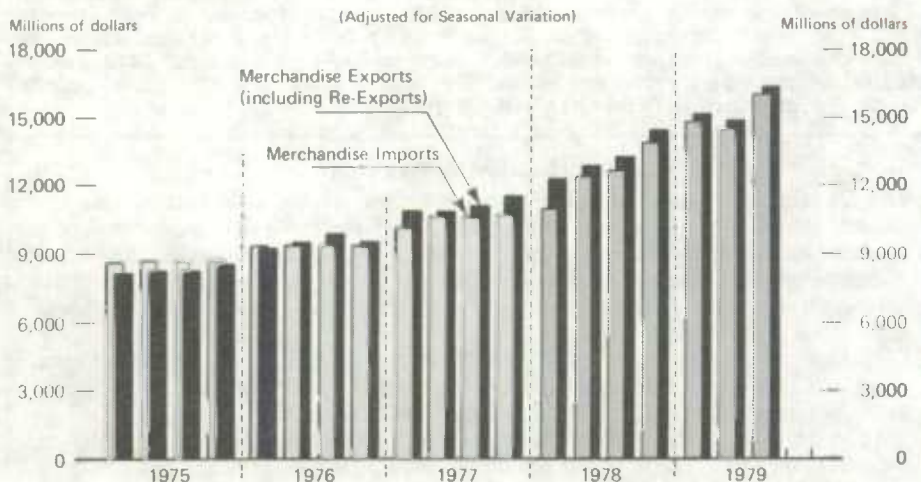
SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	705.0p	4,836.1p	12.0
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Aug.*	12,195.8p	82,105.4r	18.9
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	869.2	7,936.9	19.5
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	6,706.5p	48,948.1p	13.2
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	6,698.0p	49,106.7p	21.7

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

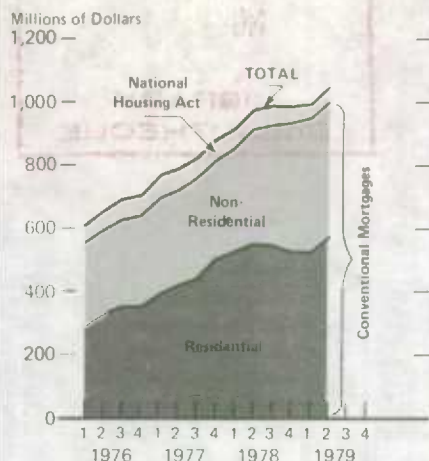
Canadian Merchandise Exports and Imports*

Quarter-by-Quarter Movements



Real Estate Investment Trusts

Quarterly Statement of Mortgages Outstanding



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

Inventories/Shipments/Orders

Manufacturers' August shipments rose 4.9% to \$12,195.8 million from revised July's \$11,622.0 million. Eight months: \$97,658.4 million, up 18.9% higher from the 1978 January-August \$82,105.4 million.

Seasonally-adjusted shipments were estimated at \$12,579.2 million, down 0.6% from revised July's \$12,654.9 million (durable goods shipments dropped 3.5% to \$5,598.0 million from \$5,802.9 million and non-durable rose 1.9% to \$6,981.2 million from \$6,852.0 million).

New orders (seasonally adjusted) were estimated at \$12,897.3 million, up 1.2% from \$12,742.1 million durable goods new orders rose 1.0% to \$5,915.6 million from \$5,855.7 million, non-durable 1.4% to \$6,981.7 million (\$6,886.4 million). Unfilled orders — \$16,768.8 million — rose 1.9% from \$16,450.7 million.

Total inventory owned (seasonally adjusted): \$24,119.2 million, up 1.9% higher from \$23,674.8 million. Total inventory held rose 1.7% to \$25,111.1 million from \$24,689.2 million with increases of 2.9%, 1.2% and 0.7% in raw materials, goods in process and finished products.

For further information, order the August 1979 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, \$3/\$30), or contact H.D. Wightman (613-996-7008), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

New Handbook Available

The Canada Handbook 1979 edition, an illustrated volume published by Statistics Canada that describes the economic, social and cultural life of Canadians, is now available for purchase through government outlets and retail book stores. The book's 352 pages give a broad picture of government services at both federal and provincial levels, of the physical environment of the country and of how Canadians live, work and spend their leisure time.

