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Weekly Bulletin

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Employment, Earnings and Hours

Average weekly earnings in Canadian industry at \$278.19 in February were up 7.5% from \$258.85 a year earlier.

First estimates show that (unadjusted) average weekly earnings (by province) were highest in British Columbia (\$313.13), followed by Alberta (\$292.66), Ontario (\$277.10), Québec (\$273.84), Newfoundland (\$265.77), Saskatchewan (\$265.10), New Brunswick (\$252.02), Manitoba (\$250.17), Nova Scotia (\$236.34) and Prince Edward Island (\$206.02).

Average weekly earnings in February (by industry division) were as follows: mining, \$413.70; construction, \$397.43; forestry, \$366.39; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$329.63; manufacturing, \$302.85; finance, insurance and real estate, \$250.25; trade, \$209.85; and service, \$188.97.

Compared with February 1978, average hourly earnings were up 8.6% in mining, 7.3% in manufacturing and 5.8% in construction.

For further information, order the February 1979 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, 70¢/\$7), or contact R. Ouellette (613-992-5613), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Claimants qualifying for unemployment insurance benefits numbered 966,000 for the week ended February 17, up 4% from the previous month but 6% fewer than in February 1978.

Unemployment insurance benefits paid in February totalled \$428 million, a decrease of 19% from January and down 7% from a year earlier. The drop in payments resulted from a 15% decrease in the number of weeks of benefit paid along with a 4% decline in the average weekly benefit to \$108.09. (The latter figure reflects the reduction in the benefit rate to 60% of average weekly insurable earnings in 1979 from 66 2/3% in 1978.) Disbursements for the first two months of 1979 amounted to \$954 million, down 2% from the January-February 1978 period.

For further information, order the quarterly *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, \$1.06/\$4.20), or *Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001p), or contact George Fincham (613-995-8445), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

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)	Feb.	203.5	202.6	9.5
Residential Building Input (1971=100)	Mar.*	205.2	203.3	10.4
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.	205.7p	203.2p	12.5

CONSTRUCTION

			Year-to-date	
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)	Jan.	34.8	34.8	4.5
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)	Feb.	4,471p	9,438p	25.2
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Feb.	4,441p	9,221p	31.0

PRODUCTION

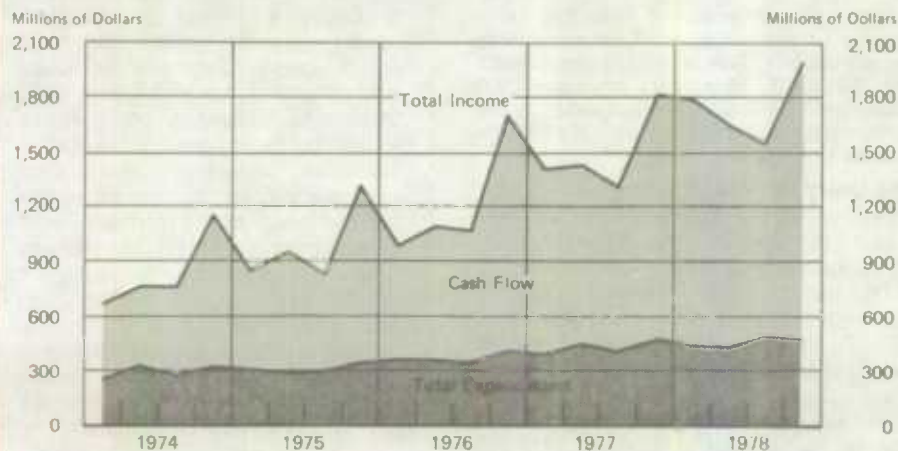
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Mar.	1,438.0	4,297.3	8.4
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SALES

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)	Feb.	796.9	1,471.9	19.1
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.

Quarterly Estimates of Income and Expenditures of Trusteed Pension Funds

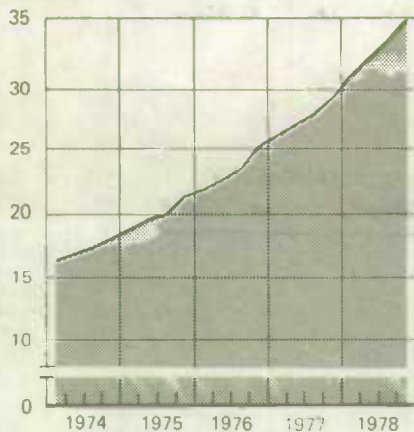


Source: Quarterly Estimates of Trusteed Pensions Funds (74-001)

Trusted Pension Funds

Quarterly Estimates of Assets Held

Billions of Dollars



Source: Quarterly Estimates of Trusted Pension Funds (74-001)

Radio Broadcasting

Gross national AM and FM radio air-time sales were \$4.4 million in January, a decrease of 12.0% from \$5.0 million in January 1978. Net national sales after deduction of agency and other commissions amounted to \$3.8 million, down 11.6% from \$4.3 million a year earlier.

