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Weekly Bulletin

JULY 13 1979

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Industry Selling Price Index

The Industry Selling Price Index for manufacturing rose 0.7% to 213.3 in May from revised April's 211.9, 13.5% above a year earlier value of 188.0.

The food and beverage group index rose 0.7% from April to May. Among major contributors were breweries (up 7.4%), feed industry (up 3.9%) and dairy products industry (up 1.6%). A decline (0.6%) in the slaughtering and meat processors index was attributable mainly to decreases in fresh and frozen pork (2.2%), cooked and ready-to-serve smoked ham (6.8%), smoked sliced side bacon (3.7%) and fresh and frozen mutton and lamb (10.4%). Fresh and frozen beef prices increased 0.6%. The fish products industry index decreased 2.0%.

The 1.5% rise in the primary metal group index from April to May was due mainly to a 3.7% increase for smelting and refining. Primary metal rose 25.4% and iron and steel mills 14.2% from a year earlier.

The paper and allied industries group index rose 1.1%. Principal contributor: a 1.4% increase for pulp and paper mills that reflected a 1.1% rise for white newsprint in rolls and increases in all wood-pulp commodities. An increase of 19.8% from a year earlier in the heavily-weighted pulp and paper mills index accounted for most of the 17.8% rise in the paper and allied industries index.

The 1.1% increase in the chemical and chemical products group index was due largely to increases of 3.2% for manufacturers of industrial chemicals (organic), 2.9% for manufacturers of toilet preparations, 1.4% for manufacturers of plastics and synthetic resins and 1.1% for paint and varnish manufacturers.

In addition to the above, the Index was notably affected by: jewellery and silverware (up 3.9% from April to May and 30.4% from 1978), miscellaneous machinery and equipment (up 1.0%) and veneer and plywood mills (down 3.3%).

Impact on the Index of substantial price increases in the leather industries group (20.8% in past six months alone) was small because of low weight. Among leather industries, leather tanneries rose 84.7% from 1978 and shoe factories 17.7%.

For further information, order the May 1979 Issue of Industry Price Indexes (62-011, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact the Information Unit, Industrial Prices (613-995-5738 or 995-5739).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

EARNINGS, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Apr.	282.72p	280.76r	8.3
Labour Income (\$ million)	Apr.*	11,475.0p	11,379.1r	10.2
Persons with Jobs (million)	June*	10,626	10,363	3.5
Unemployed	June*	798,000	836,000	-10.5

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Apr.	2,270.1p	2,233.3p	11.9
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Apr.	22,599.4p	22,737.5r	15.5
Wholesale (\$ million)	Mar.	10,051.7p	9,603.7p	24.4

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Apr.	12,384.0p	13,584.6r	15.9
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Apr.	15,318.5p	15,103.5r	33.0

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	May	189.7	187.9	9.3
New House Price Index (1976=100)	May	109.3	108.0	3.4
Non-residential Building Material (1971=100)	Apr.	201.9	196.6	14.5
22-city Composite Wage, Building	Apr.	220.0	219.9	6.9
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	May*	213.3p	211.9r	13.5

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Apr.	1,095.3	3,369.3	2.2
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	May	15,737	52,964	23.9

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand metric tonnes)	Apr.	2,656.8	10,773.7	6.6
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Apr.	28.3	126.4	4.5
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Mar.	9,404.1	29,071.0	6.7
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Apr.	8.67p	37.1p	9.8

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	May	5,690.8p	25,342.7p	20.0
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	May	5,598.8p	25,275.8p	27.2

PRODUCTION

Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	May	1,568.5	7,312.5	8.4
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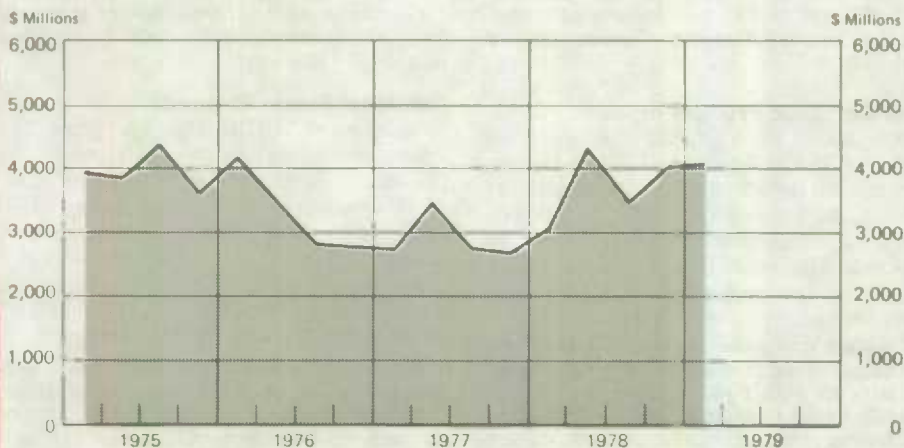
SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	May*	685.1p	2,832.6p	10.5
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Apr.	12,169.0	48,193.7	22.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	May*	1,213.2	4,835.7	19.7
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	6,019.3p	22,185.5p	13.1
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	5,566.2p	22,509.6p	21.3

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

Accrued Net Income of Farm Operators from Farm Production

Date Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



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

New Motor Vehicle Sales

New motor vehicles sold in May fell 0.4% to 151,336 from 1978. Automobiles made in the United States and Canada rose 7.3% to 96,703 and Canadian and U.S. commercial vehicles fell 2.9% to 39,493.

