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Weekly Bulletin

May 2, 1980

Real Domestic Product

The seasonally-adjusted Index of Real Domestic Product declined 0.2% in February to 139.7 from 140.0 in January. The index of industrial production rose 0.2% during February. Goods-producing industries were unchanged from January and service-producing industries fell 0.3%.

In February, increases were recorded in manufacturing, forestry, transportation, storage and communication, agriculture and public administration and defence services. For manufacturing, this was the first monthly increase in output since September 1979. Both non-durables and durables manufacturing showed gains in February. Most significant gain: manufacturers of motor vehicles with increased production of automobiles for domestic consumption. However, motor vehicle production was still 25% below February 1979. Sawmill production was up significantly in February due to firmer market prices for wood products and the termination of a six-week railway strike in British Columbia that had hampered the movement of sawn lumber. Elsewhere, moderate increases were recorded among manufacturers of chemicals and chemical products, rubber and plastics, clothing, refined petroleum products and metal fabricated products. Production declines were reported in textiles, food and beverages, primary metals and machinery industries.

Increased logging and pulpwood cutting activity contributed to the February gain in forestry. Production in January was affected by the British Columbia railway strike.

Transportation, storage and communication services were up in February with major gains in railway and pipeline transport, and telephone systems. Increased carloadings of wheat, grain, coal, pulpwood, wood products and automotive products accounted for most of the growth in railway transport. Most of the gain in pipeline transport was due to increased receipts of natural gas. Agricultural output moved up slightly on the strength of increased livestock and poultry production. The marginal growth in public administration and defence services resulted from an increase in provincial administration services.

During the month, several significant declines were recorded, most notably in community, business and personal ser-

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb.*	306.09p	302.70r	10.2
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)	Mar.*	6,153	23,087	-11.8

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)	Mar.*	6,451.5p	18,507.6p	22.5
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.*	5,973.6p	16,836.8p	13.3

PRODUCTION

Steel (ingots — thousand metric tonnes)	Mar.	1 259.8	3 955.3	0.9
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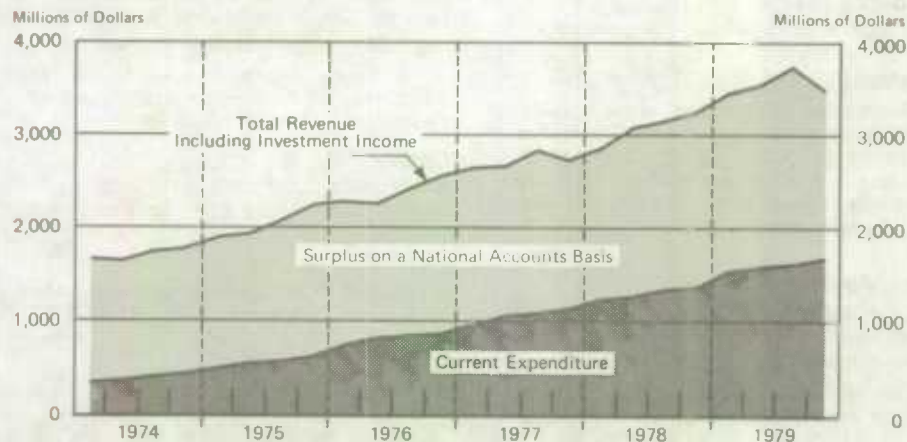
SALES

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.

Canada Pension Plan

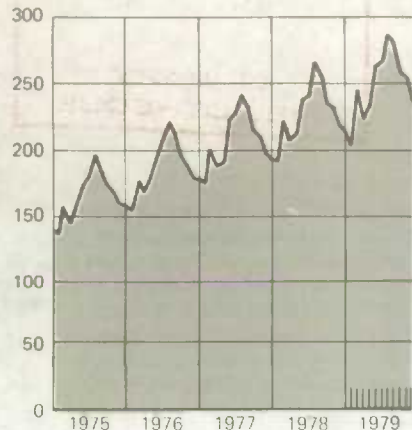
(Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates)



Source: National Income and Expenditure Accounts (113-001)

Restaurant Receipts

Millions of Dollars



Source: Restaurant Statistics (63-011)

vices, and the construction industry. To a lesser extent, declines were also reported in mining, trade and finance, insurance and real estate services. In community, business and personal services, a sharp decline in education and related services resulted from a province-wide labour dispute in Québec involving some 80,000 employees. A significant decline in residential building activity accounted for most of the drop in construction.

