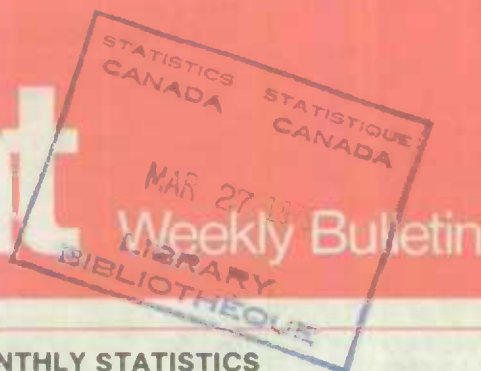


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## Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.9% from 182.7 in January to 184.4 in February with the 12-month rise 9.2% (8.9% in the previous 12-month period). Higher food prices were responsible for about one-half of the increase, advancing 2.5% between January and February, up from 1.9% in the previous month. The index for all-items-excluding-food rose 0.5%, unchanged from the previous month.

Higher prices for beef cuts, up on average 10.8% in early February, were largely responsible for the 2.8% increase in the food-at-home index. Other notable contributors to this latest monthly rise included higher prices for selected fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products and for most cereal and bakery products. Chicken and sugar prices recorded a slight decline. The 2.8% increase in the food-at-home index in February brought the index 17.5% above its level of February 1978.

Increased shelter charges for both rented and owned accommodation and higher prices for new cars were major contributing factors to the 0.5% increase in the index for all-items-excluding-food. Other notable factors included higher prices for many clothing items, tobacco products, magazines and — in several cities — for newspapers, electricity and automobile insurance premiums. Higher prices were also recorded for both men's haircuts and women's hairdressing services as well as for prescribed medicines. Between February 1978 and February 1979, the index for all-items-excluding-food advanced 6.8%.

In terms of goods and services, the price level for goods, including food, advanced 1.2%, that for services 0.5%. Between February 1978 and February 1979 the price level for goods advanced 11.2%, that for services 6.0%.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the Index advanced 1.0% between January and February: a 2.5% increase in the food index and a 0.6% increase in the index for all-items-excluding-food.

Between January and February, consumer prices rose in all 15 cities for which CPIs are produced. Advances ranged from 0.5% in Charlottetown/Summerside to 1.6% in Edmonton. In seven of the cities consumer prices rose over 1.0%. The differing rates of price increases for food, ranging from 1.3% in Saskatoon to 3.9% in

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec.*	269.02p	273.01	6.4
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec.	11,208.2p	11,389.9r	8.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Feb.	9.86	9.81	4.2
Unemployed	Feb.	954,000	977,000	-4.0

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Dec.*	1,930.6p	2,389.9p	15.3
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Dec.	20,731.2p	20,316.3p	11.5
Wholesale (\$ million)	Jan.*	9,143.1p	7,613.5p	20.1

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Dec.	11,521.0p	12,475.7p	29.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Dec.	13,334.6p	13,179.7p	32.1

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.*	184.4	182.7	9.2
Non-residential Building Input (1971=100)	Jan.	201.3	200.5	8.7
Residential Building Input (1971=100)	Dec.	199.6	199.6	10.8
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Jan.	201.4	198.4	11.0

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.	1,013.0	13,138.7	5.8
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Jan.	11,533	11,533	-22.9

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Dec.	3,178.9	33,594.9	6.9
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Dec.	33.9	335.7	6.0
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Nov.	323.0	3,159.3	-3.3
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Dec.	60.8	661.7	0.1

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Dec.	4,587p	52,606p	19.0
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Dec.	4,251p	49,605p	18.0