Net local air-time sales were up 7.5% to \$15.7 million in January from \$14.6 million.

For further information, order the January 1979 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.

Telecommunication Statistics

Teleglobes Canada, Canadian National Telecommunications and Canadian Pacific (telecommunications branch) reported revenues of \$85.7 million for the fourth quarter of 1978, up 8.3% from the corresponding period in 1977. Operating expenses increased 4.5% to \$66.1 million. Net operating revenue at \$19.5 million advanced 23.4% from the fourth quarter of 1977.

For the year 1978, operating revenues totalled \$327.9 million, up 12.3% over 1977 while expenses increased 7.0% to \$265.6 million. Net operating revenue rose 42.1% to \$62.2 million.

For further information, order the fourth quarter 1978 issue of the *Communications Service Bulletin, Telecommunications Statistics* (56-001, \$1.40 a year), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

The Dairy Review

An estimated 442 977 kilolitres of milk were sold off farms for all purposes in February, an increase of 4.8% from February 1978.

This brought milk production during the two months of 1979 to an estimated 932 076 kilolitres, up 4.6% from the January-February 1978 period.

For further information, order the March 1979 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001, 40¢/\$4), or contact C.M. Riach (613-995-4858), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

New Publications

Off Farm Work by Farmers, by Ray D. Bollman (Catalogue No. 99-756E, \$2.80 in Canada, \$3.35 elsewhere).

Highlights

- One half the operators of Canadian farms with annual sales of \$50 or more participate in some off-farm work. Although the number of farms in 1976 declined to only half that of 1941 and although sizes of holdings doubled in the same period, the proportion of operators who work off their farms has remained relatively constant.
- On average, 58.3 days of off-farm work were reported in 1976, compared to 26.8 days in 1940.
- Earnings from off-farm work have risen to a level equal to 74 per cent of net income from farming in 1971, from 18% in 1940, and 36% in 1958.
- Over 36% of Canada's food production comes from farms whose operators participate in some off-farm work.
- Off-farm work tends to be concentrated among certain operator groups. Operators of forestry, fruit and vegetable and cattle enterprises have a higher tendency to participate in off-farm work. Those with wheat and field-crop enterprises participate less in such work.

Households and Families

Now available is the Census analytical study, *Canadian Households and Families*, by Sylvia T. Wargon (catalogue 99-753E, \$2.10).

The study examines at the Canada level some major features of the most recent patterns of change in the formation and demographic composition of households and families. Chapter 1 discusses the broad questions to which the study addresses itself, explains the census concepts underlying the statistics used, and summarizes the main conclusions and some of the social implications of the research results. Chapter 2 examines some major features of recent general changes in Canadian population, households and families. Recent trends in the formation, composition and characteristics of household and family heads and their members are treated in Chapters 3 (households) and 4 (families). The concluding chapter outlines the major findings in terms of their importance for the role of the family in Canada, and indicates avenues of further investigation.

Construction in Canada, 1977

The Canadian construction program for 1977 at a level of \$35,803.4 million exceeded the 1976 volume by \$2,672.2 million or 8.1%. (The construction total of \$33,131.2 million for 1976 increased 16.8% from \$28,376.3 million in 1975, which was in turn, up 14.9% from 1974.) The increase for 1977 is higher than the 7.9% that was anticipated last year for 1977 but amounted in terms of constant dollar volume to an increase of only 0.1%.

An analysis of the total value of work put in place in 1977 by the various industries reveals some significant variations from 1976. The mining sector showed the largest percentage increase (18.9%) in 1977 followed by manufacturing (16.6%) and agriculture and fishing (14.8%). The commercial services sector showed a significant decrease (36.7%), due primarily to the completion of the Olympic Games.

Expenditures in all provinces except Newfoundland and New Brunswick increased in 1977 with notable advances of 18.4% in Prince Edward Island, 17.8% in Alberta, 10.0% in Saskatchewan, and 8.5% in Manitoba. In Newfoundland and New Brunswick, expenditures dropped by 15.0% and 2.2%, respectively.

