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The Consumer Price Index

The All-items Consumer Price Index for Canada (1971=100) increased by 1.2% from a level of 184.4 in February to 186.6 in March. As a result, the 12-month rise between March 1978 and March 1979 stood at 9.2%, unchanged from the increase observed in the previous 12-month period. Higher food prices were again a significant factor in the monthly CPI rise, having been responsible for about one-half of the increase. Higher housing charges and increased prices for clothing also had a noticeable impact. Food prices advanced by 2.5% between February and March, while the index for all items excluding food rose by 0.8%.

Between February and March, consumer prices rose in all 15 cities for which CPIs are produced. Advances ranged from 0.8% registered in both Winnipeg and Regina to 1.4% observed in Saint John. In 11 of the 15 cilies, consumer prices rose by 1.0% or more, with food prices increasing in excess of 20% in all cities except Vancouver, where a 1.8% rise was observed.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the CPI advanced by 1.3% between February and March: this comprised a 2.6% increase in the food index and a 0.9% increase in the index for all items excluding food.

For further information, order the March 1979 issue of The Consumer Price Index (62-001, 40¢/\$4).

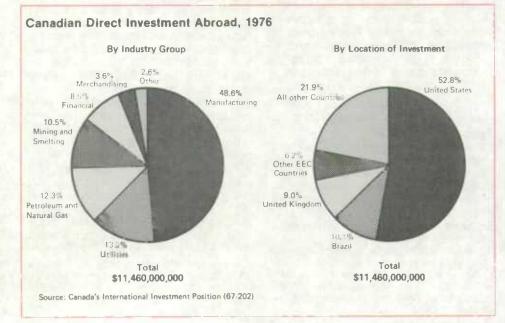
Canadian Direct Investment Abroad

Canadian direct investment abroad increased by \$899 million or 9% to \$11,460 million at the end of 1976. Net direct investment capital outflows abroad as recorded in the balance of payments accounted for some \$605 million of the growth, a decrease of about one-third from the outflow recorded in 1975. Retained earnings and other factors, such as revaluations, exchange rate fluctuations. the difference between transaction values and the underlying book values of investments, etc., accounted for the balance of the increase.

Developed countries with \$8,714 million accounted for 76% of total direct investment abroad at the end of 1976. At \$6,052 million, direct investment in the United States represented 53% of the total.

For further information, contact P. Massad (613-996-2545), Balance of Payments Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z8.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS		hange Year Ago
EMPLOYMENT, INCOMEAverage Weekly Earnings (\$)Jan.*276.25pLabour Income (\$ million)Jan.11,182.8pPersons with Jobs (million)Mar.*9.96UnemployedMar.*976,000	269.32p 11,249.1r 9.86 954,000	8.2 10.4 4.1 -5.3
INVENTORIES Department Store (\$ million) Jan.* 1,980.6 Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million) Jan.* 21,150.6p Wholesale (\$ million) Feb.* 9,603.7 ORDERS	1,930.6 20,746.0r 9,143.1	24.5 11.9 23.4
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million) Jan.* / 11,884.5p Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million) Jan.* 13,874.1p PRICES	11,540.1r 13,509.9r	25.7 30.9
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	184.4 202.6 201.9 203.2p	9.2 9.5 10.2 12.5
CONSTRUCTION Building Permits (\$ million)	Year-to 13,138.7 18,036	5.8 -32.5
ENERGY Coal Production (thousand metric tonnes) Jan.* 2 879.2 Electricity Generation (terawatt hours) Jan. 34.8 Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.) Dec. 356.1 Petroleum Refining (million barrels) Jan.* 60.8 FORFIGN TRADE	2 879.2 34.8 3,514.6 60.8	15.6 4.5 -2.8 6.8
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	9,438p 9,221p	25.2 31.0
Steel (ingots — thousand tons) Feb. 1,429.0	2,947.9	14.8
SALES Department Store Sales (\$ million) Jan. 482.8p Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million) Jan.* 11.520.3p New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million) Feb.* 796.9 Retail Sales (\$ million) Feb.* 5,056.8p Wholesale Sales (\$ million) Feb.* 5,400.3p Statistics are not seasonally adjusted. p - preliminary. r - revised.	482.8p 11,520.3p 1,471.9 10,064.0p 10,661.4p	13.1 28.7 19.1 13.5 23.7