### PRODUCTION

Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Feb.	1,429.0	2,947.9	14.8
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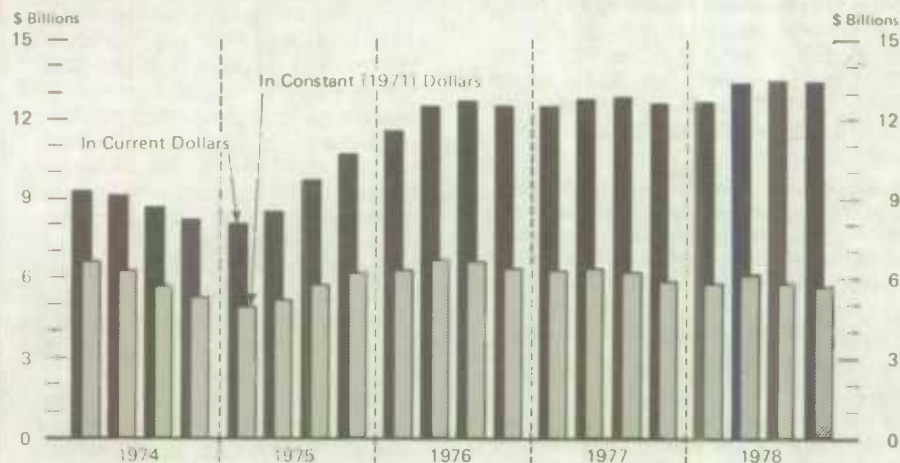
### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	482.8p	482.8p	13.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Dec.	11,366.1p	130,352.7p	18.8
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	675.1	675.1	17.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Jan.*	4,995.2p	4,995.2p	14.0
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Jan.*	5,261.1p	5,261.1p	26.3

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

## Residential Construction Expenditures

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



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



Edmonton, were the major factor contributing to this variation in city retail price movements.

Percentage increases with annual change in brackets: St. John's 0.9% (9.4%), Charlottetown/Summerside 0.6% (8.7%), Halifax 1.1% (8.5%), Saint John 0.7% (8.6%), Québec 1.3% (9.1%), Montréal 1.2% (8.5%), Ottawa 0.8% (8.4%), Toronto 0.9% (9.0%), Thunder Bay 1.3% (8.2%), Winnipeg 1.1% (8.5%), Saskatoon 0.8% (7.9%), Regina 0.8% (8.1%), Edmonton 1.6% (9.2%), Calgary 1.3% (8.8%) and Vancouver 0.8% (8.1%).

For further information, order the February 1979 issue of *Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities* (62-009, 30¢/\$3).

#### **Government Employ/Provinces, 1978**

At year's end, the number of persons — 348,837 — employed in provincial (excluding British Columbia) and territorial general government services declined from 1977. Though the decline was small — 0.11% — it was in sharp contrast to the average increase of nearly 3% per annum recorded in the previous five years.

Among individual governments, declines were registered in Prince Edward Island (14.4%), Ontario (5.8%), Nova Scotia (5.0%), Alberta (2.4%) and Manitoba (1.7%) and increases seen in New Brunswick (1.3%), Yukon (1.5%), Newfoundland (2.7%), Northwest Territories (3.1%), Québec (6.6%) and Saskatchewan (13.7%).

Gross payrolls: at \$5,310 million, up nearly 10% but at a rate of increase significantly less than the average of 24% in the previous five years.

Employment in all provincial and territorial government enterprises for which data is available increased 8% to 153,070, down from 1977 (11.4%) but above the five years' average (7.25%). Gross payrolls: \$2,834.5 million, 21.4% over 1977 but lower than the average (28.5%) for five years. (Enterprise employment reflects increases in numbers of corporations, not only in size of corporations.)

For further information, order *Provincial Government Employment, October-December 1978* (72-007, \$1.05), or contact A.G. Kerr (613-995-8201), Public Finance Division.

#### **Federal Government Finance, 1977-78**

Gross general revenue, federal government, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1978: \$39,054 million, up \$741 million (1.9%) from 1977. Gross general expenditure: \$45,955 million, up \$4,742 million (11.5%).

