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Weekly Bulletin

## Inventories, Shipments and Orders

Preliminary estimates set shipments in June at \$13,166.0 million, fractionally higher than the revised \$13,154.4 million for May. Six months' shipments of manufacturers: \$73,834.0 million, up 18.9% from \$62,073.9 million a year earlier.

With an estimated value of \$12,316.8 million after seasonal adjustment, shipments in June rose 1.0% from May's \$12,194.6 million. Durable goods shipments, estimated at \$5,554.5 million, fell 3.0% from May (\$5,724.0 million) and shipments in non-durable goods industries increased 4.5% from \$6,470.8 million to \$6,762.3 million.

The preliminary estimate of the value of new orders, seasonally adjusted, was \$12,568.3 million, down 1.3% from \$12,727.9 million. Durable goods industries' new orders, estimated at \$5,799.0 million, fell 6.5% from \$6,205.4 million. In non-durable goods June new orders had an estimated value of \$6,769.3 million, up 3.8% from \$6,522.5 million.

Total backlog of unfilled orders for all manufacturers (seasonally adjusted): \$16,297.2 million compared with \$16,045.7 million (for an increase of 1.6%). In durable goods industries the backlog increased 1.7% from \$14,089.7 million in May to \$14,334.2 million with unfilled orders in non-durable goods in industries at \$1,963.0 million reaching just fractionally higher than May's \$1,956.0 million.

The seasonally-adjusted preliminary estimate of the value of inventory owned by manufacturers was \$23,282.1 million, up 1.4% from \$22,966.6 million. Inventory held — with a preliminary estimate of \$24,244.6 million — was also up 1.4% (\$23,911.2 million). Changes in inventory categories: raw materials, up 2.0%; goods in process, up 1.6%; finished products, up 0.5%.

The ratio of the preliminary estimates of seasonally-adjusted total inventory owned to shipments in June was 1.89:1 compared with a revised ratio of 1.88:1 in May. Ratio of the value of finished products to shipments for June was 0.64:1, unchanged from May.

For further information, order the June 1979 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact H.D. Wightman (613-996-7008), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	May	285.18p	282.78r	8.3
Labour Income (\$ million)	May	11,896.0p	11,455.3r	10.5
Persons with Jobs (million)	July	10,879	10,626	3.5
Unemployed	July	793,000	916,000	-13.4

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	May	2,434.4p	2,270.1p	17.5
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	June*	23,244.0p	23,002.3r	18.7
Wholesale (\$ million)	June*	10,382.4p	10,347.0p	27.7

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	June*	13,381.4p	13,550.7r	13.0
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	June*	16,380.3p	16,164.9r	33.2

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	July*	192.1	190.6	8.1
Non-food (CPI) Component	July*	177.0	176.0	8.3
New House Price Index (1976=100)	June	109.7	109.3	3.4
22-city Composite Wage, Building (1971=100)	May*	229.0	220.0	7.1
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	June*	214.7p	213.6r	13.6

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	May	1,368.6	4,737.9	2.2
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	June	14,352	67,316	-21.5

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand metric tonnes)	May	2,908.8	13,682.5	9.3
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	May	27.6	154.1	5.4
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	May*	8,477.9	46,583.6	8.1
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	May	9.16p	46.3p	11.4

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	June	5,227.0p	30,573.0p	19.0
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	June	5,104.0p	30,425.0p	25.2

### PRODUCTION

Steel (ingots — thousand metric tonnes)	July*	1,247.1	9,116.9	6.7
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### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	June	677.6p	3,510.2p	12.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	June*	13,166.0p	62,073.9p	18.9
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	June	1,161.2	5,996.9	18.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	June	6,966.9p	35,908.4p	12.9
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	June*	6,534.2p	36,054.3p	19.8

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

## Quarterly Estimates of Income and Expenditures of Trusteed Pension Funds





### Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (1971=100) increased 0.8% from 190.6 in June to 192.1 in July with the 12-month rise 8.1%, down from 8.9% in the previous 12-month period. Higher food prices and increased transportation costs and housing charges were responsible for most of the increase. The food index advanced 1.7%, up significantly from the monthly gains of approximately 0.5% registered in each of the previous two months. The index for all items excluding food advanced 0.6%, up slightly from 0.5% in the previous month.