Canada Year Book 1978-79

The Canada Year Book, a publication that draws on a wide variety of sources to provide an in-depth review of economic, social and political developments in Canada, is available now in the 1978-79 edition. Material for the book comes from government departments and agencies at the federal, provincial and territorial levels and from private organizations as well to make this book a valuable and unique reference work giving facts and figures on virtually every facet of life in Canada.

Budgetary pressures arising from rising prices and federal government initiatives to effect general spending reductions have forced Statistics Canada to conclude that, henceforth, the *Canada Year Book* will be published every second year rather than annually. Every effort is being made to ensure that, with the cooperation of contributors, each issue will provide a complete picture of the Canadian scene. The 1978-79 issue is available in Canada at \$15.00, in other countries at \$18.00 (catalogue 11-202E).

Canada's Elderly

Canada's Elderly (catalogue 98-800E, \$1.25 in Canada, \$1.50 in other countries) is the first of a unique series based on the 1976 Census and other relevant Statistics Canada data. The publication is produced in a popular journalistic style, with art work, captions, simple graphs and summary tables for easy and attractive reading.

Canada's Elderly highlights some of the following facts about our aging population: declining fertility trends mainly account for the growing proportion of elderly; most of the elderly live in family settings but many elderly women live alone; almost half of all persons living in collective dwellings are elderly; Prince Edward Island has the highest proportion of elderly to its population; it is estimated that by 2001 the proportion of elderly may reach between 11% and 13%.

Telephone Statistics

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported revenues of \$393.8 million in February, up 20.3% from a year earlier. Operating expenses rose 16.5% to \$263.9 million. Net operating revenue at \$129.9 million showed an increase of 28.9% over February 1978. Telephone toll messages increased 11.6% to 86.4 million.

For further information, order the February 1979 issue of Telephone Statistics (56-002, \$1.50 a year), or contact Ralph Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 076.

Retail Trade

Seasonally-adjusted retail sales for February were \$6,248.2 million, an increase of 3.2% from the \$6,053.2 million recorded in lanuary.

Total retail trade without seasonal adjustment reached \$5,056.8 million, an increase of 12.7% over February 1978. Sales rose in 25 of the 28 trade groups with the largest gains reported by automotive parts and accessories stores (22.8%), used car dealers (18.6%) and jewellery stores (18.6%). The only decreases were in general merchandise stores (-11.5%) and sporting goods and accessories stores (-1.3%). All provinces reported increased sales over February 1978, ranging from 19.6% for Saskatchewan to 8.8% for both Ontario and British Columbia. Montreal sales rose 13.5%; Toronto, 12.4%; Winnipeg, 6.2%; and Vancouver, 11.8%.

Revised total retail trade, unadjusted for seasonal influences, for January 1979 was \$5,007.2 million, up 14.3% from January

For further information, order the February 1979 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.

Department Store Sales

February sales totalled \$449.2 million. Increased 4.6% from a year earlier, sales were up in all regions but Alberta and British Columbia.

Department store sales by regions, with percentage changes from 1978 in brackets:

Ontario, \$161.1 million (5.1%)

• Québec, \$86.0 million (15.1%)

British Columbia, \$76.6 million (-1.8%)

Alberta, \$64.3 million (-0.4%)

• Atlantic provinces, \$26.1 million (6.5%)

• Manitoba, \$23.2 million (0.1%)

Saskatchewan, \$12.0 million (6.2%).

For further information, order the February 1979 issue of Department Store Sales by Regions (63-004, \$1.50 a year).

Farm Cash Receipts

Preliminary estimates indicate that during the January to February period of 1979 farmers' total cash receipts from farming operations in all provinces except Newfoundland totalled \$2,255.0 million, up 10.1% from the \$2,048.0 million realized during the same period of 1978.