*Federal Government Finance, 1977-78* (68-211, \$1.05), will be released at a later date. Additional information: contact G.M. McIlveen (613-995-9894), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

#### **Eggs**

Egg production decreased 4.1% to 38.4 million dozen in January from 40.1 million a year earlier.

For further information, order the January 1979 issue of *Production of Eggs and Poultry* (23-003, 30¢/\$3), or contact P.L. Beerstecher (613-995-4853), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

#### **THE CPI:**

##### **1978 IN RETROSPECT**

The year was characterized by a continuation of the relatively high rate of consumer price increases... the average monthly Consumer Price Index increase was in the order of 0.6% to 0.7% with advances of 1% or more registered in four of the 12 months. As a result, the All-Items Consumer Price Index for Canada (1971=100) stood at 181.3 in December, 8.4% above the level recorded for 1977. This advance was lower than the 9.5% December 1976/77 but higher than the 5.8% December 1975/76.

##### **Major Contributors**

Approximately two thirds of the 8.4% advance was attributable to increases in the food and housing indexes. Higher transportation charges ranked next. Each of the remaining four components (clothing, health and personal care, recreation, reading and education and tobacco and alcohol) contributed approximately equally.

A marked increase in the level of retail prices for beef cuts, up 37.2% on average between December 1977 and December 1978, contributed most significantly to the advance in the food index. This marks the second consecutive period in which beef prices have increased by more than 30%. Higher prices were also recorded for pork, other meat products, poultry and fish, with the result that the meat, poultry and fish index was up 26.4% over its level of a year earlier. Other price increases contributing noticeably to the advances in the food index were also registered. In descending order of impact, with year-over-year increase in parenthesis, they were: dairy products, including eggs (7.6%), cereal and bakery products (7.3%), processed fruit (19.0%), fresh fruit (16.0%), sugar (12.4%) and fats and oils products (9.2%). Fresh vegetable prices, which increased 44.7% between December 1976 and December 1977, moderated in 1978, especially in the latter half of the year — in December 1978 fresh vegetable prices had declined on average 2.6% from the comparable period in 1977. A 5.8% decline in coffee and tea prices was also recorded after substantial increases were recorded in 1977. The food-away-from-home index increased 9.5% over the 12-month period, a somewhat larger rise than the 5.0% advance registered in the corresponding 1976-1977 period.

Abstracted from the year-end supplement to *Consumer Prices and Price Indexes*, fourth quarter, 1978 (62-010, \$1.40/\$5.60).

#### **Retail Trade**

Retail trade, January, reached \$4,995.2 million, up 14.0% from a year earlier. Sales increased in 28 trade groups with the largest gainers automotive parts and accessories stores (32.7%), women's clothing stores (31.3%) and book and stationery stores (23.9%). The provinces reported increases ranging from 22.8% for Newfoundland to 8.8% for Manitoba. Montréal sales rose 10.1%, Toronto 9.9%, Vancouver 13.5% with Winnipeg sales decreasing 0.6%.

Seasonally-adjusted retail sales: \$6,039.0 million, up 1.0% from the \$5,978.3 million recorded in December. Sales increased in 20 of 28 trade groups. Household appliance stores (17.6%) and garages (15.0%) recorded the largest increases. Largest decreases were in sporting goods and accessories stores (18.1%) and combination stores (11.7%). Eight provinces recorded increased sales ranging from 6.6% for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island to 0.2% for Nova Scotia. Saskatchewan (4.6%) and British Columbia (0.2%) reported decreased sales.

Revised December retail trade, unadjusted, reached \$7,434.0 million, up 9.7% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the January 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.

#### **Restaurant Statistics**

Restaurants throughout Canada increased their January receipts a total of 10.2% to \$214,384,000 from a year earlier. Break-down per province: Ontario \$83.7 million (10.5%), Québec \$62.8 million (9.8%), British Columbia, Yukon and Territories \$20.2 million (10.4%), Alberta \$23.2 million (13.5%), Manitoba \$9.4 million (7.6%), Saskatchewan \$6.0 million (4.6%), New Brunswick \$4.3 million (7.5%), Nova Scotia \$3.3 million (11.3%), Newfoundland \$1.1 million (13.5%) and Prince Edward Island \$371,000 (1.6%).

