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Weekly Bulletin

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MAY 1979

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Statement of Trade

On a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, both exports and imports increased about 15% or \$710 million in March 1979 — to \$5.46 billion for exports, and \$5.31 billion for imports — following decreases of 7.2% and 3.5%, respectively, in February. The resulting March surplus of \$150 million was at about the same level as in February.

Exports increased less strongly than imports during the first quarter of 1979, resulting in a \$105 million decrease to \$653 million in the merchandise trade surplus from the fourth quarter 1978 surplus of \$758 million. The first quarter 1979 surplus was close to the level of the second and third quarter 1978 surpluses and half the exceptionally high surplus of \$1,336 million for the first quarter of 1978.

Increase in domestic exports in March (seasonally adjusted, on a customs basis) was the result of increases in the three main sections apart from end products. Fabricated material exports increased 13.4% or \$225 million to \$1,905 million. This was mainly due to a \$95 million recovery to \$290 million in pulp exports which were up nearly 50% following a 28% decline in February and an \$80 million recovery in lumber exports to \$315 million which were up by a third following a 31% decline in February. Crude material exports increased 18.5% or \$160 million to \$1,020 million. Metallic ore exports were up \$85 million or 31.5% to \$350 million. Crude petroleum exports increased 17% to \$205 million following a 20% increase in February and natural gas exports decreased 11% to \$195 million following a 7% increase in February. Food, feed, beverages and tobacco increased by nearly a third or \$120 million to \$495 million following a 17.5% decline in February. The main contribution to this increase was from wheat exports which more than doubled with an increase of \$100 million, to \$195 million. End products declined 1% to \$1,770 million in March following a 12% decline in February. Motor vehicle product exports fell 4.7% to \$1,060 million. Passenger car exports declined 15% or \$60 million to \$345 million. Truck and other motor vehicle exports fell 2% following a 3.5% increase in February and motor vehicle parts exports increased 3.5% following a 9% decrease in February.

Imports of crude materials were up 25%

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb.	278.19p	276.87p	7.5
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	11,241.6p	11,174.7p	9.4
Persons with Jobs (million)	Mar.	9.96	9.86	4.1
Unemployed	Mar.	976,000	954,000	-5.3

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Feb.	2,013.5	1,980.6	16.1
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.	21,945.1p	21,408.6r	13.5
Wholesale (\$ million)	Feb.	9,603.7	9,143.1	23.4

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	11,995.0p	12,103.0r	25.0
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	14,698.3p	14,180.9r	35.6

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Mar.	186.6	184.4	9.2
Non-residential Building Input (1971=100)	Mar.*	204.9	203.5	9.5
Residential Building Input (1971=100)	Mar.	205.2	203.3	10.4
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Mar.*	208.3p	207.0p	13.0

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Jan.	487.4p	487.4p	-9.4
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Mar.	8,134	26,170	-35.4

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand metric tonnes)	Jan.	2,879.2	2,879.2	15.6
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Feb.*	31.9	66.9	4.8
Natural Gas Production (thousand cubic metres)	Jan.	10,387.2	10,387.2	6.2
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Feb.	53.5p	114.3p	2.8

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Mar.*	5,291p	14,745p	26.3
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Mar.*	5,543p	14,785p	39.1

PRODUCTION

Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Mar.	1,438.0	4,297.3	8.4
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SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	448.7p	931.5p	8.8
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.	11,477.7p	22,909.6p	25.1
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar.*	1,097.5	2,569.4	24.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	5,056.8p	10,064.0p	13.5
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	5,400.3p	10,661.4p	23.7

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

Canadian Merchandise Exports and Imports*

Quarter-by-Quarter Movements



or \$135 million to \$690 million following a 19% increase in February. A substantial contributor was crude petroleum which increased 22.5% to \$390 million following a 60% increase in February. Fabricated materials increased 20% or \$165 million to \$990 million following a 6.5% decline in February. Most commodities in this section showed substantial increases following declines in February. End products more than recovered from a 5.3% decline in February with an 8.3% increase of \$250 million in March to \$3,250 million. The most outstanding increase for end products was a more than 50% increase of \$200 million in industrial machinery imports to \$580 million. Total automotive imports declined 3.3% to \$1,335 million following a 3.3% increase in February. Passenger cars and trucks were up about 10% in March following small changes in February and automotive parts were down 12% following a 5% increase in February. In March most other end products more than recovered from February declines. Food, feed, beverages and tobacco compensated for a 6% decline in February with a 10% increase in March. Fruits and vegetables increased just over 25% following a 14% decline in February.

Exports to the United States, seasonally adjusted on a customs basis, recovered the 6% February decline with a 6% increase in March of \$205 million to \$3,610 million. Exports to all other major principal trading areas increased 18% or more following declines in February, apart from "Other America" which was down 7% in March. Exports to Japan increased almost 50% or \$130 million to \$405 million, to "Other OECD countries" by 36% to \$145 million, to the United Kingdom by 27% to \$175 million, and to "Other EEC countries" by 18% to \$365 million.

Imports from the U.S. more than recovered the 5.5% February decline with a 9% increase of \$315 million to \$3,820 million in March 1979. Imports from Japan more than doubled with a \$200 million increase to \$350 million, following an 18% decline in February. Imports from the U.K. also more than doubled, increasing \$90 million to \$175 million. Imports from "Other EEC countries" increased 16% to \$330 million following a 10% decrease in February, and imports from "Other America" fell 11% to \$275 million after a nearly 100% increase in February.

For further information, order the March 1979 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, 40¢/\$4).