Automobiles from overseas fell 28.2% to 14,090 from 1978 and overseas-made commercial vehicles fell 28.8% to 1,050. Value of the cars fell 8.7% to \$98.9 million and the commercial vehicles decreased 9.0% to \$7.6 million. Value of U.S. and Canadian cars sold rose 20.8% to \$709.4 million; commercial vehicles rose 17.3% to \$397.3 million.

Sales value of all vehicles increased 16.4% to \$1,213.2 million, including 366 coaches and buses valued at \$10.0 million. Seasonally-adjusted sales of automobiles manufactured in Canada and the U.S. fell 1.1% from April to 72,869 and those of cars from overseas rose 17.4% to 10,502. Commercial vehicle (combined) sales rose 3.2% to 31,806.

For five months of 1979 sales reached 607,887 units (590,908 in 1978), value \$4,835.7 million, up 19.7% from 1978.

For further information, see the May 1978 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, 30¢/\$3).

Labour Income

Labour income rose 10.2% to \$11.5 billion in April from \$10.4 billion in 1978. Total wages and salaries, April, rose 10.1% to \$10,611.9 million from \$9,634.5 million a year earlier.

Breakdowns for wages and salaries (millions of dollars) were: primary industries \$90.3; forestry \$91.6; mines, quarries, oil wells \$279.2; manufacturing \$2,456.1; construction \$699.3; transportation, communications, other utilities \$1,112.1; trade \$1,409.6; finance, insurance, real estate \$734.4; commercial, personal service \$1,003.1; education, related services \$1,119.2; health, welfare services \$669.6; federal administration, other government offices \$393.7; local administration \$244.6; and provincial administration \$309.1.

Supplementary income for April reached \$863.1 million.

See detailed estimates in the April 1979 issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, \$1.05/\$4.20), or contact Mrs. G. Gauthier (613-995-8067), Labour Income Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

Real Domestic Product Index

The Index of Real Domestic Product fell 0.8% to 138.1 in April from 139.2 in March. First quarter growth rate, previously estimated at 1.0%, is revised to 0.7%. The Index of Industrial Production fell from 139.0 in March to April's 137.5.

Data for the period 1971 to 1978 have been revised.

They are now available from CANSIM and will be published in *Real Domestic Product by Industry 1971-1978* (61-213) and for 1979 in *Real Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005). For further information, contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Labour Force

The national employment level was 10,626,000 in June 1979 (10,271,000 a year earlier). The unemployment level was 798,000 (892,000). The unemployment rate was 7.0 (8.0). Participation rate: 64.6 (64.3); employment/population ratio, 60.1 (59.1).

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment level in June was 831,000, a decrease of 22,000 from May. The seasonally-adjusted national unemployment rate was 7.5 in June, down by 0.2 from May.

The seasonally-adjusted employment level was 10,308,000, an increase of 22,000 from May. The level increased by 22,000 for women 25 and over and by 5,000 for men 15-24. It declined slightly for women 15-24 and for men 25 and over.

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

A User's Guide To 1976 Census Data On Household And Families Is a working paper reviewing household and family concepts and definitions used in the 1976 Census, questions used to collect information to support the concepts and procedures employed in collection and processing of household and family data. The paper also deals with changes in definitions and universes that affect the comparability of 1976 Census household and family data with those of earlier censuses (to 1951). For a copy of working paper #1 — HF79 (1976 EVAL), contact the nearest reference centre of the User Advisory Services Division of Statistics Canada.

Department Store Sales

May sales totalled \$685.1 million. Increased 12.1% from a year earlier, sales were up in all regions.

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

- Ontario, \$248.4 million (10.1%)
- Québec, \$135.3 million (11.1%)
- British Columbia, \$107.0 million (15.8%)
- Alberta, \$92.7 million (14.4%)
- Atlantic Provinces, \$45.3 million (14.0%)
- Manitoba, \$37.6 million (9.8%)
- Saskatchewan, \$18.7 million (16.2%).

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

Industrial Firms, Financial

First quarter, 1979, after-tax profits of industrial corporations (revised) rose 57.3% (\$1,486 million) to \$4,081 million from \$2,595 million in the first quarter of 1978. Total sales of \$89 billion increased \$13 billion or 17.1%.

Assets decreased \$67 billion or 28.3% over the fourth quarter of 1978 and \$46 billion or 21.3% from the first quarter.

For further information, order the fourth quarter issue of *Industrial Corporations, Financial Statistics* (61-003, \$1.75/\$7), or contact R. Martelock (613-995-9751), Business Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Manufacturers' Markets, Regionally

Some significant changes in the patterns of supply of Canadian regions with regard to Canadian manufacturers' shipments took place between 1967 and 1974... it is not clear in most cases whether these changes are of a temporary — perhaps cyclical — nature or reflect persistent trends.

