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Weekly Bulletin

April 25, 1980

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

Consumer Price Index

March's Consumer Price Index (1971=100) increased 1.1% to 204.0 from 201.8 in February. This was higher than the advance of 0.8% in February. The 9.3% 12-month rise fell marginally from 9.4% registered in the previous 12-month period. Higher housing charges with increased clothing and food prices were again major factors in the monthly CPI rise. The index for all-items-excluding food rose 1.1% (0.8% in the previous month). The food index advanced 0.9% between early February and early March, down from February's 1.4%.

Dairy products — especially for milk in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Québec — with sugar and soft drinks were largely responsible for the 0.9% increase in the food-at-home index; also contributing, in part, were increased prices for selected cereal and bakery products, turkey and fish. Impact of the increases was slightly offset by lower prices for selected beef and pork cuts, chicken and fresh fruit. In March, the food-at-home index stood 7.7% above March 1979. The food-away-from-home index rose 1.1% in early March, 11.1% over March 1979.

Higher prices for gasoline and fuel oil — largely reflecting the lagging impact of the January 1 oil price increases — with increased shelter charges and clothing prices were significant contributing factors to the 1.1% increase in the index for all-items-excluding food. Within the clothing component, increases were recorded for selected women's and men's wear items reflecting, in part, increases for jewellery, seasonal wear items and for selected items "on special" in the previous month. Other notable increases: air fares on selected routes, dental care charges and home furnishings and equipment. Higher prices for selected home entertainment products and travel holiday expenses were also recorded. Prices also rose for tobacco products, especially in Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan. New car prices declined from the combined effect of rebates on certain models and in British Columbia the reduction in provincial retail sales taxes on selected models. Between March 1979 and March 1980 the index for all-items-excluding food advanced 9.6%.

In terms of goods and services, the price level for goods advanced 1.2% and that for services 0.9%. March 1979 to March 1980,

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec.	293.5	296.62r	8.9
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	12,379.8p	12,252.7r	11.1
Persons with Jobs (million)	Mar.	10.29	10.24	3.4
Unemployed	Mar.	969,000	949,000	-0.7

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Jan.	2,371.8p	2,175.2p	19.8
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.*	26,835.3p	26,490.7r	22.6
Wholesale (\$ million)	Feb.*	12,538.4p	11,711.6p	22.0

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.*	13,535.8p	13,427.6r	14.4
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.*	18,267.3p	17,669.6r	23.2

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Mar.*	204.0	201.8	9.3
Non-food (CPI) Component	Mar.*	188.9	186.8	9.6
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Jan.	113.4	113.0	5.6
22-city Composite Wage, Building (1971=100)	Jan.	230.9	230.9	5.1
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.	240.1p	238.4r	15.2

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Feb.*	850.5p	1,639.7p	41.5
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.	6,445	16,934	-6.1

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand metric tonnes)	Jan.	2,596.8	2,596.8	-9.8
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Jan.	35.6	35.6	2.4
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Jan.*	10,466.7	10,466.7	0.8
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Jan.	9.75p	9.75p	0.7

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	6,148.9p	12,057.7p	24.8
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	5,432.1p	10,880.2p	16.8

PRODUCTION

Steel (Ingots — thousand metric tonnes)	Mar.*	1,259.8	3,955.3	0.9
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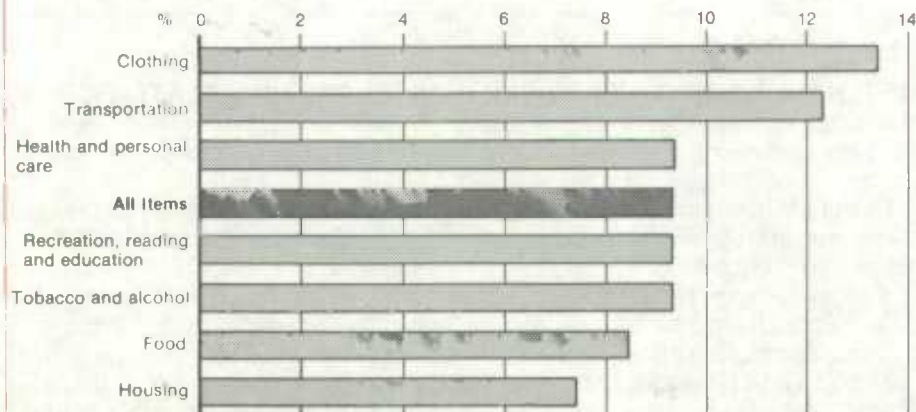
SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	521.4p	1,079.8p	16.0
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.*	12,938.0p	25,441.2p	13.0
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	885.9	1,654.3	12.4
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	5,762.5	11,403.7	13.6
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	5,955.9p	11,593.3p	18.1