Local Government Finance

Local government revenues rose to an estimated \$20.2 billion in 1978, up 9.6% over 1977, while expenditures rose 10.8% and exceeded \$21.8 billion.

Pending publication of *Local Government Finance*, Preliminary 1977 and Estimates 1978 (68-203), copies of the principal revenue and expenditure tables appearing in the publication are available upon request from Mr. G.A. Marr (613-995-9897), Chief, Local Government Section.

International Travel

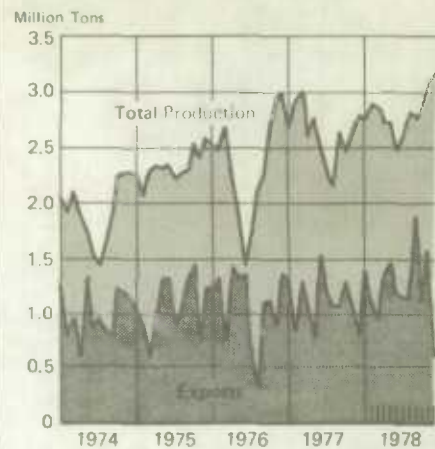
Previously noted decreases in the number of Canadian residents returning from the United States and other countries continued in March 1979 and resulted in a lower first quarter figure than in 1978. Visitors from the U.S. also declined in a year-over-year comparison, while visitors from all other countries continued to increase. (Year-over-year comparisons for March and the first quarter were affected by the Easter date change from March in 1978 to April in 1979, which in part explained the lower volume of traffic this year.)

Preliminary statistics for March showed that 1.7 million U.S. residents entered Canada, down 2.2% from March 1978. Canadian residents returning from the U.S. numbered 2.8 million, a decrease of 9.3% from last year. Visitors entering Canada from countries other than the U.S. totalled 61,000, up 4.8%, while Canadian residents returning from these countries decreased by 2.5% to 202,000.

On a year-to-date basis, 4.1 million U.S. visitors entered Canada, down fractionally from the 1978 first quarter, while Canadian residents returning from the U.S. numbered 6.9 million, lower by 8.3%. Visitors from other countries increased in the first quarter by 7.7% to 146,000, while the number of Canadian residents returning from these countries fell by 1.5% to 536,000.

For further information, order the March 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.

Coal Production, Canada and Exports



Source: Coal and Coke Statistics (45-002)

Telephone Statistics

Thirteen major telephone systems' revenues reached \$414.0 million in March, up 19.1% from 1978, with operating expenses \$284.3 million (+13.3%) and net operating revenue \$129.7 million (+34.4%). Telephone toll messages rose 12.6% to 97.5 million.

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

FARM NET INCOME ESTIMATES FOR 1976 AND 1977 REVISED

Revisions have been made to the preliminary estimates of farm expenses released in 1978 based on additional information from the Farm Expenditure and Agricultural Enumerative surveys for 1977.

Realized net income of farm operations in Canada amounted to an estimated \$3,410 million in 1977, down 11% from the revised 1976 level of \$3,790 million (excluding Newfoundland, Yukon and Northwest Territories).

Realized gross income — farm cash receipts plus income-in-kind — increased 1% in 1977 to \$11,200 million.

Total cash receipts for all provinces except Newfoundland reached an estimated \$10,100 million in 1977, up 1% from the 1976 revised estimate of \$10,000 million. Increased receipts from the sales of livestock and livestock products offset the decline in crop receipts. Farm cash receipts are a measure of the returns to agricultural producers from the sale of all farm products except those associated with direct inter-farm transfers. They also include wheat board participation payments, cash advances on farm-stored grains, deferred grain receipts in Western Canada and deficiency payments made by federal and provincial governments.

Farm operating expenses and depreciation charges increased in 1977 to \$7,830 million, 7.7% above the revised 1976 level of \$7,270 million. Notable increases in farm expenditures were recorded for taxes, fuel, repairs to farm buildings, electricity, telephone and interest payments on farm business debt. Operating and depreciation charges are a measure of all farm business costs incurred by farmers regardless of whether they are paid for in cash or accumulated as new debt but exclude payments for goods and services obtained directly from other farmers. Direct subsidy payments on input purchases are taken into account in order that estimates represent only net amounts paid by farmers. Depreciation charges are estimates reflecting the amount farmers would pay to accommodate the decline of machinery and farm buildings resulting from obsolescence and wear.

Total net income in 1977 was \$3,630 million. Total net income is realized gross income less farm expenses plus the value of any changes in farm inventories.

For further information, order the 1978 issue of *Farm Net Income* (21-202, 70¢), or contact Mel Jones (613-995-4915), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7. More detail regarding revisions of farm expenses on net income estimates for the years 1971 to 1977 is available on CANSIM.

Publishers Survey, 1976

The 1976 survey results incorporate responses from 167 publishers. One hundred and thirty-five or 81% of them were corporations. The corporations were mainly private profit oriented (101) but included public profit oriented (13) and non-profit oriented organizations (21). The remainder of the surveyed publishers (32) included sole proprietorships, partnerships, co-operatives and organizations not specified as to type. The 167 showed total sales of \$284.3 million of which \$164.9 million (58%) resulted from own book sales. The remaining \$119.4 million (42%) of sales resulted from exclusive agent activities. The average volume of sales was \$1.7 million.

A small number of large firms was responsible for a sizeable volume of the total reported sales. In fact, 36 firms (representing 22% of the responding publishers) reported 85% of the total volume of sales (\$241.2 million). Of these 36 firms, only 12 were under Canadian financial control. For this same group of 36 large firms, only two were French publishers. It is evident, then, that the majority of the book sales reported were attributable to foreign-controlled English publishers.