In trade, wholesale trade activity was relatively unchanged from the previous month and retail trade declined. In retail trade, decreases were reported in food, department, clothing, furniture and drug stores. New motor vehicle dealers registered a significant increase, due to the retail sales tax rebate scheme in Ontario and also to increasing sales of imported automobiles. The decline in finance, insurance and real estate services resulted entirely from decreases among financial institutions.

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, \$3/\$30), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Tobacco Products

Production of cigarettes, March, reached 6.2 billion against 6.8 billion a year earlier. Cigars: 45.9 million (37.3 million).

For further information, order the March 1980 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products* (32-022, \$1.50/\$15), or contact G. Elliot (613-996-3226), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Pigs, April

Pig numbers (bar Newfoundland) at April 1 were estimated at 9,147,000, up 11% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the April Report on *Livestock Surveys, Pigs* (23-008, \$4/\$16), or contact B. Rosien (613-995-4853), Agriculture Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

For the week ended February 16, a total of 842,000 persons qualified for unemployment insurance benefits, up 4% from January but 14% fewer than a year earlier. Thirty-six percent of the beneficiaries were females, about the same proportion as a year earlier.

Unemployment insurance payments in February amounted to \$419 million, down 11% from January and 2% from February 1979. For two months, benefits reached \$889 million, down 7% from 1979. A drop of 14% in the number of weeks of benefit paid was partially offset by an 8% increase in the average weekly benefit to \$119.59.

Some 217,000 claims were received in February by persons seeking benefits, down 36% from January. Last year, a similar decrease was experienced. Compared with 1979 the number of claims increased by 10%. Claims totalled 557,000 for the year-to-date, up 10% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001p), the *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, Quarterly), or contact George Fincham (613-992-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale sales, February: \$5,956 million, up 20.7% from \$4,934 million a year earlier. Inventories rose 22.0% to \$12,538 million from \$10,276 million.

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$1.50/\$15), or contact the Wholesale Trade Section (613-996-9307), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Decorative Laminate Sheet

First quarter 1980 domestic shipments of 1/8 inch, high pressure laminate sheet: 22,898,925 square feet (2 127 380 m²) valued at \$10,990,970 million.

For further information, order the March quarter 1980 issue of *Factory Shipments of High Pressure Decorative Laminate Sheet* (47-005, \$2.50/\$10).

Vinyl-Asbestos Floor Tiles

Manufacturers produced 7,092,720 square feet (658 935 m²) of vinyl-asbestos floor tiles in March compared with 8,728,119 (810 869 m²) a year earlier.

For further information, order the March 1980 issue of *Production and Shipments of Floor Tiles* (47-001, \$1.50/\$15).

Cement

March saw manufacturers ship 492 159 metric tonnes (542 512 tons) of Portland cement (579 235 metric tonnes a year earlier).

For further information, order the March 1980 issue of *Cement* (44-001, \$1.50/\$15).

Sugar

Production of refined sugar in March totalled 62 213 metric tonnes.

For further information, order the March 1980 issue of *The Sugar Situation* (32-013, \$1.50/\$15).

Building Permits

Weakness in the residential and government sectors of construction caused the value of proposed construction to decline 11.2% to \$1,365.6 million in February from a revised seasonally-adjusted \$1,538.1 million in January. The private business sector consisting of industrial and commercial projects remained strong during the month — the total value of planned construction was at a seasonally-adjusted \$1,021.1 million.

Residential permits estimated at a seasonally-adjusted \$673.6 million in January decreased to \$633.3 million in February owing to the number of multiple dwellings authorized dropping sharply from 8,509 units to 5,420 units. The number of single-detached homes increased from a seasonally-adjusted 7,256 to an unexpected 9,213 units in February. (It appears that builders anticipating a rapid rise in interest rates hastened to obtain both mortgage approvals and municipal authorization.)