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

Percentage Change in the Consumer Price Index and its Major Components

March 1979 to March 1980



Source: Consumer prices and price indexes (62-010)

the price level for goods advanced 10.0%, that for services 8.1%.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the CPI rose 1.1% between February and March, with a 0.8% increase in the food index and a 1.2% increase for all-items-excluding food.

Consumer prices rose in all cities for which CPIs are produced, from 0.6% in Calgary to 2.0% in Charlottetown-Summerside. Increases equalling or greater than the national average were registered in 12 of the 15 cities. Calgary primarily reflected a slight decline in food prices and health care expenses. Charlottetown-Summerside reflected — among other things — the increase in provincial retail sales taxes on consumer goods and services. In Vancouver, reductions in provincial retail sales taxes on selected items had a dampening impact.

Percentage increases with annual change in brackets: St. John's 1.6% (10.6%), Charlottetown-Summerside 2.0% (9.5%), Halifax 1.4% (10.1%), Saint John 1.2% (9.5%), Québec 1.1% (10.0%), Montréal 1.1% (9.5%), Ottawa 1.1% (8.9%), Toronto 1.1% (9.6%), Thunder Bay 0.8% (9.1%), Winnipeg 1.2% (9.6%), Saskatoon 1.3% (10.0%), Regina 1.4% (9.2%), Edmonton 1.1% (8.5%), Calgary 0.6% (8.6%) and Vancouver 1.0% (7.5%).

For further information, order the first quarter 1980 issue of *Consumer Prices and Price Indexes* (62-010, \$6/\$24).

Provincial Payrolls

General government services in provincial and territorial governments report gross payrolls, fourth quarter 1979, of \$1,657 million (\$1,654.2 million for July-September 1979). Employees, last pay period, December 1979: 390,250 (408,202 in September).

For further information, order *Provincial Government Employment, October-December 1979* (72-007, \$1.05), or contact A.G. Kerr (613-995-8201), *Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Sugar Sales

For March, refineries sold 75 643 436 kilograms (166,765,259 lbs) of sugar, 74 595 049 (164,453,961) in domestic sales and 1 048 387 (2,311,298) exported.

For further information, contact R.E. Ralph (613-992-8619), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Inventories/Shipments/Orders

Manufacturers' shipments, February, rose 3.5% to \$12,938.0 million, from revised January's \$12,503.1 million.

Shipments seasonally adjusted were estimated at \$13,309.4 million, up 0.4% from the revised January level of \$13,251.9 million. Durable goods increased 1.5% to \$5,940.8 million from \$5,854.8 million and non-durable goods shipments dropped 0.4% to \$7,368.6 million from \$7,397.1 million.

New orders in all manufacturing industries, seasonally adjusted: \$13,626.6 million, down 1.3% from \$13,806.6 million. New orders for durable goods decreased 1.9% to \$6,262.4 million from \$6,386.7 million and non-durable goods new orders fell 0.8% to \$7,364.2 million from \$7,419.9 million.

Unfilled orders in all manufacturing industries, seasonally adjusted: up 1.8% to

Financial Flows

Additional advanced information, fourth 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*.

\$18,173.2 million from \$17,856.0 million. Unfilled orders for durable goods increased 2.0% to \$16,182.1 million from \$15,860.5 million. Those for non-durable goods dropped fractionally.

Total inventory owned in February, seasonally adjusted: \$26,483.7 million, 0.7% higher than revised January's \$26,311.0 million. Total inventory held rose 0.7% to \$27,553.8 million from \$27,348.9 million with increases of 1.2% in goods in process, 1.4% in finished products, and a fractional decrease in raw materials.