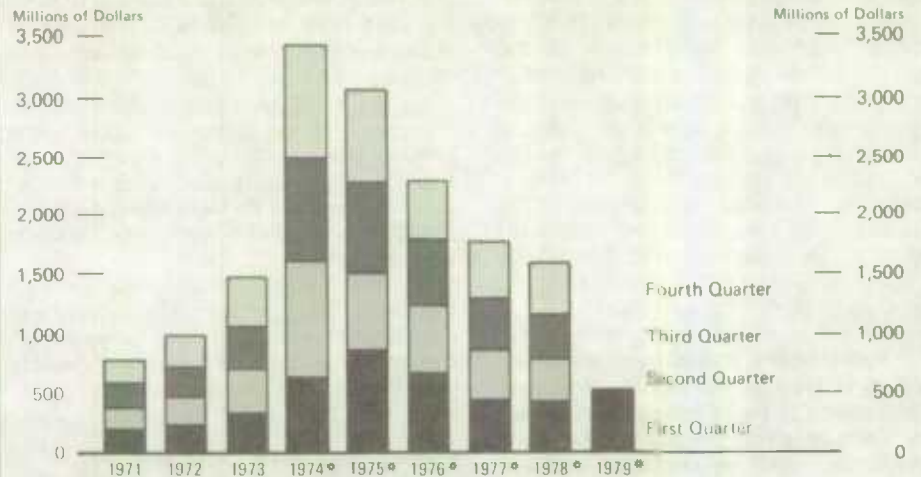
Of the 167 responding publishers, 91% were located in three provinces: Ontario, Québec and British Columbia. Ontario ranked first, with 92 (55%) of the 167 publishing houses... Québec with 45 publishing houses and British Columbia with 15 ranked second and third... Ontario ranked first in publishers' sales at 84.5% (\$240.2 million) of the surveyed revenue... 13.9% was attributable to Québec firms and 1.0% to firms in British Columbia. The remainder (0.6%) accrued to publishers in the remaining provinces.

In an examination of book publishers by language, 76% of the reporting publishers were English, 23% were French and 1% were classified as 'other language'. This indicated little change from the 1975 survey results of 72%, 25% and 3% respectively. English publishers reported \$263.0 million in sales. The noteworthy point here is that 57% of the sales by English language book publishers were made by foreign-controlled firms, largely those with United States control. French language publishers were less predominantly foreign controlled but sales by the single foreign-controlled firm were significant.

Though respondent English publishers with net sales of \$2 million or more formed 27% of the English publishers these firms earned 89% of the net book sales of the English publishers. For the French publishers reporting for this survey, firms with net sales of \$2 million or more were 5% of the respondents and showed 30% of the French publishers net sales. The surveyed publishers indicated that 2,916 new titles were published and 2,397 titles reprinted in 1976. Foreign-controlled firms were responsible for 30% and 34% of these titles.

Abstracted from Culture Statistics, Book Publishing: An Industry Analysis 1976 (87-601, \$1.05).

Canadian Exports of Crude Petroleum to the United States



Source: Exports by Commodities (65.004)

* Includes the export tax

School Children of Tomorrow — Statistically, An Unruly Element

Marked annual changes in the make up of the school-age population — a problem in the 1970s — will continue to give education planners headaches over the next 20 years.

A study — *The Class of 2001* — sponsored by Statistics Canada and the Canadian Teachers Federation is based on the 1976 Census data. It projects by province the size of Canada's elementary, secondary and post-secondary populations to the turn of the century. It also looks at the implications for enrolment, teacher hirings, finance and employment opportunities for young people. Recently, two factors, fertility and migration, changed the shape of the school population. The decline in the fertility rate — the number of births per 1,000 women of child-bearing age — which began around the early 1960s, was sharper than expected. This drop in births is producing even deeper waves in the young population than had been projected in the mid-seventies.

The elementary school age group will likely continue to fall until the early 1980s to 3.29 million from 3.69 million in 1976. The low point in the secondary school age group, 14-17, is expected to be 1.46 million two or three years later — around 1990, a 24% decrease from today.

Many Conditions Influence Students

As the younger age groups mature, the same fluctuations will affect the 18 to 24 group, about 19% of whom are enrolled in post-secondary institutions. This does not necessarily mean a corresponding rise and fall in enrolment as many social and economic conditions influence students' decisions to continue their education.

In some provinces the lower birthrate has been offset in part by migration. In others it has been accentuated. During 1977-78, Canada gained 34,700 migrants. They were not distributed equally among the provinces, however; Alberta gained 34,000, British Columbia 19,200, and Ontario 29,700.

Québec had a net loss of 45,000, Manitoba 4,600 and Newfoundland 3,000. As examples of changes in population movement that have taken place in a four year period, the net migration of 34,000 to Alberta in 1977-78 was more than three times that in 1973-74; Québec's net loss of 45,000 compares with a net loss of 2,000 in 1973-74.

Baby Boom Level Or Higher In West

Projections of the three school-age populations in the Atlantic Provinces, Québec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan suggest that the next increase will fall far short of the 1950 baby boom peak and the subsequent decline will be steeper than was expected based on the 1971 projections. These age groups in Alberta and British Columbia are expected to rise to the baby boom level — or higher — before the turn of the century.

Ontario is in a unique situation. If the fertility rate continues to remain low the school population will fall far short of the baby boom level. However, should the fertility rate increase in the near future the size of the school-age populations could approach the original baby boom peak.