The most marked result was the loss of some of its market position by Ontario in all five regions... Ontario has perhaps tended to lose market shares as a result of local industrial growth in other regions, but highly special factors and perhaps cyclical influences have also been at work. Québec's performance in the Ontario market increased significantly; similarly in the Atlantic provinces. The Prairie provinces obtained a markedly increase share of British Columbia's demand for Canadian manufacturers' shipments. British Columbia manufacturers increased their shares of their own and the Prairie region's demand for domestic shipments.

All these changes refer to results after removing the effects of the changing industry-mix of shipments received. On this basis, an apparent large overall gain by the Atlantic provinces in their own region disappears and the region shows little change in its competitive position relative to others. The unusually large industry-mix effect in the Atlantic province's self-supply ratio originated with the petroleum refining industry; rising prices in this industry in 1974 made for substantial changes in the industrial mix of industry receipts in current dollars in some other regions as well.

Special situations have affected some of the changes in relative market positions after removal of industry-mix effects. Québec's relative performance has been greatly influenced by expanded capacity in its transportation equipment industries. This same industry group has also contributed heavily to Ontario's losses in all five regions with the petroleum and coal products industries substantially affecting the region's losses in eastern Canada. In general terms, shifting location in petroleum refining capacity, permanent or temporary, impacted considerably on the survey results... definite patterns of "market interaction" indicate strong competition between particular regions as suppliers — Québec is Ontario's principal competitor in eastern Canada; the Prairie provinces are Ontario's principal competitor in a number of industries in western Canada.

Abstracted from the conclusions of an article, Changes In The Apparent Relative Market Positions Of Manufacturers Of Particular Regions, 1967-74, by J.F. Mallon and H.D. Potter, in the May 1979 issue of the Canadian Statistical Review.

Financial Flows

Advanced information, first quarter 1979, for selected sectors, is now available from the Financial Flows Section.

For further information, contact P. Odenbach (613-995-0851), Financial Flows Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

No better example exists of the smooth dovetailing of federal/provincial statistical co-operation than in the surveying of credit unions. Statistics Canada directly surveys the credit union centrals; provinces collect data from each credit union chartered to do business in their particular jurisdictions. To arrive at an annual publication, provincial aggregates are submitted on a national standardized form to the Bureau's financial institutions section . . .

Credit Unions: Report By Province

As financial intermediaries, credit unions are considered unique. The credit union movement in Canada is based on the Rochdale co-operative principles, in essence that of self-help. The organizations are designed to serve the common people and are owned and operated by members themselves . . . and . . . the geographical scope of their operations are highly localized. These two aspects are in sharp contrast to banks and trust companies which operate branch systems extending in most cases from coast to coast and to some extent into the hinterlands. Those credit unions with place of employment as the common bond have a further unique advantage of payroll deductions since this service is not available to any other financial intermediaries . . .

. . . Credit unions linked to the World Council of Credit Unions had in 1977 a membership of approximately 51 million in 58 countries. The largest membership is in the United States with over 36 million. Canada has nearly 8.5 million, or one credit union member for every third person in this country — by far the heaviest penetration of any country in the world. The 44,373 credit unions tied in with WOCCU had assets of over \$72 billion in 1977 . . .

. . . In Canada, the trend toward fewer but larger credit unions continued as 1977 found itself with 113 fewer credit unions than in the previous year and with 12 more inactive credit unions. On the other hand, credit unions are fast becoming larger with 465 now over \$5 million in total assets which is 63 more than in the previous year, an increase of 15.7% . . .

. . . Membership in credit unions increased by 7.4% to 8,318,489 and total assets rose for the third consecutive year (by 25.5%) to \$19 billion. The average number of members per credit union increased by 10.5% to 2,119 and on average each member had equity and deposits amounting to \$2,186 for an increase of 17.2% over the previous year. Rate of return to members decreased 0.3% to 5.9% from 6.2% in the previous year. Mortgage loans increased to 45.2% of total assets from 41.8% in the previous year; cash loans decreased to 26.7% of total assets from 28.8%. Investments decreased from 15.4% to 15.1% of total assets. Deposits by members increased to 77.8% of total assets from 75.9% in the previous year. There are about two credit unions for every three branches of chartered banks and about five credit unions for every branch of trust companies. In Québec there are more

credit unions than branches of chartered banks and trust companies combined.

British Columbia

Membership in credit unions increased by 17.2% to 780,756 members or to 67.1% of the labour force at the end of 1977. Total assets increased significantly to \$2,868.9 million or by 40.4%. A large portion of this increase was invested in mortgages which now accounts for 70.6% of total assets as against 68.4% in 1976.

Alberta

Membership rose by over 14.7% to 367,474 members or to 41.2% of the labour force. Total assets rose by 45.3% to \$1,051.6 million. Loans have increased by \$264.6 million or 45.6% to a total of \$844.8 million; residential mortgages represent 45.3% of the total outstanding loans.

Saskatchewan

Membership continued to increase in 1977, reaching 453,518 members at the end of December 1977, representing over 51.5% of the total population of the province. Assets rose substantially, up 13.8% to over \$1,764 million, with investments showing a 27.0% increase and mortgage loans of 42.4% increase. On the liability side, the largest increase came in demand deposits which rose 21.9%.