In the non-residential sector, government-initiated projects composed of hospitals, schools, welfare and administration buildings dropped from \$322.6 million in January to \$173.4 million in February. Proposed industrial construction rose from \$145.1 million to \$172.8 million in February and new commercial facilities remained high at \$386.1 million (\$396.8 million in January). In total, non-residential permits were at a seasonally-adjusted \$732.3 million in February against \$864.5 million in January.

During the first two months of 1980, the value of permits issued by municipalities totalled \$1,639.7 million, reflecting an increase of 41.4% over the \$1,159.2 million in the same period of 1979. All categories of construction recorded increases: residential 12.4%, industrial 70.4%, commercial 45.2%, institutional and governmental 137.9%.

For additional information, order the February 1980 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$3.50/\$35), or contact J.P. Delisle (613-995-8213), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Household Reference Person (Census of Canada)

This working paper by R.M.A. Sametz and C. Pleizier was written for a United Nations working group established to investigate the issue of appropriate contemporary approaches to the "Household Reference Person" and to make recommendations for the 1980 round of Censuses. The paper describes the evolution in Canada of the concept, current issues concerning it, the development of alternatives for testing for the 1981 Census and the implications and anticipated magnitude of the change entailed by each alternative.

Copies of this paper are available through contacting any of the Statistics Canada User Services reference centres.

Key Economic Series

During May, release of key economic series data is to be as outlined below. Where a range of dates applies, this represents the period within which publication can be reasonably expected given the circumstances peculiar to each series. (A range may be exceeded on occasion.)

May 1-6: Industry Selling Price Index, March

May 2: Preliminary Statement on Canadian Trade, March

May 13: Labour Force Survey, April

May 15-20: Labour Income, March

May 16: Consumer Price Index, April

May 16-22: Index of Industrial Production, March

May 16-23: Wholesale Trade, March

May 20-21: Inventories, Shipments, Orders, March

May 20-26: Building Permits, March

May 23-28: Real Domestic Product, March

May 26-30: Employment, Earnings, Hours, March

May 26-30: Housing Starts in Urban Centres of 10,000 Population Plus, April

May 26-30: Unemployment Insurance, March

May 26-30: Industrial Corporations Financial Statistics (Preliminary data), 1st Quarter 1980

May 26 to June 2: Retail Trade, March.

For further information, contact Henri Sarrazin (613-992-1566), *Production Planning and Scheduling*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Electric Lamps

Imports of electric lamps of all types including imports during March totalled 23,769,022 units valued at \$19,482,833.

For further information, order the March 1980 issue of *Electric Lamps (Light Sources)* (43-009, \$1.50/\$15), or contact J. Pell (613-996-3226), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Mineral Wool

March saw manufacturers ship 7 962 770 square metres (85,710,543 square feet) of mineral wool (all R-factors), against 5 721 743 (61,588,311) a year earlier.

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

Housing Starts

Residential building in March in centres of 10,000 population and above was marked by housing starts falling 24.4% to 6,153 from 8,134 a year earlier.

Provincial figures with March 1979 totals in brackets: Ontario 1,400 (1,849), Québec 975 (1,182), Alberta 1,410 (2,417), British Columbia 2,001 (1,079), Manitoba 9 (190), Saskatchewan 106 (932), Nova Scotia 188 (300), New Brunswick 21 (33), Newfoundland 43 (36) and Prince Edward Island 0 (91).

For further information, order the March 1980 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, \$3/\$30), or contact J.P. Delisle (613-995-8213), *Construction Division*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Oil Pipeline Transport

Oil pipelines received 444 656 m3D of crude oil, condensate, pentanes plus and refined petroleum product in January, up 5.5% from 421 675 m3D received a year earlier. Receipts of domestic petroleum and products increased 4.7% to 298 562 m3D and imported petroleum and products receipts increased 12.7% to 46 095 m3D.

For further information, order the January 1979 issue of *Oil Pipe Line Transport* (55-001, \$2.50/\$25), or contact G. Kitchen (613-996-3931), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Index of Industrial Production

The seasonally-adjusted Index of Industrial Production increased 0.2% to 137.2 in February from 136.9 in January. Output of mining declined, utilities and manufacturing increased.