The Class of 2001, a non-catalogued 143-page publication, gives four alternative projections of the school-age population, nationally and by province. The report includes charts and tables containing basic historical and projected data. It is available free of charge, in English or French, from the Education, Science and Culture Division, or from the Canadian Teachers' Federation, co-sponsor of the study. For further information, contact Z. Zsigmond or W. Clark (613-995-9685/92), Projections Section, Education, Science and Culture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

NEW SERVICE

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.

Publications Board Decisions

As a first step in developing any new publications to be released from Statistics Canada each proposal for a new publication must be reviewed and approved by a committee known as the Statistics Canada Publications Board.

Approval from this Board gives the sponsoring Division of Statistics Canada the authorization to proceed with the proposed new publication.

However, approval does not guarantee that the proposal will not later be cancelled or postponed.

The selection of recent Publications Board approvals listed below may be taken to indicate what are considered very likely prospects for future publications to be issued by Statistics Canada.

In addition to proposals for new publications, proposals for cancellations of or changes to existing Statistics Canada publications must be approved by the Publications Board.

New Publications

Transportation and Communications Division will be producing a new quarterly catalogued publication to be titled *Coastal Shipping Statistics*. It will replace the monthly publication, *Shipping Statistics* (Catalogue No. 54-002) which has been discontinued.

The new publication will provide detailed statistics on the coastwise shipping industry and will satisfy the basic requirements of government and industry for vessel information and cargo origin/destination statistics.

Labour Force Survey Division is planning the publication of an occasional non-catalogued document entitled *An Overview of the Data Processing Systems of the Canadian Labour Force Survey*. It is one in a series of research papers released by the division.

Justice Statistics Division will be publishing two new non-catalogued research papers entitled: *Divorce and Custody in Ontario: An Analysis of a Sample of Files for 1975 from the Office of the Official Guardian of Ontario* and *Civil Justice in Canada*.

Standards Division will be publishing two occasional non-catalogued publications entitled: *Postal Code — Geographical Classification Code Conversion File — User's Guide* and *Postal Delivery Area — Geographical Classification Code Conversion Table*.

Merchandising and Services Division plans to produce another occasional catalogued publication in its operating results series entitled, *Operating Results — Independent Retail Shoe Stores*.

Publications to be Discontinued

Population Estimates and Projections Division will discontinue the annual publication, *Canadian Citizenship Statistics* (Catalogue No. 91-205) after the publication of the 1978 data to be released in August of this year. Data for 1979 and subsequent years will be available from the Citizenship Branch of the Secretary of State Department.

Publications to be Reinstated

The annual publication, *Employment, Earnings and Hours, Seasonally-Adjusted Series* (Catalogue No. 72-206), last released in 1972, will be reinstated. The next issue will contain data for the period 1961 to 1971.

New Booklets Available For Statistics Users

User Advisory Services Division of Statistics Canada has recently released two new booklets which are directed at assisting statistics users in making use of the wide range of data and services available from the bureau. These are entitled *CANSIM Services in Canada* and *Making the Most of Microfiche From Statistics Canada*.

The *CANSIM* booklet describes the bureau's machine-readable database — identifying its principal features and how it can be accessed. The *Microfiche* booklet describes what data are currently available from the bureau on microfiche and some plans for material to be put on microfiche in the future.

Copies of both these booklets are available free of charge at any of the User Advisory Services offices across the country.

HOW TO ORDER Statistics Canada Publications

Send initial order to:
Publications Distribution,
Room 1405, Main Building,
Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

State:
Title of Report;
Month, Quarter or Year of Issue;
Catalogue Number.

Please enclose money order or
cheque made payable to the order of:
Receiver General for Canada.

Data On Juvenile Delinquency

The annual publication, *Juvenile Delinquents* (Catalogue No. 85-202) was last released in 1974 and contained data for 1973.

Data on juvenile delinquents for the period 1974 to 1977 which have not yet been released in publication form will soon be made available in another form. These data will be stored on CANSIM and will be available directly through the CANSIM retrieval process and also in the form of computer-produced printed reports which will be generated through CANSIM facilities. These annual reports will not be catalogued publications. They will include tables for Canada and the provinces which will contain statistics on the number of delinquencies processed through the courts with a breakdown by age, sex, offence and court decision.

Also included will be introductory text describing the scope of the survey and definitions of terms used in the tables.

A notice will appear in the *Statistics Canada Daily* when this information becomes available on CANSIM.

Agriculture Command On CANSIM

One of the new commands which is now available through Statistics Canada's CANSIM Interactive System is the Agriculture (AGR) Command. This command provides access to selected tables containing various agricultural statistics from the quarterly publication, *Report on Livestock Surveys: Pigs* (Catalogue No. 23-005), from the monthly publication, *Farm Cash Receipts* (Catalogue No. 21-001), and from the semi-annual publication, *Report on Livestock Surveys: Cattle, Sheep* (Catalogue No. 23-004). The data on pigs and cattle contained in the tables are also directly available from CANSIM matrices. The farm cash receipts tables contain derived figures which are calculated from data contained on the CANSIM Main Base.

These tables are stored so that they can be accessed interactively by APL and are updated as soon as data become available. It is planned to make more tables available through this command in the future.

Statistics Canada Daily on CANSIM

Commencing Monday, April 30th, the table of contents and publications released portions of the *Statistics Canada Daily* are available on CANSIM. Access is available in both English and French through the CANSIM interactive system (C.I.S.) command "DAILY". It is released each day at 1:00 p.m. (Ottawa time). Complete contents of the *Daily* are available in User Advisory Services reference centres across Canada the day following release.