The food-at-home index, which had exhibited considerable moderation in the rates of price increase in the previous two months, advanced 2.0% in the latest month and accounted for most of the 1.7% increase in the food index. Higher prices for most fresh fruit and vegetable items, especially for apples and potatoes, were largely responsible for the increase in the food-at-home index. Higher prices were also recorded for selected beef cuts, most dairy, cereal and bakery products and for eggs. The current monthly increase in the food-at-home index brought this index to a level 8.7% above its July 1978 level. The food-away-from-home index rose 0.5% in July, resulting in an increase of 13.3% over its level of July 1978.

Higher prices for new North American model cars, gasoline, with increased shelter and household operation charges, were largely responsible for the 0.6% increase in the index for all items excluding food. Other notable contributors included increased automobile maintenance charges, higher seasonal hotel and motel accommodation rates and increased dental care charges. Prices declined for selected women's wear items. Between July 1978 and July 1979 the index for all items excluding food advanced 8.3%, up marginally from the 8.1% registered in the previous 12-month period.

Viewed in terms of goods and services, the price level for goods, including food, advanced 0.9%, that for services increased by 0.6%. Between July 1978 and July 1979 the price level for goods advanced 8.8% while that for services rose 7.3%.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the Index rose 0.6% between June and July (a 0.7% increase in the food index and a 0.6% increase in the index for all items excluding food).

City percentage increases with annual change in brackets: St. John's 1.2% (9.5%), Charlottetown/Summerside 0.9% (7.9%), Halifax 0.9% (9.0%), Saint John 0.8% (9.0%), Québec 0.8% (7.7%), Montréal 1.2% (7.7%), Ottawa 1.0% (8.3%), Toronto 0.6% (8.1%), Thunder Bay 0.7% (9.0%), Winnipeg 0.7% (9.2%), Saskatoon 1.2% (8.6%), Regina 0.8% (7.5%), Edmonton 0.8% (9.0%), Calgary 0.8% (8.0%) and Vancouver 0.6% (7.6%).

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

### Building Permits

The seasonally-adjusted value of permits issued during June dropped 15.9% to \$1,023 million from (revised) \$1,216 million in May. Building intentions in the residential sector contributed most of the decrease (23.7%) and non-residential projects — although below (5.9%) the May level remained strong by comparison. In June 1978 the seasonally-adjusted level of permits value was \$1,083 million.

During June, Canadian municipalities processed builders' applications to construct 7,495 single-detached homes and 4,005 multiple dwellings (8,994 and 7,911 in May). In annual terms, the June performance reflects a rate of 138,000 new dwellings compared with 200,000 in May. This is a serious setback which, if prolonged in July, heralds a sharp drop of housing starts in August or September to pre-1971 levels. The value of all residential permits issued in June — including permits for additions and improvements to existing homes — totalled \$522 million at the seasonally-adjusted rate compared with \$683 million in May and \$625 million in June 1978.

In the non-residential sector, permits for new industrial installations totalled \$85 million in June (\$99 million in May) and commercial projects \$296 million (\$346 million). Publicly initiated projects rose to \$120 million (\$87 million in May). In total, non-residential building intentions were at a seasonally-adjusted level of \$501 million compared with \$532 million in May and \$458 million in June 1978.

For further information, order the June 1979 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, 70¢/\$7) or contact J.P. Déléisle (613-995-8215), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Department Store Sales

June department store sales fell 1.1% from May's sales of \$685.1 million to \$677.6 million but nevertheless increased 12.9% compared with \$600.1 million reported a year earlier. Over-the-year increases were recorded for each of the 40 departments with the most significant increases posted for furniture \$39.7 million (up 13.1%), food and kindred products \$37.6 million (33.3%), major appliances \$36.3 million (9.8%) and women's and misses' sportswear \$36.1 million (10.9%).

All provinces reported increased sales from a year earlier ranging from 8.0% for Prince Edward Island to 21.0% for Newfoundland. Sales and percentage increases for metropolitan areas were: Montréal \$76.4 million (13.3%), Toronto \$97.2 million (10.4%), Winnipeg \$32.6 million (6.6%) and Vancouver \$67.6 million (14.4%).

The selling value of stocks — at \$2,227.9 million — were 17.1% higher than in 1978. Inventories also expanded in all departments bar repairs and services, down 20.3%.

For further information, order the June 1979 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, 40¢/\$4), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada.

### Railway Transport: Part V, 1978

Railway freight traffic in 1978 totalled 263.3 million short tons (238.8 million metric tonnes), down 3.4% from 1977. Domestic loadings decreased 3.7% to 241.4 million short tons (219.0 million t) and received from United States connections declined 0.2% to 21.8 million short tons (19.8 million t).