For further information, order the January 1979 issue of *Restaurant Receipts* (63-011, 15¢/\$1.50).

#### **Sugar Sales**

In February, refineries' sales reached 82 145 434 kilograms (181,099,708 lbs) of all types of sugar (71 065 512 kilograms in domestic sales and 11 079 922 kilograms exported).

For further information, contact T.P. Sterling (613-992-8619), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

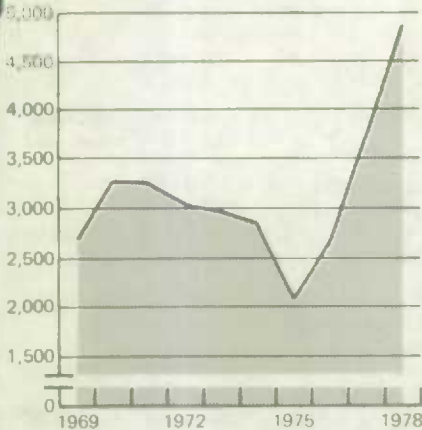
The monthly report *Electric Lamps* (catalogue 43-009, 15¢/\$1.50), which was included in the list of Statistics Canada publications to be discontinued due to budgetary reductions (Infomat of November 10, 1978), has been reinstated effective with the January 1979 issue.



### Commercial Failures

(Under the Bankruptcy and Winding-Up Acts)

Number of Failures



Source: Commercial Failures (61-002)

### Radio Broadcasting, 1978

Gross national radio air-time sales, 1978: \$322.8 million, up 16.7% from \$276.6 million in 1977. Net sales rose 16.8% to \$300.4 million from \$257.1 million.

December's radio air-time sales rose 20.3% to \$7.7 million from \$6.4 million in 1977. After deduction of commissions net national sales: \$6.5 million, up 20.3% from \$5.4 million. Net local sales rose 16.0% to \$21.8 million from \$18.1 million.

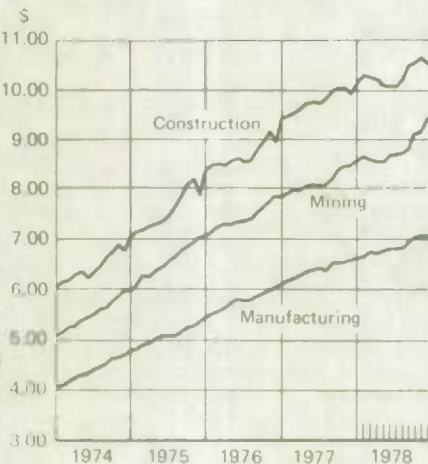
For further information, order the December 1978 issue of *Radio Broadcasting* (56-003, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Cheddar Cheese

Cheddar cheese production in February increased 25.6% to 6 512 metric tonnes from 5 185 a year earlier.

For further information, order the February 1979 issue of the *Dairy Factory Production* (32-002, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact C.M. Riach (613-995-4858), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

### Average Hourly Earnings in Canadian Industry



Source: Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002)

### Department Store Sales

January department store sales rose 13.1% to \$482.8 million from \$426.8 million in 1978. Sales rose in 37 of 40 departments with largest sales increases recorded by china and glassware (36.9%), toys and games (33.7%) and women's and girls' gloves, mitts and accessories (30.5%). All provinces reported increased sales, from 20.2% (Alberta) to 5.1% (Prince Edward Island). Sales, metropolitan areas: Montréal \$59.5 million, up 22.1%; Toronto \$72.4 million, 7.0%, Winnipeg \$23.9 million, 6.7% and Vancouver \$51.5 million, 14.3%.