Manitoba

Membership in credit unions rose by almost 4.6% to 332,433 members or to over 72.3% of the labour force. Total assets increased by nearly 22.1% to almost \$956 million. Most asset items increased with residential mortgages showing the highest dollar amount and percentage rise (nearly 27.5%). Deposits rose by over 23.5% which provided the majority of the funds used in creating additional assets.

Ontario

The number of active credit unions and Caisse Populaires in Ontario continued its downward trend to reach 1,151 as at December 31, 1977. Membership rose during 1977 over the previous year by 6.9% to 1,605,342 members, or about 40.0% of the labour force and slightly over 19.1% of the total estimated population of Ontario. The total value of credit union assets reached \$3,422.8 million (an increase of 27.1% over 1977) accounting for 18.1% of the national total. While all asset items showed significant gains, the largest in terms of dollars, was personal cash loans for an increase of \$151.7 million.

Québec

Membership rose by 6.1% to 4,379,250 members or to 156.8% of the labour force in the province. Total assets rose 21.6% to approximately \$8.5 billion, over 45% of the national total. Most major assets increased with residential mortgage loans rising by 32.0% and personal cash loans by about 20.5%. Most of these increases in assets were financed by deposits which rose by almost \$1,229 million or by 21.0% and share capital which rose by almost \$149 million or 21.2%.

New Brunswick

Membership rose 3% to 183,998 members or close to 68.7% of the labour force. Total assets increased by nearly 29.8% to \$229 million. Most of the funds went into loans, with \$22.4 million going to personal loans and \$11.5 million going to mortgage loans. Total loans amounted to 76.9% of total assets.

Nova Scotia

Membership rose by 6.8% to almost 150,910 members or to nearly 45.3% of the labour force. Total assets increased by nearly 13.3% to almost \$170 million with most of the funds going into personal loans.

Prince Edward Island

The number of members increased by 10.4% to 21,165 representing 42.3% of the labour force. Assets increased by 25.3% to \$23 million, almost all of which represents loans to individual members.

Newfoundland

The number of members increased by 7.2% to 10,481 or about 5.5% of the labour force. Total assets increased by almost 69.0% to close to \$17 million, of which 77% represents personal loans. The growth in assets was financed by share capital which increased 47.0% and deposits which increased 86.0%.

Abstracted from Credit Unions, 1977 (61-209 annual, \$1.40).

1971 Census Users' Index

A working paper titled *Users' Index to Population and Housing Bulletins 1971 Census of Canada* has recently been released by the former census characteristics division of Statistics Canada.

This Index is intended as a reference guide to census data users who wish to acquaint themselves with the range of data available from 1971 Census of Canada publications.

The Index consists of 4 sections:

- How to use the Index
- Index to make tabulations
- Legends (providing information on the categorization or detail of each variable)
- Appendix (list of errata and explanatory notes for 1971 publications).

A limited number of copies are available from Dr. Bali Ram, Demography Division, Statistics Canada, 4th Floor, Jean Talon Building, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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Catalogue Number.

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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.

Education, Science and Culture Division is planning to produce a new quarterly catalogued publication titled *Domestic Travel — Quarterly*.

It will contain highlights of data on travel within Canada, socio-demographic characteristics of travellers and non-travellers, as well as a description of the survey methodology used to collect the information.

Publication to be Discontinued

Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division will discontinue the annual publication, *Detailed Energy Supply and Demand in Canada* (Catalogue No. 57-207) with the 1977 issue which will be released before the end of this year.

Information in this publication will continue to appear in more detail in the *Quarterly Report on Energy Supply — Demand in Canada* (Catalogue No. 57-003).

Statistical Methodologists

Design of surveys in Statistics Canada is the business of a group of specialists known as survey methodologists.

These professionals usually hold undergraduate or post graduate degrees in mathematics with some specialization in statistics.

They are concentrated in three separate methodology divisions: business survey methods, census and household survey methods and institutional and agriculture survey methods.

Each of these divisions provides the distinctive methodological expertise for a particular subject matter field.

The function of the methodologists is essential to the operation of the Bureau.

Their discipline is defined as a branch of applied statistical theory that addresses the problem of designing an optimal method of satisfying specified data requirements within given constraints.

In more specific terms, this means deciding or advising on such questions as:

- The choice between census, sample survey or the use of administrative records as the source of needed data
- The population from which a sample would be selected
- Sample design and estimation
- Which collection method to use
- What is the appropriate questionnaire design to use
- Editing of questionnaire responses and imputation of missing data
- Quality control of statistical processing work

- Evaluation of quality of data

- Statistical analysis of data.

In most instances the methodologists decide or contribute to decisions on these questions through their participation on project teams in which there are also representatives from various other divisions involved with the particular project.

For example, on a project to conduct a small sample survey on a single occasion a team would be assembled for the life of the project.

This team might include subject-matter specialists familiar with the specific questions which need to be asked.

There might also be questionnaire design people, with a knowledge of how best to arrange the questionnaire graphically, and field division people with a knowledge of how to train and direct enumerators or other regional office staff.

In most such teams there would also be one or more methodologists who, in cooperation with other team members, would work on problems involving the quality of the estimates to be produced.

The team would be responsible as a whole for the successful completion of the project and a chairman would be appointed to co-ordinate its activities.

By concentrating methodologists in separate divisions within particular fields the Bureau is able to ensure that methodological experts can respond to the distinctive needs of each of the three data collecting fields.