The seasonally-adjusted ratio of total inventory owned to shipments was 199:1, as in January. Finished products to shipments ratio: 0.67:1, unchanged from revised January.

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, \$3.50/\$35), or contact H.D. Wightman (613-996-7008).

Labour Income

Labour income, February, was estimated at \$12,379.8 million, up \$1,234.6 million (11.1%) from 1979.

Breakdowns for wages and salaries (millions of dollars) were: primary industries \$70.6; forestry \$123.1; mines, quarries, oil wells \$342.0; manufacturing \$2,642.0; construction \$681.6; transportation, communication, other utilities \$1,257.9; trade \$1,514.5; finance, insurance, real estate \$804.5; commercial, personal services \$1,097.7; education, related services \$1,164.6; health, welfare services \$741.6; federal administration, other government offices \$417.2; local administration \$262.7; and provincial administration \$329.6.

Supplementary income for February reached \$930.2 million. Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries increased by \$123.6 million between January and February to \$11,777.1 million.

See detailed estimates in the January-March 1980 issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, \$5/\$20), or contact Mrs. G. Gauthier (613-995-8431), *Labour Income Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

Radio Broadcasting

Gross radio air-time sales, February: \$8.0 million, up 23.1% from \$6.5 million in 1979. After commissions, net national sales amounted to \$6.8 million, up 23.6% from \$5.5 million. Net local air-time sales rose 20.4% to \$20.1 million from \$16.7 million.

Gross January-February sales: up 15.0% to \$52.0 million from \$45.2 million in 1979. Net sales rose 15.9% to \$48.9 million from \$42.2 million.

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Radio Broadcasting* (56-003, \$1.50/\$15), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271).

Refined Petroleum

February saw net sales of all refined petroleum products amount to 8 970.5 thousand cubic metres, 0.9% over last year (8 885.9 thousand). Refineries produced 9 350.5 thousand cubic metres of products, up 7.7% from 8 680.0 thousand in 1979.

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$2.50/\$25), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-996-3139).

Urban Transit

February saw 62 urban transit systems collect 104,701,486 initial passenger fares, with total distance run 33,358,761 miles (53 685 722 km) and operating revenues of \$44,253,977.

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Urban Transit* (53-003, \$1.50/\$15), or contact the *Surface Transport Section* (613-995-1976).

Mineral Wool

Manufacturers shipped 6 525 042 square metres (70,234,967 square feet) of mineral wool (all R-factors) during February, down from 8 649 444 (93,101,840) in 1979.

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Mineral Wool* (44-004, \$1.50/\$15), or contact John Dornan (613-996-3226), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada*.

On Avoiding The Pitfalls

NEW HANDBOOK OFFERS HELP IN INTERPRETING STATISTICS

Released this week by the User Services Division is a new handbook — *Finding and Using Statistics* — that provides 60 pages of basic directions on how to obtain and interpret statistics.

Directions on finding statistics include the use of the Statistics Canada Catalogue and various compendia. Microfiche and computer access to data are also described.

Suggestions for using statistics include advice on reading statistical tables, some simple mathematical procedures and some common pitfalls to avoid in drawing conclusions from data.

Finding and Using Statistics can be obtained through any of the Statistics Canada regional reference centres. There is a \$1.00 handling fee for each copy of this handbook.

Trading Partner Analysis

Total exports (seasonally adjusted, Customs basis) to the United States grew 1.5% (\$60 million) to \$4,212 million in February. Following a 40% decline in January, exports to Japan increased 33% (\$90 million) to \$540 million. Exports to "Other EEC" increased 20% (\$90 million) to \$540 million. Exports to the United Kingdom rose 6%. Exports to both "Other OECD" and "Other America" countries fell 20% (about \$100 million in total).

On a short-term trend cycle basis, exports to the U.S. showed steady growth of about 2% each month from August through December. Exports to "Other EEC" countries rose from monthly growth of 2% in August and September to almost 4% by December. The short-term trend cycle for exports to the U.K. peaked in October and dropped off 1% in November and 2% in December, while exports to Japan peaked in November and declined 1% in December. Exports to "Other OECD" and "Other America" slowed from increases of 6% and 5% in August to increases of 3% and 1% in December.