Selling value of stocks held: \$1,980.6 million, 24.5% over January 1978. Inventories increased in 37 of 40 departments.

For further information, order the January 1978 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, 40¢/\$4), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

### Telephone Statistics

Thirteen telephone systems' revenues reached \$398.0 million in January, up 19.9% from 1978. Operating expenses: \$269.8 million, an increase of 20.1%; net operating revenue \$128.2 million, up 19.7%, and telephone toll messages rose 12.1% to 93.6 million.

For further information, order the January 1979 issue of *Telephone Statistics* (56-002, \$1.50 per year), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Fur Production, 1977-78

Value of pelts sold during the 1977-78 season: \$73,220,159, up 2% from 1976-77. Wildlife pelts brought in \$47,675,472 (65% of the total). Fur farm production: \$25,544,687 (\$24,255,085 the previous year).

For further information, order the 1977-78 issue of the *Fur Production* (23-207, 70¢), or contact P.L. Beerstecher (613-995-4853), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

### Urban Transit, 1977

Carriers went from 1976's 75 to 77, operating revenues, including subsidies, increased 10.8% to \$742.8 million and operating expenses rose 10.8% to \$720.5 million.

For further information, contact S. Mozes (613-996-9271), Chief, Surface Transport Section, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Homicide Statistics

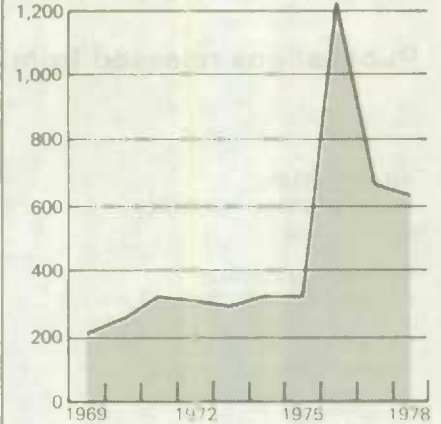
Preliminary statistics indicate homicide offences dropped from 707 offences (victims) in 1977 to 665 in 1978, a reduction of 5.9%. Homicide incidents fell 3.0% from 634 to 615. Rate of homicide offences: 2.83 per 100,000, 6.6% less than the 1977 rate.

Further information on this data may be obtained by telephoning the analyst, Homicide program (613-995-0855), Justice Statistics Division.

### Liabilities of Bankrupt Firms

(Under the Bankruptcy and Winding-Up Acts)

Millions of Dollars



Source: Commercial Failures (61-002)

### Road/Street Length, 1976

Total length of public roads and streets in Canada at December 31, 1976: 549,462 miles (884 273 km), an increase of 14% from 541,849 miles (872 021 km) in 1975. Paved mileage: 155,358 miles, (250 024 km) up 4.0% from 149,362 miles (240 375 km).

Revenue received by the province and territories from taxes and fees for vehicle registrations, drivers' licences and other road-related permits totalled \$2.22 billion, up 6.5% from \$2.08 billion.

For further information, order the 1976 issue of *Road and Street Length and Financing* (53-201, 70¢), or contact the Surface Transport Section (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

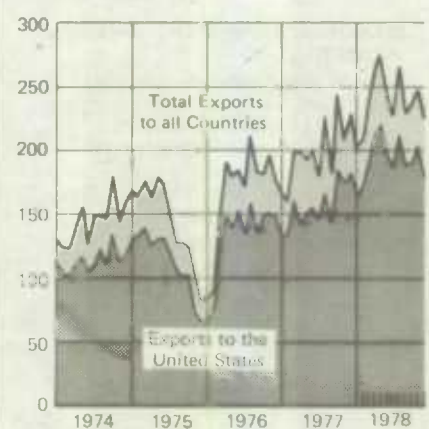
### Wholesale Trade

Wholesale sales, January: \$5,261,121,000, up 26.3% from \$4,166,960,000 in 1978. Wholesale inventories: \$9,143,128,000, up 20.1% from \$7,613,493,000.