Frequently, because of the Bureau's particular strength in survey methodological knowledge, methodologists are also called upon to participate in surveys conducted by other federal government departments.

It is also the Bureau's policy — with its publications — increasingly to document the methodology used in the survey from which each publication derives.

Another related function is in the area of research and development projects. These, though practical in nature, are sometimes of a longer-term duration and examples would include: edit and imputation techniques, confidentiality, record linkage, response error measurement and design guidelines.

Questions on the work of the methodologists should be directed to any of the nine regional reference centres of Statistics Canada. If the questions are of a detailed nature they will be passed to the appropriate methodology division staff in Ottawa.

The Postal Code, Small Geographic Areas and Statistical Data

At a recent federal information sources seminar, Canada Post described its system for effective distribution of unaddressed householder mail.

It was explained how the system of distribution supported with supplementary descriptive data available from Canada Post and other data available from Statistics Canada can be used to organize direct mailing to residences or businesses.

Each postal code address denotes a forward sortation area or FSA by its first three characters and a local delivery unit by the second set of three characters.

Size of an urban forward sortation area depends on the volume of mail service required.

The minimum is usually five letter carrier walks or 2,000 points of call, corresponding to a population of about 5,000.

The maximum is normally 25 carrier walks (urban FSAs exist only in urban centres with letter carrier delivery).

Canada Post will soon be making available maps specifying the borders of all FSAs and the letter carrier walks within each FSA.

It will be possible to link these maps with statistical data describing the numbers of apartments, houses and businesses and for each letter carrier walk within each FSA.

Statistics Canada can provide a postal code-geographic code conversion file linking the areas covered by each FSA with the Bureau's own system of classifying geographic areas.

Thus it is possible to link Post Office data with those of Statistics Canada and to direct mail to specific areas by using the postal code.

For instance, advertisers or survey takers could use the postal code, supported by statistical data defining FSAs, for selective mailing campaigns, national sampling or custom surveys in particular areas.

Advertising mail is an important source of income to Canada Post and its use and effectiveness is a subject of considerable interest to Canada Post officials.

A national survey that was undertaken by the Canada Post to find out how householders perceive and respond to advertising mail revealed that 75% of the survey's respondents read advertising mail and 58% agreed that there are some very good buys advertised by mail.

Further information on the Post Office system of distribution of householder (3rd, class unaddressed) mail can be obtained from: Murray Smith (613-998-8513), Advertising Mail, Canada Post, Confederation Heights, Ottawa K1A 0B1. For further information on the postal code-geographic code conversion file contact: George Haydu (613-996-7825), Standards Division, Statistics Canada, 25th Floor, Coats Building, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Provincial and Territorial Government Statistical Organization

This article on Alberta is the first in a series summarizing the roles and responsibilities — particularly in the area of data dissemination — of provincial and territorial central statistical agencies. These statistical agencies are linked, directly or indirectly, as components in the national statistical system.

As a central statistical agency, the Alberta Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is responsible for providing statistical information on economic and social conditions in the province and for generally promoting and co-ordinating plans for the collection and integration of statistics pertaining to Alberta.

This mandate is given in *The Statistics Bureau Act* which also empowers the Bureau to collect information from businesses and households and protects the confidentiality of individual responses to Bureau surveys.

The staff of 47 permanent employees is allocated to three sections:

- Statistical production
- Statistical development
- Information services.

Terms of reference can be stated broadly as data gathering, statistical series development and data dissemination.

The information services section is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the data dissemination activities of the Bureau.

It answers approximately 90% of the requests received by the Bureau and serves as the focal point for the dissemination of statistical information within the provincial statistical system.

This includes:

- Informing the user community of the variety of activities and services provided by the Bureau
- Serving as the initial point of contact for users seeking such services
- Co-ordinating Bureau efforts to ascertain user needs and to seek better ways to meet such needs
- Working toward improving the quality and timeliness of response to statistical requirements within Alberta.

As part of its role, the section publishes the monthly and annual *Alberta Statistical Review*, the annual *Alberta Fact Sheet*, a newsletter (*ABS NEWSTATS*), and a Users' Guide.

The *Alberta Statistical Review* annual and monthly publications and the *Fact Sheet* provide an economic and demographic statistical overview of Alberta.

ABS NEWSTATS provides current information on activities in the statistical field such as announcements of advance data, new data series, forthcoming Bureau publications and other information of interest to the statistical community.

The *Users' Guide* provides an overview of the Bureau's objectives, operation, publications and activities and advises users on how to acquire data from the Bureau.

To more efficiently handle census requests, the service has prepared and

published 1976 community profiles for census divisions in Alberta and for all urban and rural municipalities.

With respect to user needs, a user assessment survey was recently conducted and recommendations are currently being developed.

A computerized information request system which analyses all requests received by the Bureau is also operational.

During 1978, the Alberta Bureau of Statistics responded to more than 5,000 requests for statistical information, an increase of almost 60% over 1977.

Approximately one-half of all the requests originated within the government sector (primarily the Alberta Government), 30% from the private business sector, and the remainder from private individuals, the media, the academic community and others.

The statistical production section has the mandate to collect statistical data needed for the policy and planning activities of the public and private sectors in the province.