Federal-Provincial Statistical Meetings

The sixth annual meeting of the *Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy* was held in Ottawa on February 7 and 8, 1979. The provinces and territories were represented by the heads of the provincial and territorial government statistical agencies. Among the major items discussed were: budget cuts at Statistics Canada; the report of the Council's work group to examine the structure of the federal-provincial statistical committees; Statistics Canada's policy on small-area data; and the status report on the Census of Population and Housing.

The thirtieth annual meeting of the *Federal-Provincial Committee on Agricultural Statistics* was held in Ottawa on March 13 and 14, 1979. All provinces and various agricultural associations were represented.

The *Federal-Provincial Committee on Data Development* met in Ottawa on March 27 and 28, 1979. Among the items on the agenda were the utilization of administrative records for statistical purposes, developments arising from recent federal, provincial or territorial legislation and the uses of the standard geographic code and the postal code.

The *Federal-Provincial Committee on Data Dissemination* met in Ottawa on March 28 and 29, 1979. Among the items discussed were the dissemination activities in Statistics Canada including CANSIM, federal clearinghouse progress reports and plans, a project on the availability of unpublished data, microdata release practices and provincial and territorial government dissemination activities.

Tourism And Recreational Behaviour Of Ontario Residents

The results of a 1973-74 Ontario recreational survey have been recently published by the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism in a report entitled *Tourism and Recreational Behaviour of Ontario Residents*.

The report consists of 8 volumes, each with individual title and price: Vol. I — Geographic Dimension, \$2.50; Vol. II — Demographics, \$3.50; Vol. III — Travel and Tourism, \$3.50; Vol. IV — Free Time, \$2.50; Vol. V — Preference and Constraints, \$3.50; Vol. VI — Special Groups, \$3.50; Vol. VII — Profiles of Participants, \$2.50; and Vol. VIII — User's Guide to Analysis, \$2.50.

For copies of these volumes or for further information, readers should contact Glenn Pincombe (613-965-5725), Tourism Marketing Branch, Ministry of Industry and Tourism, 5th Floor, Hearst Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario.

Personnel

Dr. Ivan Fellegi has recently returned to the bureau after a leave of absence and has been appointed Assistant Chief Statistician of Census and Household Surveys Field. He relieves Michael Francino who held the post in an acting capacity and who has now resumed his base position of Director-General, Policy, Planning, and Evaluation.

Statistics Canada Budget Cuts And The Business Community

Budget cuts at Statistics Canada have necessitated cancellations in some programs and reduction in others. Many of these programs have been in the area of Business Statistics which have traditionally served the information needs of the business community.

For example, well over a third of all the commodity surveys conducted by the Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division were cut. Opposition to these cancellations has been particularly strong as evidenced by the number of complaints that have been received and also the offers from business corporations and industry associations to finance the cost of reinstating particular surveys in whole or in part. It was these offers that resulted in the bureau successfully negotiating with Treasury Board to establish a suitable mechanism to accommodate external funding of some activities.

Among the key survey program cancellations and modifications which were most strongly opposed by representatives of the business community were:

- The Job Vacancy Survey
- Construction in Canada
- Farm Implement and Equipment Sales
- Construction Machinery and Equipment Sales.

The data produced through these programs have been particularly valuable to banks, newspapers, trade journals, investment groups, consultants, commissions, and various other types of groups conducting research in business or economics.

British Columbia Regional Index

The British Columbia Ministry of Economic Development has recently published the *British Columbia Regional Index* — the only publication of its kind providing an extensive and detailed economic description of the province on a regional basis.

General information is provided for each of the nine economic regions (which are made up from the 29 census divisions in British Columbia) as well as specific data on the areas within each region, and also a brief profile of the incorporated municipalities within each area. The nine economic regions have been subdivided into 73 smaller geographic units, termed areas for purposes of analysis.

The last issue of the Index was published in 1966 and was based on school district boundaries.

A copy of the publication can be obtained for \$10 through the Information Service Branch, Ministry of Economic Development, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4. Cheque or money order should be payable to the Minister of Finance of British Columbia.

New Price Index

Prices Division now produces the chemical and petrochemical plant price index (see the *Statistics Canada Daily* of March 29, 1979). This index became available with the March 1979 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (Catalogue No. 62-007).

The new index measures the price change for construction of a processing plant of the sort installed by chemical and petrochemical companies to process fluids. This index, which will be updated quarterly, is based in large part on the same pricing as the chemical and mineral process plant price index which the division has been publishing for several years. It can be used to update capital costs of plants and the fixed asset ledger but it is not intended to measure price change of all capital investment carried out by these industries because the pattern may be quite different from the balance of costs for a particular installation.

For further details on this new index, contact R.J. Lowe (613-995-5757), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

CANSEL: The Automated Data Base Search And Selection System For CANSIM

A new system termed CANSEL is being developed to assist CANSIM users in searching for, selecting, and retrieving series pertaining to specific subjects. Implementation of the system is planned for December of this year.

Due to the large number of available series, users sometimes encounter problems in trying to ascertain the availability of time series which may not be identified in the Table of Contents of the *Summary Reference Index*.

It is ironic, but as CANSIM has grown, it has become more and more difficult to locate related series. It was initially observed that the user would have to search for the data in various publications. Now, one has to search through nearly 300,000 series titles to conduct an analysis. CANSEL will attempt to answer the question, "Out of all the data available on CANSIM, what package of data is available with attributes defined by the user in terms of geographic location, activity classification, commodity detail, and so on?" The system will allow specification of the search topics on a terminal in a prompted fashion. The results of the search will be displayed, and an option to retrieve the data will also be available.

For further information on the CANSEL system or on CANSIM in general, contact Bill Klein (613-995-0575), CANSIM Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6 or any of the regional offices of the bureau's User Advisory Service.