In 1977, new construction was up 7.1% while the repair portion showed an increase of 13.8%. The proportion of the complete program performed under contract during 1977 remained comparable to 1976 (81.8%). The value of engineering-type construction at 40.5% of the total estimated volume for 1977 was up 14.5% over 1976 while the building activity portion at 59.5% was up only 4.1% over the preceding year. The strength (in dollar volume) in the engineering group of structures was primarily due to projects classified under gas and oil facilities and electric power construction. As noted above, building construction rose by 4.1% with the largest dollar volume increases in residential buildings and industrial-type buildings such as factories, plants, mine and mill buildings, railway stations, etc.

For additional information concerning construction expenditures by sectors, provinces and by contract — own account breakdown, contact M. Hartley (613-995-8423), Construction Census Section, Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. The publication *Construction in Canada, 1977* (catalogue 64-201) is scheduled to be released in May.

Coal and Coke Statistics

Canadian coal production decreased 4.6% in February to 2 513 737 metric tonnes from 2 634 064 tonnes a year earlier. Landed imports rose 30.8% to 11.6% tonnes from 8 920 tonnes.

Coal production for the first two months of 1979 at 5 392 897 tonnes was up 5.2% from 5 124 833 tonnes in the January-February 1978 period.

For further information, contact D. Madsen (613-992-4021), Energy Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, or order the February issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics* (45-002, 40¢/\$4).

Housing Starts

New residential construction activity declined in the first quarter of 1979 with housing starts dropping 32.1% to 32,024 from 47,197 in the first quarter of 1978.

Housing starts (dwelling units) recorded in the latest quarter, with January-March 1978 figures in brackets: Alberta, 9,999 (12,225); Ontario, 6,967 (11,291); Québec, 5,479 (9,043); British Columbia, 4,436 (6,765); Saskatchewan, 2,432 (2,099); Manitoba, 1,257 (3,855); Nova Scotia, 658 (906); Newfoundland, 303 (209); New Brunswick, 263 (567); and Prince Edward Island, 230 (237).

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, housing starts in the first quarter of 1979 at an annual rate of 211,500 units were down from a rate of 299,000 units in the first quarter of 1978.

For further information, order the March 1979 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact J.P. Delisle (613-994-9527), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Import/Domestic Export Indexes

Import and export prices increased substantially in February, as the fixed-weight price indexes both increased more than 2% from their January levels. On a current-weighted basis the increases were 1%, or less.

Seasonally-adjusted import volume declined for the second month, bringing the index average for the first two months of 1979 to 167.2 compared with 168.1 for the fourth quarter of 1978. Export volume dropped sharply in February, with the result that the average index of 147.7 for the first two months was 2.6% lower than the fourth quarter 1978 level.

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

Electric Power Statistics

February net generation increased to 31.9 TWh from 30.3 TWh in 1978. Hydro generation increased 3.2%, thermal production 9.3%.

Year-to-date total generation: 66.9 TWh, up 4.8% on 1978.

For further information, order the February 1979 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, 30¢/\$3).

Business Conditions Survey

Canadian manufacturers reporting to the April Business Conditions Survey expressed more optimism about production for the second quarter of 1979 than they showed for the first quarter. Results show that 33% of the weighted response expects production to be higher from April through June than it was in the January to March period, whereas in the January survey only 26% felt this optimism about production. The proportion expecting production to be lower decreased to 13% from the previous quarter's 17%. (Management is asked to allow for normal seasonal conditions when responding.)

The level of new orders was reported to be rising by 40% of the weighted response and declining by 10%. In January, 37% indicated orders were rising and 9% that they were declining. The proportion of the response indicating a higher than normal backlog of unfilled orders declined slightly to 27% in April from 30% in January while those reporting a lower than normal backlog remained unchanged at 10% in both periods. In the same period of 1978, only 14% reported that the orders backlog was higher than normal and 19% that it was lower.

Finished product inventory was felt to be too high by 11% of the weighted response in April and too low by 13%. This is fairly similar to January's results when 9% indicated inventories were too high and 16% too low.

Shortages of raw materials and skilled labour were once again the two major causes of production difficulties, with 14% of the weighted response citing the former and 12% the latter.