Crude materials and end products — two of the six major commodity groups under which railway freight is reported — showed traffic losses when compared with 1977. The crude materials category, which accounted for about 50% of all rail freight carried in both years, recorded a decline of 9.1% mainly because domestic loadings of iron ore and concentrates were down by 25.6% (this situation resulted from strikes which affected iron ore production in 1978). Among end products registering notable declines were passenger automobiles, motor vehicle engines, parts and accessories.

Rail shipments of all types of live animals were higher than the previous year with cattle shipments (which accounted for 93.9% of the live animals category) up by 14.8%. The food, feed, beverages and tobacco category increased 1.8%, mostly reflecting a 26.9% increase in shipments of barley. Haulings of fabricated materials were up 4.3% to 73.9 million short tons (67.0 million t) with potash and lumber notably higher than the previous year. Special types of traffic showed an increase of 3.5% over 1977, due mainly to increases in mixed carload freight and container-on-flat-car (COFC) movements. Non-carload freight was down 14.3%.

For further information, order the 1978 edition of *Railway Transport: Part V* (52-211, \$2.10), or contact M. Vallières (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Broadcasting

Gross national radio air-time sales were \$10.4 million in April, up 15.6% from \$9.0 million in 1978 (after commissions: \$8.9 million, up 17.1% from \$7.6 million). Net local air-time sales rose 13.5% to \$21.0 million from \$18.5 million.

Gross four months' sales were \$104.9 million (\$94.9 million in 1978), up 10.5%. Net sales rose 10.3% to \$97.5 million from \$88.4 million.

For further information, order the April 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.

### Telephone Statistics

Thirteen major telephone systems' June revenues totalled \$422.9 million, up 17.5% from a year earlier.

Operating expenses were \$283.7 million, an increase of 10.8%. Net operating revenue: \$139.2 million, (34.1%). Toll messages increased 10.3% to 101.6 million.

For further information, order *Telephone Statistics, June 1979* (56-002, \$1.50 per year), or contact J.R. Slattery, (613-996-9271).



### Travel to Work, '73-'78

Use of automobiles dominates as the way to get to work despite the fact that public transportation was perceived as available about half of all commuters (48% in 1978). Commuters using public transit as a percentage of all who felt it was available to them has remained close to 30% since 1973 (considered another way, in 1978 40% of car users indicated that they could have used public transportation but only 24% of commuters who used public transportation felt that they could have used a car).

Survey findings of 1978 show that more than half of all commuters in Canada travel five miles or less to work and less than 20% travel 13 miles or more. For all distances of one mile or more cars were favoured: under one mile, the majority of people were walking to work (although even at that distance 39% commuted by automobile). Heaviest use of public transportation was for trips of three to five miles (22% in 1978) and for journeys of six to 12 miles (21% in 1978). Only 16% of commuters took much longer than half an hour to reach work. More than one-third completed the journey within 12 minutes and two-thirds were at work within 22 minutes.

This information is derived from the 1973-78 travel-to-work surveys conducted as supplements to the labour force survey. Information on the surveys is available from Statistics Canada Catalogue 87-502, Culture Statistics, Travel to Work 1973-1977, with some updates for 1978 in Catalogue 87-001, Vol. 2, No. 7, Culture Statistics Service Bulletin, Travel to Work 1978 (combined price, \$1.25 in Canada; \$1.50 elsewhere).

For further information, contact Janice Iff (613-995-9689), Travel, Tourism and Recreation Section, Education, Science and Culture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Refined Petroleum

June net sales of refined petroleum products: 51,155,000 barrels (8 129 thousand cubic metres), an increase of 5.1% over the June 1978 figure of 48,669,000 barrels (7 734 thousand cubic metres).

Refineries produced 60,619,000 barrels (9 633 thousand cubic metres) of refined petroleum products, up 4.7% from 57,913,000 barrels (9 203 thousand cubic metres).