For further details, order the January 1979 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, 15¢/\$1.50).

### Exports of Newsprint Paper

Millions of Dollars



Source: Exports by Commodities (65-004)



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**Publications released from March 16 — 22**

	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Grains and Oilseeds Review, January 1979	22-007	40¢/\$4	Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, December 1978	31-001	55¢/\$5.50
<b>BUSINESS FINANCE</b>					
Cheques Cashed, January 1979	61-001	30¢/\$3	Particle Board, January 1979	36-003	15¢/\$1.50
<b>CENSUS</b>					
Provincial Census Tracts: Reference Maps, Quebec, 1976			Primary Iron and Steel, December 1978	41-001	40¢/\$4
Census of Canada	95-853	\$3	Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, January 1979	47-004	15¢/\$1.50
<b>EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE</b>					
Culture Statistics, Museums, Art Galleries and Related Institutions, Large Institutions, 1976	87-656	\$1.05	Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, January 1979	25-001	15¢/\$1.50
<b>SERVICE BULLETINS</b>					
Culture Statistics — Vol. 2, No. 2, Recording Industry, 1977	87-001	/ \$1.40	Report on Livestock Surveys, Pigs, January 1, 1979	23-005	/ \$1.40
Science Statistics — Vol. 3, No. 2, Federal Payments for Science, by Region, 1977-78	13-003	/ \$1.40	Shipments of Domestic Mobile Homes, December 1978	41-017	35¢/\$1.40
<b>EXTERNAL TRADE</b>					
Exports by Commodities, December 1978	65-004	80¢/\$8	Shipments of Prepared Stocks and Poultry Feeds, December 1978	32-004	40¢/\$4
Imports by Commodities, December 1978	65-007	80¢/\$8	Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, January 1979	43-003	15¢/\$1.50
<b>FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTI- NATIONAL ENTERPRISES</b>					
International Travel, January 1979	66-002	15¢/\$1.50	Steel Ingots and Pig Iron, February 1979	41-002	15¢/\$1.50
Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, October-December 1978	66-001	\$1.75/\$7	Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, January 1979	41-006	15¢/\$1.50
<b>HEALTH</b>					
Mental Health Statistics, Volume II, Patients on Books of Institu- tions, 1976	83-208	\$2.10	<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>		
<b>LABOUR</b>					
Estimates of Employees by Province and Industry, December 1978	72-008	40¢/\$4	Department Store Sales and Stocks, December 1978	63-002	40¢/\$4
<b>LABOUR FORCE SURVEY</b>					
The Labour Force, February 1979	71-001	55¢/\$5.50	Motion Picture Theatres and Film Distributors, 1977	63-207	70¢
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>					
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables, December 1978	32-011	30¢/\$3	Wholesale Trade, January 1979	63-008	15¢/\$1.50
Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing, Fourth Quarter 1978	31-003	\$1.40/\$5.60	<b>POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS</b>		
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, November 1978	26-006	30¢/\$3	Population: Revised Annual Estimates of Population, by Sex and Age for Canada and the Provinces, 1971-1976	91-518	\$1.05
Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers, January 1979	43-001	15¢/\$1.50	Quarterly Estimates of Population for Canada and the Provinces, January 1979	91-001	35¢/\$1.40
			<b>PUBLIC FINANCE</b>		
			Provincial Government Finance, Revenue and Expenditure, 1976, Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1977	68-207	\$2.10
			<b>TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
			Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports, Second Quarter 1978	51-005	\$1.75/\$7
			Oil Pipe Line Transport, December 1978	55-001	30¢/\$3
			Shipping Report, Part V, Origin and Destination for Selected Commodities, 1977	54-207	\$1.05
			<b>SERVICE BULLETIN</b>		
			Railway Transport — Vol. 9, No. 1, Railway Carloadings, January 1979	52-004	/ \$1.40