The textual material is studded with 263 illustrations, including photographs, charts and maps. There are more than 240 photographs in full colour. Price of the book, available in either English or French editions, is \$6.00.

To order from government outlets, write to Publications Distribution, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, or the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Qué., K1A 0S9.

Key Economic Series

During November, 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.)

Nov. 2-6: Industry Selling Price Index, September;

Nov. 8-20: Retail Trade, September;

Nov. 13: Labour Force Survey, October;

Nov. 15-20: Industrial Corporations Financial (Preliminary Data), 3rd Quarter;

Nov. 16: Consumer Price Index, October;

Nov. 16-22: Building Permits, September;

Nov. 19-20: Wholesale Trade, September;

Nov. 21-28: Inventories, Shipments and Orders, September;

Nov. 23-28: Real Domestic Product, September;

Nov. 23-29: Index of Industrial Production, September;

Nov. 26-29: Employment, Earnings and Hours, September;

Nov. 26-30: Housing Starts in Urban Centres of 10,000 population and over, October;

Nov. 26-30: Gross National Product, 3rd Quarter;

Nov. 28-30: Unemployment Insurance, September;

Nov. 30-Dec. 3: Labour Income, September.

Notice of advance information availability: *Field Crop Reporting Series, No. 20*, November estimates of production of principal field crops, Canada, released November 30 at 3 p.m. E.S.T.

For further information, contact Henri Sarrazin (613-992-1566), *Production Planning and Scheduling, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Industrial Production Index

August's seasonally-adjusted Index of Industrial Production fell 0.1% to 138.8 from 139.0 in July. Output of mining industries declined. Production by manufacturing companies, electric power, gas and water utilities rose from July levels.

For further information, order the August 1979 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, \$3/\$30), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), *Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Business Conditions Survey, Manufacturing

Final quarter manufacturing output is not expected to change significantly from the level anticipated for the third quarter. The October business conditions survey shows 29% of the weighted response expecting production to be higher and 22% expecting the opposite. The July survey showed 27% expecting higher production and 22% lower. (Management is asked to allow for normal seasonal conditions when responding.)

The level of new orders was reported to be rising by 25% of the weighted response and declining by 21%. In July, 36% indicated orders were rising and 14% that they were declining. The proportion of the response indicating a higher than normal

Fixed Capital Flows/Stocks

Fixed capital flows and stocks by province have been updated and are now available from 1955 to 1979 in current and constant 1971 dollars. Estimates of stocks are based on the perpetual inventory method using investment data from Statistics Canada's *Private and Public Investment in Canada, Outlook* (61-205). Comparable national figures are published in *Fixed Capital Flows and Stocks* (13-211). For data by industry, contact Ms R. Hoyt (613-995-8152), *Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*; please allow two weeks for delivery.

backlog of unfilled orders declined to 25% in October from 30% in July. Those reporting a lower than normal backlog increased to 12% from 10%.

The level of finished product inventory was felt to be too high by 17% of the weighted response and too low by 11%. In July 15% reported these inventories as too high and 9% reported them as too low.

Shortages of raw materials and skilled labour were again cited as the two major causes of production difficulties with 15% claiming a shortage of skilled labour and 14% noting a shortage of raw materials. These two problems have been marked for the last six quarters as the main impediments to production.

When classified by economic use or type of market served the most significant quarter-to-quarter changes occurred in the export-based industries where those indicating rising new orders decreased to 10% from 48% in July. Also, in this group, only 26% felt their unfilled orders backlog was higher than normal in this last quarter; this is down from 51% in the third quarter.

For further information, contact Brian Preston (613-996-7008), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Railway Transport: Part IV, 1978

Railways carried 264.9 million short tons of revenue freight (240.3 million t) in 1978, down 3.5% from 1977. Ton-miles generated rose 1.4% to 147.5 billion (215.4 billion t/km). Average length of haul: 557 miles (896 km) against 531 miles (855 km) in 1977.