A number of surveys are conducted, including major efforts in manufacturing (a joint survey with Statistics Canada), retail and service trade, and employee compensation and benefits.

Publications are produced for each of these surveys.

In addition, the section is responsible for inventorying data files within the Alberta Government and for encouraging and facilitating the extraction of useful statistical data from such files.

Technical statistical advice and expertise is provided for other data collection activities within the provincial government.

The statistical development section is responsible for the integration of existing social, demographic and economic statistics in order to develop comprehensive frameworks or models which can be used for policy analyses.

The *Alberta Economic Accounts*, published annually, are prepared in this Section, as are the Alberta input/output tables.

Population projections, at both the provincial and census division levels, are prepared and published.

The Section also works on improving existing social data and developing new social data series.

As the foundation for work in this latter area, an annual life concerns (quality of life) survey has been developed and implemented. The results from the first survey will be published later this summer.

In response to environmental factors, including the needs of more sophisticated data users, the Bureau of Statistics is concentrating on a number of particular areas.

Among these are:

- Promoting the wider use of administrative data files for statistical purposes
- Encouraging the use of sample surveys rather than censuses
- Providing more technical and evaluative advice and assistance to Alberta Government departments
- Developing a small area data program
- Improving the quality of social statistics and seeking more effective methods of disseminating statistical data.

As part of its dissemination activities, the Bureau is currently placing selected Alberta data series on the CANSIM data base and is investigating the feasibility of developing an Alberta computerized statistical data base.

Several Bureau publications have been converted to a computerized format which allows the user to access the information directly from the data file.

For further information, contact the Information Services Section (403-427-3058, telex 037-2137), 21st Floor, Park Square, 10001 Bellamy Hill, Edmonton T6J 3B6.

British Columbia Economic Activity 1978 Review and Outlook

The British Columbia Ministry of Economic Development has recently released the *British Columbia Economic Activity 1978 Review and Outlook*.

This report gives summary statements and comments on the highlights in developments for major industries in the province.

It also includes a statistical supplement for 1968-1978 on gross domestic product, population, employment, income, prices and other sectors of the provincial economy.

Labour Force Data on Microfiche

The monthly publication, *The Labour Force* (Catalogue No. 71-001) which provides employment and unemployment estimates is now also available on microfiche.

For further information, contact Henry Pold (613-995-9404), *Labour Force Survey*, Statistics Canada, 6th Floor, Jean Talon Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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.

Input-Output Data

Input-output tables are made up from industrial data arrayed in such a way as to show the levels of inputs to particular industries required to achieve certain levels of output.

The tables are compiled by balancing statistics which measure the use of a commodity against other statistics which measure its supply.

This balancing is achieved by developing and applying concepts, definitions and commodity codes common to both the data describing the supply side and the data describing the use side.

The supply side comprises domestic industry and imports data and the use side comprises intermediate consumption by industry and final use by households, exports, government and other sectors.

In the process of balancing these two sets of data there is developed a single integrated data base at a fairly detailed level.

This data base is used to produce the input-output tables which can be employed for a broad range of applications in economic analysis.

In the process of compiling the tables both the inputs and outputs of individual industries are arranged in separate tables classified by commodity.

For the agriculture industry, for example, input data in dollar values might show consumption of commodities such as gasoline and fuel oil, wages and salaries, fertilizers and many others.

In the Canadian input-output tables commodities are clearly distinguished from industries — a feature which is unusual in international practice and one which has begun to be adopted only more recently by the United States.

The more familiar practice is to produce inter-industry tables rather than commodity-industry tables.

Also unusual in the Canadian system is the much greater number of commodities identified than industries.

There are basically only two sets of interrelated accounts in the system, the

commodity accounts and the industry accounts.

The former details the supply and disposition of individual commodities (goods and non-factor services) while the latter details the commodity composition of the output of individual industries and also their complete costs of production including profits.

Input-output data are produced in three tables prepared for each year:

- The make (output) matrix which shows the value of commodity outputs by domestic industries
- The use (input) matrix which displays the input of commodities and primary inputs into domestic industries
- The final demand matrix depicting the flow of commodities to final demand categories — personal expenditure, government expenditure, capital formation, exports and inventory change.

Input-output data serve a variety of purposes such as producing benchmarks for the system of national accounts, supplying data for economic models or for general economic analysis.

Some of the many specific applications which are possible are:

- Comparing an industry's output structure of one year with that of any other year over the 14 years that the tables now cover
- Determining if an industry's technology has changed over time
- Determining which industries produce a particular product
- Determining which industry uses a particular product
- Determining how much value-added and how much employment is generated in each industry
- Computing implicit price deflators for industries or commodities
- Calculating domestic availability, imports share or exports share of a particular commodity.

Input-output data are produced by Statistics Canada and are published in *The Input-Output Structure of the Canadian Economy 1961-74* (Catalogue No. 15-508)

and *The Input-Output Structure of the Canadian Economy in Constant Prices 1961-74* (Catalogue No. 15-509). By the end of this year a full set of tables will be completed to the year 1976. From that point onwards, the annual input-output tables, in both current and constant prices, will be completed regularly with a lag of about three years from the reference year.