Provincial totals for the latest period were as follows, with 1978 figures in brackets: Saskatchewan \$578.7 million (\$602.03 million); Ontario \$574.9 million (\$495.4 million); Alberta \$496.4 million (\$445.0 million); Quebec \$268.8 million (\$210.9 million); Manitoba \$186.6 million (\$169.5 million); British Columbia \$80.2 million (\$71.3 million); Nova Scotia \$25.1 million (\$20.9 million); New Brunswick \$22.3 million (\$16.5 million); and Prince Edward Island \$22.0 million (\$16.5 million).

For further information, order the February 1979 issue of Farm Cash Receipts (21-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact Peter Lys (613-995-4895), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

The Labour Force

Employment showed a sizeable increase in March while unemployment increased marginally, but Canada's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 7.9%, unchanged from February. The seasonally-adjusted participation rate increased to 63.3% in March from 63.2% in the preceding month. The employment/population ratio moved up to 58.4% from 58.2%.

Last month, the seasonally-adjusted employment level at 10,271,000 was up by 38,000 from February. The level increased by 19,000 for men 25 and over, by 6,000 for women 25 and over and by 16,000 for women 15 to 24. For men 15-24 the level declined by 3,000.

Unemployment, seasonally adjusted, totalled 876,000, up by 4,000 from February. The level increased by 4,000 for women 25 and over, while it declined by 3,000 for women 15 to 24. For men of both age groups, there was little change.

Seasonally-adjusted March unemployment rates for the provinces, with February rates in brackets: Newfoundland 17.6% (17.1%); Prince Edward Island 12.2% (10.8%); Nova Scotia 11.0% (10.5%); New Brunswick 12.1% (11.6%); Quebec 10.6% (10.2%); Ontario 6.7% (6.6%); Manitoba 5.2% (5.6%); Saskatchewan 4.2% (4.7%); Alberta 3.7% (4.3%); and British Columbia 8.0% (8.5%).

Without seasonal adjustment, the Marchlabour force was 10,932,000 with 9,956,000 employed and 976,000 unemployed for an unemployment rate of 8.9%. In February, the labour force was 10,812,000 with 9,857,000 employed and 954,000 unemployed for a rate of 8.8%. In March 1978, the labour force numbered 10,593,000 with 9,562,000 employed and 1,031,000 unemployed for a rate of 9,7%.

For further information, order the March 1979 issue of The Labour Force (71-001, 55¢/\$5.50).

International Travel

February saw the trend continued of a yearover-year reduction in the number of Canadian residents returning from international travel.

Preliminary statistics, February from February 1978: 1.3 million United States visitors entered, down 3.3%; residents returning from the U.S., 2.0 million, down 11.8%; visitors entering from countries other than the U.S., 40,800, up 12.5%; and Canadian travellers returning from those countries, 142,100, down 4.0%.

Year-to-date: 2.4 million U.S. visitors entered, up 1.5% from a year earlier; residents returning from the U.S. decreased 7.7% to 4.1 million; visitors from the other countries, 83,600, up 9.3%; and residents returning from those countries, 333,400, down 1.3%.

For further information, order the February 1979 issue of International Travel — Advance Information (66-002, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact Mike Valiquette (613-995-0847), International Travel Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 076.

New Motor Vehicle Sales

New motor vehicles sold in February rose 2.8% to 99,071 from 1978. Automobiles made in the United States and Canada rose 8.2% to 62,535 and Canadian and U.S. commercial vehicles 11.6% to 27,972.

Automobiles from overseas fell 37.0% to 7.945 from 1978 and overseas-made commercial vehicles fell 31.2% to 61.6. Value of the cars felt 16.6% to \$56.3 million and the commercial vehicles decreased 14.5% to \$4.2 million. Value of U.S. and Canadian cars sold rose 22.8% to \$458.3 million: commercial vehicles rose 29.5% to \$278.1 million.