Reliability of the Consumer Price Index Series

The question of the reliability of consumer price indexes is in some respects more complicated than that of many other statistically estimated magnitudes. This is due to both the complex nature of the phenomenon of price changes and the statistical problems of estimating them.

At first, it should be noted that the statistical accuracy of the CPI relates to its specific concept rather than to some absolute reality of consumer price change, taken as a whole. In fact, there is no direct method of measuring "the global price movement of commodities consumed (or purchased) by the urban population of Canada". Therefore, consumer price indexes, along with all other composite price indexes (i.e., indexes measuring globally the price movement of a range of commodities) are always founded on a more or less arbitrary concept. That of the CPI series is the concept of the constant basket. (See the *Infomat* supplement, Autumn 1978, on the Revision of the Consumer Price Index, 11-002E, N/C).

The main vehicles for release of information on consumer price indexes for Canada and for 15 index cities are the following two publications:

- The Consumer Price Index*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 62-001, monthly;
- Consumer Prices and Price Indexes*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 62-010, quarterly.

The Consumer Price Index is designed primarily to provide an analytical summary of the most recent month's price movements for both Canada and 15 index cities. The tabular part of this publication contains current and historical information on the

consumer price indexes for All-items and for the seven major components of the CPI. In the case of the Canada series only, it is supplemented by a set of selected detailed indexes as well as indexes reclassified according to special aggregations. Consumer price movements based on selected, seasonally-adjusted indexes are also provided. The publication for any given month is usually issued in the middle of the following month. Specific monthly release dates for any given year are made public in the November issue, prior to the given year, of *The Consumer Price Index*; they are also available upon request.

Consumer Prices and Price Indexes contains detailed, current and historical index series for both Canada and 15 index cities. The publication includes a much larger number of series than does *The Consumer Price Index*. It also contains a summary of current price movements in each of the three months in the given quarter, for Canada and 15 urban centres. It is usually issued in the second month following the given quarter. Users of consumer price index data also have databank access to index series stored and updated in CANSIM (Canadian Socio-Economic Information Management System). Current information is retrievable on the day of release of *The Consumer Price Index*. Users wishing to retrieve information from this source should contact 1-613-995-7406 or write: CANSIM Division, Marketing Field, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z8.

Abstracted from the Consumer Price Index, Concepts and Procedures (62-546, \$1.40).

Preliminary And Revised Data

A significant quantity of Statistics Canada data is released as estimates which are regularly subject to revision. Some of the major publications containing these sort of data are:

- National Income and Expenditure Accounts, System of National Accounts (13-001)
- System of National Accounts — National Income and Expenditure Accounts (13-201)
- Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries (31-001)
- Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry (Including the Index of Industrial Production), System of National Accounts, Domestic Product by Industry (61-005)
- Private and Public Investment in Canada, Outlook (61-205)
- Private and Public Investment in Canada, Mid-year Review (61-206)
- Corporation Financial Statistics (61-207)
- Industry Price Indexes (62-011)
- Retail Trade (63-005)
- The Labour Force (71-001)
- Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002).

For data which are subject to regular revision the initial release is described as preliminary and later releases are referred to as revised data. The term "estimate" is used by the bureau to designate clearly the lower level of precision which should be expected of these less exact but very necessary data.

Preliminary estimates are published to ensure that the best possible current data are available to the public. Later, revised estimates of these same data are published so that the public has access to important refinements which are only possible at a later point in time.

Refinements which could lead to revisions stem from new data becoming available, particularly data resulting from late survey returns. Also important as a source of revisions are improvements in methods and, in a few exceptional cases, definitional changes in concepts or modifications in the structure of larger statistical framework — such as the system of national accounts.

CANSIM ENSURES THAT DIRECTORIES, MANUAL, INDEX ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST RETRIEVALS

The following documentation is available as reference material to help CANSIM users retrieve data:

CANSIM Summary Reference Index (Catalogue 12-202)

Summarizes the contents of the CANSIM Main Base by subject and source publication;

Provides matrix numbers which form the key to the *CANSIM Main Base Series Directory*;

CANSIM Main Base Series Directory (Catalogue 12-203)

Provides detailed information on the series such as series title, start date, and source of data, etc.;

Available for \$45.00 per copy per year, including amendment service;

CANSIM Mini Base Series Directory (Catalogue 12-204)

Lists the contents of the CANSIM Mini Base;

For each series provides such information as title, start date, source, etc.;

Available for \$10.00 per copy per year including amendment service;

CANSIM Interactive System Users' Manual (Catalogue 12-553)

The CANSIM Interactive System allows terminal access to the CANSIM Main Base. This catalogue outlines the various commands and options available with the CANSIM Interactive System.

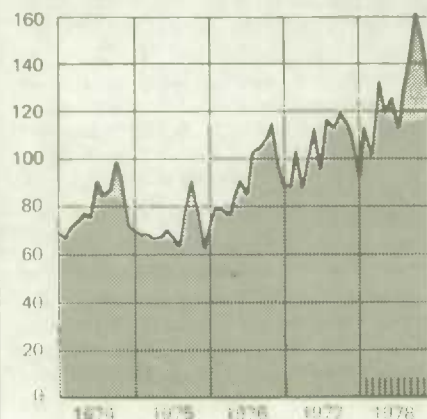
CANSIM Users' Manual for Data Retrieval and Manipulation (Catalogue 12-531)

Outlines the various retrieval formats and options available.

For further general information on the Canadian Socio-Economic Information Management System contact: CANSIM (613-995-7406), Statistics Canada, 23rd floor, R.H. Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa K1A 0Z8.