The input-output data base is produced and maintained by the input-output division of Statistics Canada. For further information on this data or on the input-output accounting system contact: Kishori Lal (613-992-3641), Input-Output Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Historical Series Available on Microfiche

Micromedia Limited, under contract with Statistics Canada, is currently in the process of filming all the Bureau's catalogued publications from 1975 back with the exception of the *Statistics Canada Daily*.

When this is completed this year it is planned to release updated series in two installments.

First, the publication issued from 1975-1977 will be released to bring the historical series up to date; then the publications issued during 1978 will be released.

Thereafter, beginning in 1980, annual installments will be released covering the previous year's imprints.

Standing orders may be placed for current updates of individual series or complete files. Current orders will be shipped upon completion of filming during the year following the year of imprint.

For further information, contact Micromedia Limited (416-593-5211), 144 Front Street West, Toronto M5J 1G2.

New Minister to be Responsible for Statistics Canada

By an Order in Council signed June 5, 1979, ministerial responsibility for Statistics Canada has been transferred from the portfolio of the Minister for Industry, Trade and Commerce to that of the President of the Treasury Board, Sinclair Stevens.

Business Service Receipts And Payments, 1977 — A Valuable Backgrounder

This report contains results of a survey on business service transactions with non-residents carried out as a supplement to the regular balance of payments reporting system.

The results of the survey comprise about 44% and 67% of total receipts and payments in respect of business services and other transactions. This item — with government transactions and miscellaneous income — form the balance of payments component (entitled "other service transactions") that is published in the main table of statistics (catalogue 67-001) on the Canadian Balance of International Payments.

Business service receipts reported in the survey totalled \$834 million, 63% of which came from the United States. Service receipts from the United Kingdom and other European Economic Community countries accounted for 8% and 6% and together all other countries contributed 23%.

At \$186 million, consulting and other professional services represented the largest single service receipt. This item showed a significant rise over the level reported in the 1973 survey, reflecting the strong participation in overseas projects in recent

years by Canadian consultants. Other major service receipts were for management services, commission earnings and insurance transactions.

Payments to non-residents for business services amounted to \$1,970 million with more than 83% of these outflows going to the United States. Royalties, copyrights, trademarks and payments for film rentals together totalled \$460 million. The film rentals component amounted to \$84 million.

The other major payments were for management and administrative services (\$376 million), tooling and other automotive charges (\$319 million) and scientific research and product development (\$190 million). "Other services" includes a wide range of transactions not identified separately in the survey classification.

Abstracted from the report *Business Service Receipts And Payments, 1977*. For further information, contact C. Spiteri (613-995-0743), Balance of Payments Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

International Travel

May saw Canadian residents who travel abroad continuing to decrease in a year-over-year comparison. United States visitors here declined but those from other countries continued to increase.

Preliminary statistics show that 2.5 million U.S. residents entered Canada, down 6.3% from 1978. Canadian residents returning from the U.S. numbered 2.9 million, a decrease of 6.6% from last year. Canadians re-entering from all other countries dropped 3.7% to 117,000. Visitors from these countries — 182,000 — rose 25% from a year earlier.

On a year-to-date basis 8.4 million U.S. residents visited, down 1.5% from 1978. Visitors from other countries have increased 21.1% to 435,000 and Canadians returning from these fell 3.4% to 807,000. Residents of Canada returning from the U.S. — 12.9 million — fell 6.0% from 1978.

Longer-term travellers from the U.S. (which includes overnight or longer bus and auto traffic and all plane, boat and train entries) were down for the first five months: 4.1% to 2.5 million. Canadians returning from the U.S. were down 3.1% to 4.2 million and residents returning from elsewhere totalled 807,000, down 3.4%. Visitors from these other countries (excluding same day entries) rose 17.8% to 370,000.

For further information, order the May 1979 issue of International Travel — Advance Information (66-002, 15¢/\$1.50).

Special Trades — Contracting, 1977

Results of the 1977 Censuses of the Special Trades Contracting, Mechanical Contracting and Electrical Contracting industries indicate the 46,940 establishments classified to these sub-industry groups had total operating revenues of \$9,353,444,594. This figure includes \$9,156,342,584 derived from new and repair construction activity and \$197,102,010 from various non-construction sources (retail and wholesale sales of materials, manufacturing or fabricating activities, etc.). More detailed summaries will be available, published in *The Special Trades Contracting Industry* (catalogue 64-210), *The Mechanical Contracting Industry* (catalogue 64-204) and *The Electrical Contracting Industry* (catalogue 64-205).

For further selected advance information, contact T. Hewitt or R. Dubeau (613-995-8192), Construction Census Section, Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Urban Transit

In May, 56 urban transit systems collected 104,068,187 initial passenger fares, with distance run 33,294,175 miles (53 581 783 km) and operating revenues of \$40,354,272.

For further information, order the May 1979 issue of Urban Transit (53-003, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact the Chief (613-995-1976), Surface Transport Section, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Vital Statistics, 1978/79

On the basis of registrations received in the provincial statistical offices during the past 12 months, the estimated number of births to March, 1979, reached 357,230, up 0.1% from a year earlier. The estimated rate for Canada, however, was 15.2 per 1,000 population compared with 15.3, a decrease of 1.4%.