Total February imports (seasonally adjusted, Customs basis) from the U.S. dropped 8% to \$3,744 million following growth of 7% in January. Imports from "Other EEC" fell 1% to \$333 million and imports from Japan and "Other OECD" countries fell 22% to \$162 million and 5% to \$108 million. Imports from the U.K. increased 22% after falling 5% in January and imports from "Other America" countries increased 33% (\$93 million) to \$375 million in February.

On a short-term trend cycle basis, imports from the U.S. peaked in October, had zero growth in November and dropped 1% in December. Imports from the U.K. peaked in September and dropped off 1% per month in November and December and imports from Japan peaked in November and declined marginally in December. Imports from "Other OECD" and "Other America" continued growing but slowed from 3% and 8% increases in September to increases of about 2% and 4% respectively in December. Imports from "Other EEC" countries grew at about 2% per month from October through December.

For further information on area and commodity trade, order the February 1980 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, \$3/\$30).

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.

Export/Import, Price/Volume Indexes

On a fixed weight, Customs basis, import and export February price indexes continued to grow at a strong pace. Export prices increased 1.9%, close to the 2.0% monthly compound rate of growth experienced in the 16 months since October 1978. Import prices increased 2.2% compared with the 1.37% compound rate of growth experienced in the same 16-month period. The compound growth rate has been significantly higher for export prices than for import prices in contrast to the 29-month period before October 1978 when export prices grew at a 0.75% compound growth rate compared with a 1.11% growth rate for import prices. On a Paasche current weighted basis, export prices increased 1.9% in February and import prices fell 0.8%.

Seasonally-adjusted domestic export volume increased 4.0% following an 8.3% decrease in January and import volume fell 2.5% following a slight increase in January.

For further information, order the March 1980 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, \$3/\$30).

Feed Price Indexes

Feed price indexes, February, Canada and five geographical regions, are now available. For further information, contact the Information Unit (613-995-5738), Industrial Prices Section, Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

Farm Products Price Index

Monthly index numbers of farm prices of agricultural products have been released for 1979 (CANSIM matrix 176). Measuring as closely as can be determined prices received by farmers at the farm gate, the Index averaged 248.8 (1971=100), a 14% increase from 1978's revised 217.6, with increases arising from most crops and livestock items.

For further information, contact Peter Lys (613-995-4895), Agriculture Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Stocks of Fruit/Vegetables

Stocks of fruits, frozen and in preservatives, in storages and factories on March 1 totalled 45.4 million lbs (40.0 million last year). Vegetables totalled 154.8 million lbs (122.8 million).

For further information, order the March 1980 issue of *Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables* (32-010, \$1.50/\$15), or contact P.L. Beerstecher (613-995-4859), Agriculture Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

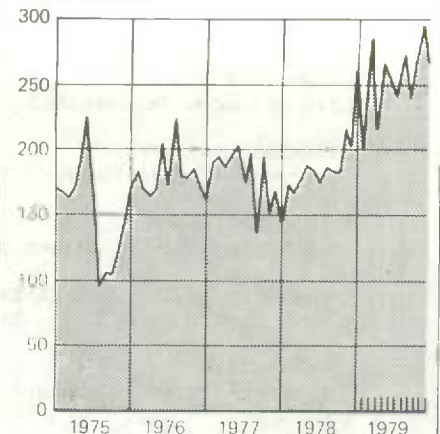
Cement

February saw manufacturers ship 444 123 tonnes (489 561 tons) of Portland cement (371 622 tonnes a year earlier).

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Cement* (44-001, \$1.50/\$15), or contact J. Dornan (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Canadian Domestic Exports of Wood Pulp

Millions of Dollars



Source: Exports by Commodities (65-004)

Department Store Sales/Stocks

Department store sales, February, rose 16.2% to \$521.4 million from \$448.7 million in 1979. Sales rose in all sectors but furs (down 26.0%). Largest increases: girls' and teenage girls' wear (38.1%), china and glassware (32.0%), men's and boys' footwear (26.0%). All provinces reported increased sales, from 27.6% for British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories to 6.2% for Prince Edward Island. Sales and percentage changes for metropolitan areas were: Montréal \$58.1 million (8.6%), Toronto \$75.9 million (12.4%), Winnipeg \$24.0 million (12.4%) and Vancouver \$61.4 million (25.8%).