Sales value of all vehicles increased 20.7% to \$796.9 million, including 224 coaches and buses valued at \$6.4 million. Seasonally-adjusted sales of automobiles manufactured in Canada and the U.S. rose 9.3% from January to 74,259 and those of cars from overseas decreased 12.9% to 10,647. Seasonally-adjusted sales of all commercial vehicles rose 9.1% to 32,966.

For two months of 1979 sales reached 187,525 units (180,740 in 1978), value \$1,471.9 million, up 19.1% from 1978.

For further information, see the February 1979 issue of New Motor Vehicle Sales (63-007, 30¢/\$3), or contact M. Kwilecki (613-996-9304), Retail Trade Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Inventories/Shipments/Orders

Manufacturers' shipments in January were stimated at \$11,520.3 million, up 2.8% rom revised December's \$11,209.9 million. Seasonally-adjusted shipments rose 0.6% to \$12,179.3 million from revised December's \$12,102.4 million. Durable goods industries' shipments decreased 1.5% to \$5,577.5 million from \$5,660.2 million and non-durable goods shipments increased 2.5% to \$6,601.8 million from \$6,442.2 million.

New orders in all manufacturing industries, seasonally adjusted, decreased 1.3% to \$12,310.4 million from \$12,470.3 million. New orders in durable goods industries fell 5.6% to \$5,644.1 million from \$5,978.7 million and increased 2.7% to \$6,666.3 million from \$6,492.6 million in non-durable goods industries.

For further information, order the January 1979 issue of Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries (31-001, 55¢/\$5.50).

Help-wanted Index

In the first quarter of 1979 the seasonallyadjusted help-wanted index (1969=100) at 179 declined by 4% from the previous quarter. The index rose in Ontario by 6% but propped in all other regions with declines angung 3 from 3% to 12%.

Compared with the first quarter of 1978, the over-all index was up by 13%. Increases were recorded for all regions except Quebec where a 9% drop was reported.

For lurther information, contact George Fincham (613-995-8445), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Unemployment insurance beneficiaries in the week of January 7 reached 932,000, up 20% from December. About the same rate of increase was noted between December 1977 and January 1978. Compared with January 1978, the number of beneficiaries was 8% lower.

Benefits paid in January amounted to \$526 million, an increase of 61% from December. A rise of 64% in the number of weeks of benefit paid was partly offset by a small drop in the average weekly benefit. Claimants applying for benefits in January numbered 308,000, up 12% from December and 3% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the January 1979 issue of the Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act (73-001, 40¢/\$4), or contact George Fincham (613-992-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Industry Selling Price Index

The Industry Selling Price Index for manufacturing rose 1.2% to 205.7 in February from revised January's 203.2 and 12.5% from a year earlier's 182.8. (This twelvemonth increase was the largest since May 1975 when the year-to-year change was 12.6%. February's gain follows a 2.2% increase in January over December.)

Major groups contributing most to the January to February 1979 increase also had the most effect over the February 1978 to February 1979 period, with the percentage changes: 15.0% for food and beverage industries, 18.1% for primary metal industries, 16.7% for paper and allied industries, 17.0% for wood industries and 12.1% for metal fabricating industries.

For further information, contact the Information Unit, Industrial Prices (613-995-5738), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

Trusteed Pension Funds

Fourth quarter 1978 total assets of trusteed pension funds: \$34.9 billion at book value as of December 31, 1978, up \$5.2 billion from a year earlier.

For further information, order the 4th Quarter 1978 issue of Quarterly Estimates of Trusteed Pension Funds (74-001, 35¢/\$1.40), or contact Earl Hanes (613-995-6918), Pensions Section, Labour Division.

Traveller Accommodation, 1977

Total receipts reported by 17,378 traveller accommodation businesses in Canada for 1977 amounted to \$3,294.2 million. Included in the total were hotels which numbered 5,293 with reported receipts of \$2,681.1 million, and motels (4,168) with receipts of \$387.3 million. The remaining \$225.8 million was accounted for by 7,917 other types of traveller accommodation firms (tourist homes, tourist courts and cabins, outfitters and tent and trailer campgrounds).