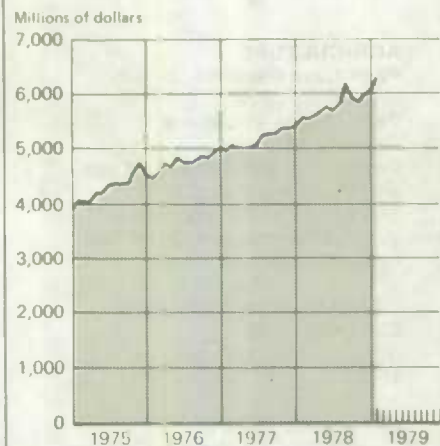
When classified by economic use or type of market served by the producer, the results show the largest quarter-to-quarter changes occurred in the non-durable consumer goods industries where optimism about production increased to 42% from 18% of the weighted response, and in the export-based industries where only 13% now feel finished product inventory is too low compared to 39% in January.

Response from the April survey represented more than 6,500 manufacturing establishments whose shipments accounted for about 53% of all shipments in these industries in 1976.

For further information, contact Brian Preston (613-996-7008), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Retail Trade

(Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Retail Trade (63-005)

Oil Pipeline Transport

Canadian oil pipe lines received 443 900 m3D of crude oil, condensate, pentanes plus and refined petroleum product in February, an increase of 11.2% from the 399 000 m3D received a year earlier. Receipts of domestic petroleum and products increased 14.3% to 398 300 m3D, while those of imported petroleum and products decreased 9.5% to 45 600 m3D.

For further information, order the February 1979 issue of *Oil Pipe Line Transport* (55-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact George Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

Crude petroleum production for January averaged 240 900 cubic metres a day (1,515,900 barrels/day), up 10.5% from 218 000 cubic metres/day (1,371,800 barrels/day) in January 1978.

Net new production of natural gas for the latest period averaged 335 100 thousand cubic metres/day (11,828,300 thousand cubic feet/day), up 6.2% from 315 500 thousand cubic metres/day (11,138,400 thousand cubic feet/day) in January 1978.

For further information, order the January 1979 issue of *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, 30¢/\$3), or contact George Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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AGRICULTURE			General Review of the Mineral Industries, 1976	26-201	\$1.40
Farm Cash Receipts, January to February 1979	21-001	30¢/\$3	Heating Equipment Manufacturers, 1977	41-225	70¢
Farm Wages in Canada, February 1979	21-002	35¢/\$1.40	Metal Rolling, Casting and Extruding, 1977	41-215	70¢
Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, January 1979	23-003	30¢/\$3	Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, March 1979	32-022	15¢/\$1.50
Stocks of Food Commodities in Cold Storage and Other Warehouses, 1978	32-217	70¢	Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, February 1979	41-011	30¢/\$3
CONSUMER INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, January 1979	35-002	30¢/\$3
Urban Family Expenditure, 1976	62-547	\$2.80	Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, February 1979	25-001	15¢/\$1.50
EXTERNAL TRADE			Railroad Rolling Stock Industry, 1977	42-211	70¢
Imports by Commodities, January 1979	65-007	80¢/\$8	Steel Pipe and Tube Mills, 1977	41-220	70¢
Summary of External Trade, February 1979	65-001	40¢/\$4	Wool Yarn and Cloth Mills, 1977	34-209	70¢
INDUSTRY PRODUCT			SERVICE BULLETIN		
Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry, January 1979	61-005	40¢/\$4	Fruit and Vegetable Preservation — Vol. 7, No. 9, Pack of Processed Plums, 1978	32-023	/ \$1.40
LABOUR			MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES		
Employment, Earnings and Hours, January 1979	72-002	70¢/\$7	Department Store Sales and Stocks, January 1979	63-002	40¢/\$4
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			Market Research Handbook, 1979	63-224	\$9
Agricultural Implement Industry, 1977	42-202	70¢	Wholesale Trade, February 1979	63-008	15¢/\$1.50
Boiler and Plate Works, 1977	41-223	70¢	POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS		
Construction Type Plywood, February 1979	35-001	30¢/\$3	International and Interprovincial Migration in Canada, 1977-78	31-208	\$1.05
Fabricated Structural Metal Industry, 1977	41-207	70¢	PRICES		
Factory Shipments of High Pressure Decorative Laminate Sheet, Quarter Ended March 1979	47-005	35¢/\$1.40	Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, December 1978	62-003	15¢/\$1.50
Felt and Fibre Processing Mills, 1977	34-219	70¢	PUBLIC FINANCE		
Flour and Breakfast Cereal Products Industry, 1977	32-225	70¢	Local Government Employment, October-December 1978	72-009	70¢/\$2.80

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).

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