Freight car-miles totalled 4.6 billion (7.5 billion km) with 59.5% of the total logged by loaded cars. Average net weight of a carload rose to 54.5 short tons (49.5 t) from 54.4 short tons (49.4 t). Freight train-miles — 69.1 million (111.2 million km) — rose 0.8% and the average train consisted of 68.3 cars (68.5 cars in 1977).

Passenger-miles totalled 2.0 billion (3.2 billion p/km) in 1978, 7.9% over the 1977 level. Rail passenger car-miles remained unchanged: 130.2 million (209.6 million km). Cars in a passenger train averaged 7.1 compared with 7.0 in both 1977 and 1976.

For further information, order *Railway Transport: Part IV, 1978* (52-210, \$4.50), or contact M. Vallières (613-996-9271), *Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Railway Operating Statistics

Seven railways' April net income from operations: \$38.9 million, up 7.7% from \$22.0 million in 1978. Operating revenues rose 27.1% to \$383.7 million and operating expenses 23.2% to \$344.7 million.

Revenue freight ton-miles rose 4.2%, freight train-miles fell 2.4% and freight car-miles decreased 1.7%. Average revenue per ton-mile of freight: 2.464 cents compared with 2.211 cents. Passenger-miles rose 18.2% to 126.9 million.

For further information, order the *April 1979 issue of Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, \$2.50/\$25), or contact M. Vallières (613-996-9271), *Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Radio Broadcasting

Gross national radio air-time sales rose 25.0% to \$10.5 million in July from \$8.4 million in 1978. After commissions, net national sales rose 25.4% to \$8.9 million from \$7.1 million. Net local air-time sales: up 9.9% to \$19.9 million from \$18.1 million.

January-to-July, gross sales rose 13.4% to \$203.0 million from \$179.0 million in 1978. Net sales rising 13.2% to \$188.8 million from \$166.5 million.

For further information, order the *July 1979 issue of Radio Broadcasting* (56-003, \$1.50/\$15), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), *Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Tobacco Products

September cigarette production: 5.2 billion against 5.8 billion a year earlier.

For further information, order the *September 1979 issue of Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products* (32-022, \$1.50/\$15), or contact G. Elliot (613-992-2231), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

Employment/Earnings/Hours

The Industrial Composite Index of employment (1961=100) for August fell 0.5% from July. Mining (including milling), manufacturing, construction and transportation, communication and other utilities contributed to the decline. Remaining industry divisions posted gains. All regions except the Prairies reported declines. Average weekly earnings advanced 0.4%. All industry divisions rose except forestry and construction. All regions rose except Ontario. Average weekly hours declined in mining, manufacturing and construction. Average hourly earnings rose in mining and manufacturing, declining in construction.

Detailed information for June and July will be published in the August issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, \$4/\$40), or contact R. Ouellette, (613-992-5613), *Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Railway Carloadings

Railways loaded 23.8 million short tons (21.6 million t) of revenue freight in September, up 4.1% from 1978. An additional 1.9 million short tons (1.7 million t) entered from the United States.

Commodities recording notable percentage change include: copper-nickel ores and concentrates (up 172.9%), potash (up 26.0%), iron ore and concentrates (up 11.1%) and lumber (down 11.1%). Nine months' freight volume increased 10.5% (U.S. receipts 2.0%) from a year earlier.

For further information, order the *September 1979 issue of Railway Carloadings* (52-001, \$1.50/\$15), or contact M. Vallières (613-996-9271), *Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Cheques Cashed

Value of cheques cashed in the 50 clearing centres in August totalled \$334,863 million, 26.1% above the corresponding month of 1978. Payments in nine provinces rose in comparison. Debits increased in Newfoundland 18.2%, Prince Edward Island 0.1%, Nova Scotia 77.0%, New Brunswick 40.3%, Québec 10.1%, Ontario 33.5%, Saskatchewan 31.9%, Alberta 35.4% and British Columbia 16.2%. Debits decreased in Manitoba 1.8%.

For further information, order the *August 1979 issue of Cheques Cashed* (61-001, \$1.50/\$15), or contact Financial Institutions Section (613-995-9771), *Business Finance Division, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Pension Plans, 1976-78

Pension plan coverage grew 7.5% from 3.9 million workers in 1976 to 4.2 million by 1978, a period when the number of private public plans dropped from 15,625 to 15,095.