For further information, order Traveller Accommodation Statistics, 1977 (63-204, \$1.05), or contact Mrs. R. Bennett (613-996-9301), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Distribution, income/Wealth, 1977

According to the latest in a series of data on assets and debts of households collected as a supplement to a survey of consumer finances mean wealth of all family units reached \$46,273 and — in 1976 — their average income reached \$15,849.

The distribution of wealth and mean wealth varied considerably according to family income group.

Family units with incomes under \$3,000 had a mean wealth of \$16,657 with 30% holding wealth of less than \$1,000.

Family units with incomes \$35,000 and over had a mean wealth of \$205,859 with 31.1% reporting wealth of \$150,000 and over.

The composition of wealth at the national level indicates that the value of owner-occupied homes accounts for 47.9% of total asset holdings. Assets held in the form of equity in business/professional interests constitute 19.3%.

Only one-fifth of total asset holdings consist of liquid and other financial assets.

Composition of wealth also varies with size of family income.

Mortgage debt on a home is the biggest financial liability.

Expressed as a percentage proportion of total asset holdings, this liability amounts to 10.8% at the national level against 18.9% for family units in the \$20,000-\$24,999 income group.

Of all family units, 59.6% own their homes and the average market value of an owner-occupied home is estimated at \$43,843.

Of all home-owners, 54% have a mortgage on the home and their average mortgage indebtedness is \$18,285.

For data on the distribution and composition of wealth of families by their selected socio-demographic characteristics, order The Distribution of Income and Wealth in Canada, 1977, Catalogue no. 13-570, scheduled for release in the fall of 1979. Inquiries, meanwhile, should be directed to the Data Dissemination Section (613-992-4742), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 076.

Consolidated Government Finance, 1976

Consolidated revenue for all levels of government for the fiscal year ending nearest to December 31, 1976 totalled \$75,749 million, up \$9,458 million (14.3%) from 1975. Tax revenue of \$60,440 million showed an increase of \$7,255 million (13.6%) and non-tax revenue at \$15,310 rose \$2,204 million (16.8%).

Consolidated expenditure: \$80,580 million up \$8,770 million (12.2%). Largest expenditures: social services \$18,309 million (22.7% of the total), education \$12,190 million (15.1%) and health \$10,140 million (12.6%). In 1967 by comparison, these functions shared 18.4%, 18.6 and 10.5% of total consolidated government expenditure.

For further information, contact G. Lyttle (613-995-9894), Research and Consolidation Section, Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

These publications released April 5 — 19

These publications released	April	5 — 19
	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE		
Farm Cash Receipts, January 1979 Field Crop Reporting Series, No. 2 —	21-001	30¢/\$3
March Intentions of Principal Field Crop Area, Canada, April 6, 1979 Grains and Oilseeds Review,	22-002E	\$ 5.60 series
February 1979	22-007	40¢/\$4
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments,		
Fourth Quarter 1978	67-001	\$1.05/\$4.20
Security Transactions with Non- residents, December 1978	67-002	40¢/\$4
CENSUS		
Agriculture: Evaluation of Data Quality, 1976 Census of Canada	96-872	\$2.25
Canada's Elderly, 1976 Census of Canada	98-800E	\$1.25
Canadian Households and Families,		
by Sylvia T. Wargon Provincial Census Tracts: Reference	99-753E	\$2.10
Maps — Western Provinces and the Territories, 1976 Census of Canada	95-857	\$3
CONSTRUCTION Building Permits, December 1978 Private and Public Investment in	64-001	70¢/\$7
Canada, Outlook 1979	61-205	\$1.05
SERVICE BULLETIN Construction Statistics — Vol. 2, No. 2, Quarterly Investment in Housing, 1978	64-003	/\$1 40
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation — A Statistical Digest, 1976 and 1977	66-202	\$3.50
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EXTERNAL TRADE Exports by Commodities, January 1979	65-004	80¢/ \$ 8
GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Fourth Quarter 1978	13-001	\$1.40/\$5.60
HEALTH Mental Health Statistics: Volume I — Institutional Admissions and Separa-		
tions, 1976 Vital Statistics, October-December 1978	83-204 84-001	\$3.50 35¢/\$1.40
INFORMATION Canada Year Book, 1978-79	11-202E	\$15
LABOUR Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics, December 1978	73-001-p	N/C
LABOUR FORCE SURVEY The Labour Force, March 1979	71-001	55¢/ \$ 5.50
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY		
INDUSTRIES Abrasives Manufacturers, 1977	44-202	70¢
Aircraft and Aircraft Parts Manufacturers, 1977	42-203	70¢