For further information, order the June 1979 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, 40¢/\$4), or contact George Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### Wholesale Trade

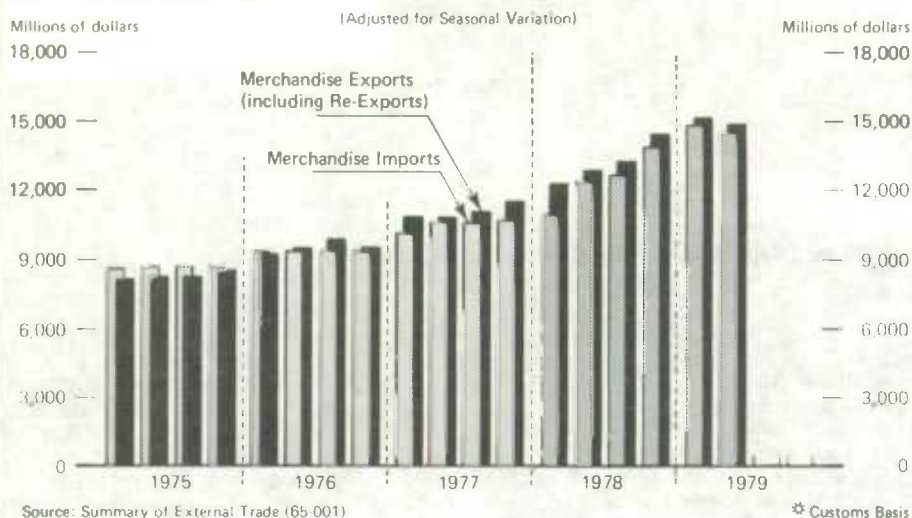
Wholesale sales, June: \$6,534,231,000, up 14.5% from \$5,708,534,000 in 1978.

Wholesale inventories: \$10,382,395,000, an increase of 27.7% from stocks of \$8,130,395,000 last year.

For further information, order the June 1979 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact the Wholesale Trade Section (613-996-9307), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

### Canadian Merchandise Exports and Imports\*

Quarter-by-Quarter Movements



### Trade

In a trading partner analysis (seasonally adjusted on a Customs basis), exports to the United States decreased 6.4% in June or \$233 million to \$3.4 billion, following an 8.9% increase in May. Exports to a number of other countries decreased as well: to Japan by 11% to \$255 million, to "Other EEC" by 9.5% to \$345 million and to "Other OECD" by 3.8% to \$130 million. There was a small increase, 1.5% to \$170 million, in exports to the United Kingdom and exports to "Other America" increased 6.6% to \$235 million.

The trend-cycle for exports to the U.S. fell marginally in April following positive, although declining, growth rates during 1979; thus the trend-cycle apparently peaked in March. Marginally negative growth was also recorded in the export trend-cycle to Japan and to "Other OECD", both substantially worse than the above 3% growth rates shown to these areas at the beginning of 1979. Growth in the trend-cycle for exports to other geographic areas was positive in April: "Other EEC" showed continued strong growth of over 3%, "Other America" reversed its negative growth rates during 1979 to an advance of 1.2% in April and the U.K. continued to show moderating growth rates, down to just under 0.5% in April.

Imports from the U.S. decreased 4.0% in June or \$145 million to \$3.51 billion, following a 6.0% increase in May. Imports from a number of other geographic areas declined as well: from the U.K. by 9.5% to \$140 million, from Japan by 18% to \$140 million and from "Other OECD" by 6.7% to \$140 million and from "Other America" by 27% to \$170 million. Imports from "Other EEC" increased by 7.3% to \$295 million.

The trend-cycle for imports from the U.S. appears to have peaked in April — the peak coming at about the same time as the peak in the export trend-cycle. Negative growth in the import trend-cycle for April was recorded for "Other EEC" at just over 1.0%, for Japan at about 3.0% and for "Other America" at about 4%. These areas also

showed negative growth in the import trend-cycle over the February to April period with Japan showing negative growth even prior to February. Growth in the trend-cycle for imports from the U.K. was about 2.5% in April, up slightly from the previous month while growth in the trend-cycle for "Other OECD" continued to be positive, though steadily declining, with an increase of about 1% in April.

For further information on area and commodity trade, order the June 1979 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, 40¢/\$4).

### Alcoholic Beverages, 1977-78

Sales of alcoholic beverages reached \$4,015 million in the year ended March 31, 1978, \$327 million or 8.9% more than in the previous year. Sales volume increased 3.0% to 520 million gallons. Imports increased to \$224 million from \$164 million and the value of exports increased to \$313 million from \$257 million. Provincial government revenues from sales rose 8.4% to \$1,252 million.

Further information will be contained in the *Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada, 1977* (63-202, 75¢). Advance details can be obtained from R.C. Sauriol, Public Finance Division (telephone 613-995-8201), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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