In absolute terms, most of the reduction in plans occurred in the private sector — 479 compared with 51 — but 66% of the increase in membership benefitted private sector plans, 34% public sector plans.

For further information, order the *publication Pension Plans in Canada 1978* (74-401, \$7), or contact E.S. Hanes (613-995-6918), *Pensions Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

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Average Earnings

Average weekly earnings rose 9.0% to \$291.19 in August from \$267.07 in 1978. Average hourly earnings in manufacturing reached \$7.45 (from \$6.84), in construction \$10.87 (\$10.18) and in mining \$9.62 (\$8.70).

Provincial breakdowns show average weekly earnings were highest in British Columbia (\$332.69) and followed by Alberta (\$313.66), Ontario (\$287.14), Québec (\$286.35), Saskatchewan (\$285.34), Newfoundland (\$275.06), Manitoba (\$264.20), New Brunswick (\$256.93), Nova Scotia (\$249.38) and Prince Edward Island (\$212.42).

Average weekly earnings by industry division were: construction \$425.35; mining \$415.86; forestry \$346.05; transportation, communication and other utilities \$345.76; manufacturing \$310.61; finance, insurance and real estate \$276.67; trade \$222.70 and service \$196.28.

For further information, order the *August 1979 issue of Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, \$4/\$40), or contact R. Ouellette (613-992-5613), *Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Refined Petroleum Products

Refineries produced 10 174.5 thousand cubic metres of petroleum products in August, an increase of 7.6% from 9 453.7 thousand a year earlier. Net sales amounted to 8 912.6 thousand cubic metres, up 7.7% from 8 274.4 thousand.

For further information, order the *August 1979 issue of Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$2.50/\$25), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

Infomat is bringing out a once-a-month 8-page issue aimed at going beyond Bureau-originated numbers to keep readers abreast of general developments on the statistics scene. News items foreseen as adding to *Infomat's* coverage include appointments, newly-approved publications and reports on activities in the statistics world generally — speeches, papers, conferences and seminars that may reasonably be expected to interest statistics users, internationally. Send items to: George Dufour, 4N, Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



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These publications released October 26 — November 1

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE			
Grains and Oilseeds Review, August 1979	22-007	\$2.50/\$25	
Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, August 1979	23-003	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Survey of Canadian Nursery Trades Industry, 1977 and 1978	22-203	\$4.50	\$5.40
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS			
Security Transactions With Non-residents, July 1979	67-002	\$2.50/\$25	
BUSINESS FINANCE			
Industrial Corporations, Financial Statistics, Second Quarter 1979	61-003	\$10/\$40	
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Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics, 1978	13-567	\$7	
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Mental Health Statistics, Volume III, Institutional Facilities, Services and Finances, 1976	83-205	\$6	
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Canada Handbook, 1979	11-203E	\$6	\$7.50
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Quarterly Estimates of Trusteed Pension Funds, Second Quarter 1979	74-001	\$2.50/\$10	\$4/\$12
Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, April-June 1979	73-001	\$6/\$24	
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			
Asphalt Roofing, August 1979	45-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
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Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, August 1979	33-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, August 1979	43-005	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Factory Shipments of High Pressure Decorative Laminate Sheet, Quarter Ended September 30, 1979	47-005	\$2.50/\$10	\$3/\$12
Footwear Statistics, August 1979	33-002	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, September 1979	32-022	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, August 1979	47-004	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Shipments of Floor Tiles, September 1979	47-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, August 1979	41-011	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, August 1979	25-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Refined Petroleum Products, June 1979	45-004	\$2.50/\$25	
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES			
New Motor Vehicle Sales, August 1979	63-007	\$2.50/\$25	
Operating Results, Retail Shoe Stores, 1977	63-606	\$6	\$7.20
Wholesale Trade, August 1979	63-008	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
PRICES			
Construction Price Statistics, October 1979	62-007	\$3/\$30	
PUBLIC FINANCE			
Provincial Government Employment, April-June 1979	72-007	\$5/\$20	\$6/\$24
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE BULLETIN			
Aviation Statistics Centre — Vol. 11, No. 10, Canadian Air Transport Industry, Summary Statistics, 1979	51-004	\$1.50/\$15	