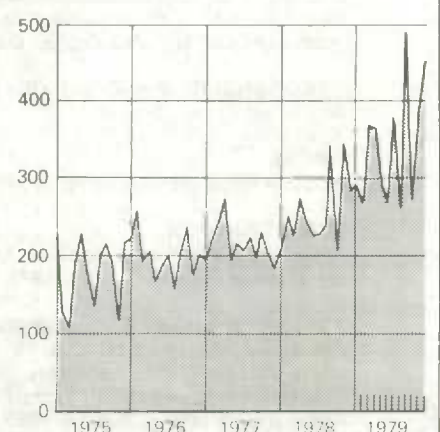
Selling value of stocks reached \$2,300.3 million, up 14.3% from 1979. Inventories increased in 37 of 40 departments.

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, \$2.50/\$25), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Canadian Exports to Japan

(Seasonally Adjusted)

Millions of Dollars



Source: Summary of External Trade (65-001)



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These publications released April 17 — 24

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
BUSINESS FINANCE			
Cheques Cashed, February 1980	61-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
CENSUS			
Administrative Report, Part II, 1976 Census of Canada	99-851	\$1.50	
CONSTRUCTION			
Housing Starts and Completions, January 1980	64-002	\$3/\$30	\$3.60/\$36
CONSUMER INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			
Income Distributions by Size in Canada, 1978	13-207	\$8	\$9.60
DEMOGRAPHY			
Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age and Sex, Canada and Provinces, June 1, 1977 and 1978	91-203	\$6	\$7.20
EXTERNAL TRADE			
Exports by Commodities, January 1980	65-004	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
Imports by Commodities, January 1980	65-007	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
Summary of External Trade, February 1980	65-001	\$3/\$30	\$3.60/\$36
FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES			
International Travel, February 1980	66-002	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
HEALTH			
Hospital Statistics, Preliminary Annual Report, 1978-79	83-217	\$3	\$3.60
List of Canadian Hospitals and Special Care Facilities, 1979	83-201	\$10	\$12
Vital Statistics, Volume II, Marriages and Divorces, 1978	84-205	\$6	\$7.20
INDUSTRY PRODUCT			
Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry, December 1979	\$3/\$30	\$3.60/\$36	
LABOUR			
Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics, January 1980	73-001pN/G		
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			
Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, January 1980	33-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Electric Lamp and Shade Manufacturers, 1978	35-214	\$4.50	
Electric Power Statistics, Volume II, Annual Statistics, 1978	57-202	\$7	\$8.40
Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, February 1980	43-005	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Footwear Statistics, February 1980	33-002	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
General Review of the Mineral Industries, Mines, Quarries and Oil Wells, 1977	26-201	\$4.50	\$5.40
Gypsum Products, February 1980	44-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Office Furniture Manufacturers, 1978	35-212	\$4.50	
Oils and Fats, February 1980	32-006	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Particleboard and Waferboard, February 1980	36-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, February 1980	47-004	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Rigid Insulating Board (Wood Fibre and Mineral Products), February 1980	36-002	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Steel Ingots and Pig Iron, March 1980	41-002	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, February 1980	43-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, February 1980	41-006	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, March 1, 1980	32-010	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES			
Wholesale Trade, January 1980	63-008	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
PRICES			
Industry Price Indexes, January 1980	62-011	\$3.50/\$35	\$4.20/\$42
PUBLIC FINANCE			
Provincial Government Finance, Assets, Liabilities, Sources and Uses of Funds, 1976-77, 1977-78 Preliminary	68-209	\$8	\$9.60
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS			
Coastwise Shipping Statistics, 1978	54-210	\$8	\$9.60
Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents, 1976	53-206	\$7	
Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics, 1978	53-215	\$6	\$7.20
Radio Broadcasting, January 1980	56-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Urban Transit, February 1980	53-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18