Canadian Imports of Communication and Related Equipment

Millions of Dollars



Source: Imports by Commodities (65-007)

Industry Selling Price Index

The Industry Selling Price Index for manufacturing rose 0.6% in March to 208.3 from 207.0 (revised) in February. The index was 13.0% above its March 1978 level of 184.4. The major groups having the most impact on the total index in March were food and beverage industries (+0.9%), primary metal industries (+1.3%), wood industries (+1.3%), leather industries (+6.4%) and chemical and chemical products industries (+0.5%).

In the food and beverage group, prices of slaughtering and meat processors, although rising less rapidly than in the previous two months, were up 1.9% due in part to increases of 1.7% for fresh and frozen beef, 7.0% for tallow and 6.1% for smoked hams, cooked and ready-to-serve; fresh and frozen pork decreased 0.9%. Other notable increases were reported by the brewery industry (3.7%), cane and beet sugar processors (2.6%), the fish products industry (0.8%), the dairy products industry (0.3%) and poultry processors (1.1%).

The primary metal group index rose largely on account of increases in smelting and refining (1.2%) and iron and steel mills (0.7%), which reflected price increases of 4.4% for carbon and alloy plate and 1.8% for hot rolled bars (all types except stainless and concrete reinforcing), 4.6% for aluminum rolling, casting and extruding (and 4.4% for metal rolling, casting and extruding, n.e.s.).

Rapid Raw Hide Price Rise

In the wood group prices rose 1.0% in sawmills and planing mills; hemlock rose by 5.9% and Douglas fir by 2.1% while planed spruce decreased by 1.7%. Veneer and plywood mills moved up 2.5% as Douglas fir plywood rose by 3.2% and spruce and pine plywood by 3.6%. An increase of 14.8% for western red cedar shingles (not further processed) moved the shingle mills index up by 8.2%.

An increase of 16.9% in leather tanneries and 3.5% in shoe factories reflected a rapid rise in raw hide prices.

The rise in the chemical group index was mainly due to increases for manufacturers of industrial chemicals — organic (0.9%), manufacturers of mixed fertilizers (4.9%), manufacturers of plastics and synthetic resins (1.5%), manufacturers of industrial chemicals — inorganic (0.7%) and paint and varnish manufacturers (1.1%).

The major groups which had the most impact on the movement of the total Industry Selling Price Index over the 12-month period from March 1978 to March 1979 were food and beverage industries (+15.2%), primary metal industries (+20.2%), paper and allied industries (+16.7%), wood industries (+19.0%) and metal fabricating industries (+12.8%).

For further information, order the March 1979 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, 15¢/\$5.50), or contact the Information Unit, *Industrial Prices* (613-995-5738), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

New Motor Vehicle Sales

New motor vehicles sold in March totalled 136,677 units, up 12.7% from a year earlier. This included 87,957 passenger cars (up 22.9%) and 37,014 commercial vehicles (up 16.9%) manufactured in Canada and the U.S., and 10,871 passenger cars (down 35.4%) and 835 commercial vehicles (down 30.7%) manufactured overseas.

Total sales value increased 32.1% to \$1,097.5 million. Canadian and U.S. passenger cars sold for \$643.2 million (up 39.2%) and commercial vehicles for \$370.5 million (up 38.3%). Sales of passenger cars from overseas decreased 17.1% to \$78.0 million and those of commercial vehicles decreased 11.8% to \$5.8 million. Included in total commercial vehicles sold were 279 units of coaches and buses valued at \$6.1 million.

Seasonally-adjusted March sales of passenger cars manufactured in Canada and the U.S. increased 10.3% from February to 81,933 units and those of passenger cars from overseas decreased 1.5% to 10,492 units. Similarly-adjusted sales of all commercial vehicles were up 4.6% to 34,473 units.

For the first three months of 1979, total sales reached 324,202 units (302,034 in 1978), with an accumulated value of \$2,569.4 million. This represented an increase of 24.3% in value over sales for January-March 1978.

For further information, order the March 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.

Farm Cash Receipts

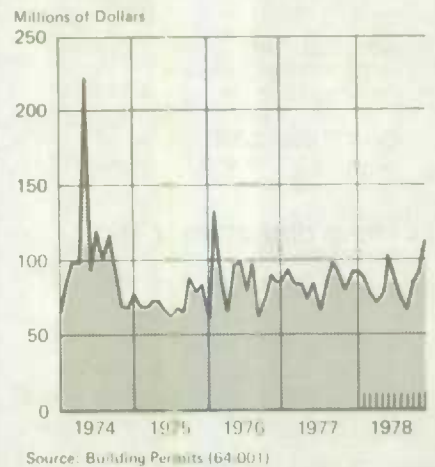
Preliminary estimates indicate that during the January to March period of 1979 farmers' total cash receipts from farming operations in all provinces except Newfoundland totalled \$3,396.0 million compared to the \$2,992.6 million realized during the same period of 1978. These estimates include: cash receipts from the sale of farm products; Canadian Wheat Board participation payments on previous years' grain crops; cash advances on farm-stored grains in Western Canada; and deficiency payments made by the Agricultural Stabilization Board. No deduction is made for the cost incurred by farmers in the production of the commodities sold.

Provincial totals for the latest period were as follows, with 1978 figures in brackets: Ontario, \$932.9 million (\$771.5 million); Saskatchewan, \$786.3 million (\$772.6 million); Alberta, \$757.9 million (\$672.5 million); Québec, \$414.9 million (\$329.3 million); Manitoba, \$279.9 million (\$247.6 million); British Columbia, \$119.0 million (\$117.3 million); Nova Scotia, \$37.6 million (\$31.6 million); Prince Edward Island, \$34.2 million (\$25.0 million); and New Brunswick, \$33.3 million (\$25.2 million).