Marriages, 185,080, decreased 2.7% from 190,240 estimated for the similar period a year ago. This reflects a continuation of the declining trend in the number of marriages which began a few years ago. The estimated rate for Canada was 7.9 per 1,000 population compared with 8.2, a decline of 3.7%.

Estimated number of deaths for Canada for the year ending March, 1979 — 170,000 — declined 0.6% from 171,010. The estimated rate per 1,000 population: 7.2 (7.3 a year earlier).

For further information, order the first quarter 1979 issue of Vital Statistics (84-001, 35¢/\$1.40).

Farm Cash Receipts

Farmers' cash receipts from January-May farming operations (bar Newfoundland) totalled \$5,597.6 million compared with \$4,639.4 million in 1978. Receipts from farming operations by province with 1978 comparisons in brackets: Prince Edward Island \$54.4 million (\$42.2 million), Nova Scotia \$65.6 million (\$54.5 million), New Brunswick \$58.6 million (\$47.4 million), Québec \$733.5 million (\$602.1 million), Ontario \$1,536.2 million (\$1,280.1 million), Manitoba \$482.6 million (\$406.5 million), Saskatchewan \$1,243.4 million (\$1,054.5 million), Alberta \$1,213.7 million (\$959.5 million), British Columbia \$204.6 million (\$192.6 million).

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

Eggs

Egg production fell 2.1% to 39.3 million dozen in May from 40.2 million a year earlier.

For further information, order the May 1979 issue of Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry (23-003, 30¢/\$3), or contact P.L. Beerstecher (613-995-4853), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Broadcasting

March gross radio air-time sales rose 14.3% to \$8.0 million from \$7.0 million in 1978. After commissions, net sales reached \$6.7 million, up 11.7% from \$6.0 million. Net local sales rose 7.3% to \$19.1 million from \$17.8 million.

The first quarter gross rose 8.9% to \$72.5 million from \$66.6 million in 1978. Net sales rose 8.5% to \$67.5 million from \$62.2 million.

For further information, order the March 1979 issue of Radio Broadcasting (56-003, 30¢/\$3), or contact J.R. Slattery, (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Provincial Revenues, 1978/79

Gross general revenue of provincial and territorial governments for the fiscal year 1978/79 is estimated at \$47,798.8 million, up 10.7% from the previous year. Gross general expenditure: \$48,601.7 million, up 9.2%.

Further information will be contained in Provincial Government Finance, Revenue and Expenditure (Estimates), 1978 (68-205, \$1.40).

Provincial Government Employment

Employees of provincial and territorial governments (excluding British Columbia) numbered 355,625 at the end of March 1979, up 1.2% from 1978. Total payrolls, fiscal 1978-79: \$5.4 billion, up 8.6% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the January-March 1979 issue of Provincial Government Employment (72-007, \$1.05/\$4.20), or contact A.G. Kerr (613-995-8201), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Telephone Statistics

Thirteen major telephone systems' May revenues totalled \$425.9 million, up 19.5% from 1978. Operating expenses were \$291.0 million, up 15.1%, and net operating revenue rose 30.3% to \$134.9 million. Telephone toll messages increased 11.7% to 103.3 million.

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

Guide Helpful When Challenged By Complexities Of Urban/Regional Data

In recent years an increasing number of tables containing subprovincial statistics from non-census sources have appeared in Statistics Canada publications. Newcomers to urban and regional research may well have been perplexed by the wide variety of geographic and subject-matter concepts, territorial units, data sources, and other features of published small-area statistics.

A new publication called *Guide to Urban Data (Excluding Census Data), 1971* (Catalogue 12-558, \$4.50) provides information on table headings, concepts and sources of statistics in all non-census publications at or near the last decennial Census year, 1971. Statistics are presented for the Ottawa region (as an example), and the place names of other municipalities or metropolitan areas to be found in the original publications are listed below. The last section contains a place name index enabling reference to the published information of specific Canadian municipalities.

Copies are available from Publications Distribution, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. For further information, contact Frank Jones (613-992-8571), Chief, Regional and Urban Statistics Section, Office of the Senior Adviser on Integration, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE			MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES		
Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, March 1979	62-003	15¢/\$1.50	Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing, First Quarter 1979	31-003	\$1.05/\$4.20
Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, June 1, 1979	32-010	30¢/\$3	Cement, May 1979	44-001	15¢/\$1.50
			Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers, May 1979	43-001	15¢/\$1.50
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS			Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers, May 1979	43-002	15¢/\$1.50
Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments, First Quarter 1979	67-001	\$1.40/\$5.60	Gypsum Products, May 1979	44-003	15¢/\$1.50
			Knitting Mills, 1977	34-215	\$1.05
			Motor Vehicle Manufacturers, 1977	42-209	70¢
DEMOGRAPHY			Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, April 1979	35-003	30¢/\$3
Quarterly Estimates of Population for Canada and the Provinces, April 1979	91-001	35¢/\$1.40	Pulp and Paper Mills, 1977	36-204	70¢
			MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES		
			Department Store Sales by Regions, May 1979	63-004	\$1.50
EXTERNAL TRADE			PRICES		
Exports by Commodities, April 1979	65-004	80¢/\$8	Industry Price Indexes, April 1979	62-011	55¢/\$5.50

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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