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	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year	(
Apparent Domestic Availability of			
Selected Manufactured Products, 1975	31-529	\$2.10	
Battery Manufacturers, 1977	43-208	70¢	
Canned and Frozen Fruits and			
Vegetables, January 1979	32-011	30¢/\$3	
Cement, February 1979	44-001	15¢/\$1.50	
Cement Manufacturers, 1977	44-204	70¢	
Clay Products Manufacturers			
(From Domestic Clays), 1977	44-215	70¢	
Cotton Yarn and Cloth Mills, 1977	34-205	70¢	
Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers,	43-001	15¢/\$1.50	
February 1979 Domestic Washing Machines and	43-001	134/\$1.30	
Clothes Dryers, February 1979	43-002	15¢/\$1.50	
Hardboard, February 1979	36-001	15¢/\$1.50	
Leather Tanneries, 1977	33-202	70¢	
Lime Manufacturers, 1977	44-209	70¢	
Manufacturers of Electric Wire and			
Cable, 1977	43-209	70¢	
Manufacturers of Household Radio and	10.000	***	
Television Receivers, 1977	43-205	70¢	
Manufacturers of Miscellaneous Electrical Products, 1977	43-210	70¢	
Miscellaneous Vehicle Manufacturers,	43-210	700	
1977	42-212	70¢	
Quarterly Shipments of Office			
Furniture Products, Quarter Ended			
December 31, 1978	35-006	35¢/\$1.40	
Refractories Manufacturers, 1977	44-214	70¢	
Rigid Insulating Board, February 1979	36-002	15\$/\$1.50	
Shoe Factories and Boot and Shoe	00.000	704	
Findings Manufacturers, 1977 Specified Chemicals, February 1979	33-203 46-002	15¢/\$1.50	
Stone Products Manufacturers, 1977	44-213	701	A
The Sugar Situation, February 1979	32-013	150/\$1.50	
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES			
Department Store Sales by Regions,			
February 1979	63-004	/\$1.50	
Department Stores in Canada,	63-530	\$2.10	
1923-1976 Restaurant Statistics, February 1979	63-011	15¢/\$1.50	
Retail Trade, January 1979	63-005	55¢/\$5.50	
Trotal Trade, dansary 10.0			
PRICES			
Consumer Price Index, March 1979	62-001	40¢/\$4	
Index Numbers of Farm Prices			
of Agricultural Products,			
November 1978	62-003	15¢/\$1.50	
Industry Price Indexes, January 1979	62-011	55¢/\$5.50	
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS			
Radio Broadcasting, December 1978	56-003	15¢/\$1.50	
Railway Carloadings, February 1979	52-001	30¢/\$3	
Railway Operating Statistics,			
November 1978	52-003	30¢/\$3	
SERVICE BULLETINS			
Rallway Transport — Voi. 9			
No. 2, Railway Carloadings, February 1979; Railway			
Operating Statistics, November 1978	52-004	/\$1.40	1
Water Transport — Vol. 9,	NIT (STATE)	105211	A
No. 2, Cargo Loaded and Unloaded			
in Coastwise Shipping by Vessels of			9
Foreign Registries, October-	* W. Alexandra	10'5 00	
December 1978 and 1977	54-003	/\$1.40	