For further information, order the January-March 1979 issue of *Farm Cash Receipts* (21-001, 30¢/\$3).

Industrial Building Permits, Canada

(Seasonally Adjusted)



Appointment

Expansion of one of the United Kingdom's top four banks into North America has led to the appointment of Tom Frost as the president and chief administrative officer of the National Bank of North America. Mr. Frost supervised the applications to the U.S. authorities that led to the National Westminster Bank's recent acquisition of NBNA. Previously, Mr. Frost was an assistant regional director in England's south east, having joined NatWest in 1950. U.S. legislation currently confines NBNA's activities to its 141 branches in New York State, but the parent company sees precedent-making amendments initiated within the U.S. Congress as eventually permitting it to expand NBNA considerably. The National Westminster Bank already possesses branches in major Canadian cities.

Department Store Sales

March sales totalled \$609.7 million. Increasing 13.6% from a year earlier, sales were up in all regions.

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

- Ontario, \$213.6 million (9.6%)
- Québec, \$125.1 million (29.3%)
- British Columbia, \$100.1 million (11.7%)
- Alberta, \$84.0 million (11.2%)
- Atlantic provinces, \$35.5 million (12.2%)
- Manitoba, \$33.7 million (5.1%)
- Saskatchewan, \$17.7 million (9.4%).

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

Wheat Milled

Wheat milled for flour in February 1979 amounted to 196 408 tonnes, 6% lower than the 208 381 tonnes milled in January 1979, and 4% less than the 203 564 tonnes milled in February a year ago.

Total wheat milled for flour during the first seven months of the crop year 1978-79 amounted to 1 607 078 tonnes.

For further information, order the February 1979 issue of *Grain Milling Statistics* (32-003, 30¢/\$3).



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These publications released May 4 — 9

	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE			Stocks of Frozen Meat Products,		
Grain Milling Statistics, February 1979	32-003	30¢/\$3	April 1979	32-012	30¢/\$3
CONSTRUCTION			Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables,		
Housing Starts and Completions, January 1979	64-002	40¢/\$4	April 1, 1979	32-010	30¢/\$3
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE			The Sugar Situation, March	32-013	15¢/\$1.50
Culture Statistics, Travel to Work, 1973-1977	87-502	\$1.05	SERVICE BULLETIN		
SERVICE BULLETIN			Metals — Vol. 6, No. 7, Grinding		
Science Statistics — Vol. 3, No. 4,			Balls, 1978	41-018	/\$2.80
Federal Government Activities in the			MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES		
Natural Sciences	13-003	/\$1.40	Department Store Sales by Regions,		
EXTERNAL TRADE			March 1979	63-004	15¢/\$1.50
Exports by Commodities, February 1979	65-004	80¢/\$8	New Motor Vehicle Sales,		
HEALTH			February 1979	63-007	30¢/\$3
Therapeutic Abortions, 1977	82-211	\$2.10	Retail Chain Stores, 1977	63-210	\$1.40
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			Retail Trade, February 1979	63-005	55¢/\$5.50
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables, Monthly, February 1979	32-011	30¢/\$3	PRICES		
Coal and Coke Statistics, February 1979	45-002	40¢/\$4	Construction Price Statistics,		
Electric Power Statistics, February 1979	57-001	30¢/\$3	March 1979	62-007	40¢/\$4
Hardboard, March 1979	36-001	15¢/\$1.50	Industry Price Indexes, February	62-011	55¢/\$5.50
Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, January 1979	31-001	55¢/\$5.50	PUBLIC FINANCE		
Iron Foundries, 1977	41-226	70¢	Federal Government Employment,		
Manufacturers of Plastics and Synthetic Resins, 1977	46-211	70¢	October-December 1978	72-004	\$1.05/\$4.20
Manufacturing Industries of Canada: Sub-provincial Areas, 1975	31-209	\$6	TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS		
Mineral Wools, March 1979	44-004	15¢/\$1.50	International Air Charter Statistics,		
Miscellaneous Metal Fabricating Industries, 1977	41-228	70¢	July-September 1978	31-003	\$1.05/\$4.20
Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories Manufacturers, 1977	42-210	70¢	Radio Broadcasting, January 1979	36-003	30¢/\$3
Production and Shipments of Floor Tiles, March 1979	47-001	15¢/\$1.50	Transcontinental and Regional Air		
Stocks of Dairy and Frozen Poultry Products, April 1979	32-009	30¢/\$3	Carrier Operations, November		
			1978	31-001	40¢/\$4
			Urban Transit, January 1979	53-003	15¢/\$1.50
			SERVICE BULLETINS		
			Aviation Statistics Centre — Vol. 11,		
			No. 4, Canadian Air Transport Industry,		
			Summary Statistics	51-004	/\$4.20
			Communications — Vol. 9, No. 1,		
			Telecommunication Statistics,		
			Fourth Quarter 1978	56-001	/\$1.40
			Water Transport — Vol. 9, No. 3,		
			Commodity Movement Statistics,		
			Preliminary	54-003	/\$1.40

User Advisory Services

When amplification of summaries would be helpful, additional information can often be obtained from the regional User Advisory Services staff of Statistics Canada or from its Central Inquiries Service, Ottawa (613-992-4734).

Toll free access to statistical information within the New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia region is available by direct dialing the User Advisory Services Halifax office, 1-800-565-7192. 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.

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