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, \$3/\$30), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), *Industry Product Division*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Wool Production/Supply, 1979

Wool production in 1979: 2,584,000 lbs. Imports rose 8% to 41,383,000 lbs from a year earlier and exports fell 36% to 728,000 lbs. Farm value of shorn wool production totalled \$1,824,000, an average of 70.6 cents per pound.

For further information, order the 1979 issue of *Wool Production and Supply* (23-205, \$3), or contact Elizabeth A. Leckie (613-995-4853), *Agriculture Statistics Division*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Phonograph Records/Tapes

Manufacturers produced 5,357,459 phonograph records in February (7,169,985 a year earlier). Production of pre-recorded tapes declined to 1,272,120 (1,505,095).

For further information, order the February 1980 issue of *Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada* (47-004, \$1.50/\$15), or contact G. Elliot (613-992-8619), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Dairy Review

February saw 486 263 kilolitres of milk sold off farms, up 9.9% from 1979.

For further information, order the March 1980 issue of the *Dairy Review* (23-001, \$2.50/\$25).

Second Quarter 1980

Manufacturing Sector

Business Conditions Survey

Manufacturers reporting to April's survey expressed pessimism about production in first quarter 1980 but appear to be slightly more optimistic for second quarter 1980.

Production is expected to be higher by 26% of the weighted response and lower by 23% for the second quarter. In January, only 20% forecast higher production from then until March and 30% expected it would be lower.

The level of new orders was reported to be declining by 38% of the weighted response and rising by 18%. This is similar to January when 34% noted declining new orders and 18% indicated they were rising. The proportion of the response indicating a lower than normal backlog of unfilled orders rose to 40% in April from 22% in January and those reporting a higher than normal backlog declined to 11% from 16%.

The level of finished product inventory was felt to be too high by 32% of the weighted response and too low by 3%. In January, 20% reported these inventories as too high and 7% reported them as too low.

A shortage of skilled labour continued to be the most serious production difficulty, increasing over the quarter from 10% to 15% of the weighted response.

At the same time, a shortage of working capital, noted by 13%, was much more apparent than in January when only 3% reported this problem. The largest proportion ever before to indicate trouble with working capital was 6% — in July and October 1976 — the year when the survey was initiated.

Interest Rates Blamed

In the current survey, a number of respondents declared that high interest rates were causing not only working capital shortages but other problems as well.

When results are classified by economic use or type of market served by the manufacturers the export-based industries show the greatest quarter-to-quarter change with 64% now indicating a lower than normal backlog of unfilled orders — only 13% indicated this in January.

In the same group of industries 36% of the weighted response reported a shortage of working capital as a production difficulty against 2% in January. Within this group 60% stated that their finished product inventory was too high. This is a significant increase over January: then 29% reported this situation.

Response from the April survey represented more than 6,500 manufacturing establishments whose shipments accounted for about 55% of all shipments in these industries in 1977. Answers were weighted by attaching to each the value of shipments reported to the 1977 Census of Manufactures. (The January 1980 data published here include some response that was received too late for the first release of results from that survey.) For further information, contact Brian Preston (613-996-7008), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.



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These publications released April 25 — May 1

	Catalogue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE			
Grains and Oilseeds Review, February 1980	22-007	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Farm Cash Receipts, January to February 1980	21-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE			
Annual Review of Science Statistics, 1979	13-212	\$6	\$7.20
GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT			
National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Fourth Quarter 1979	13-001	\$6/\$24	\$7.20/\$28.80
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			
Agricultural Implement Industry, 1978	42-202	\$4.50	
Asphalt Roofing, February 1980	45-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Clay Products Manufacturers from Domestic Clays, 1978	44-215	\$4.50	
Coal and Coke Statistics, January 1980	45-002	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Commercial Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Equipment Manufacturers, 1978	42-215	\$4.50	
Construction Type Plywood, February 1980	35-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, February 1980	33-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Electric Power Statistics, January 1980	57-001	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Miscellaneous Wood Industries, 1978	35-208	\$4.50	
Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, March 1980	32-022	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, March 1980	32-024	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Shipments of Floor Tiles, March 1980	47-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, February 1980	41-011	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, February 1980	25-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Specified Chemicals, February 1980	46-002	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Steel Pipe and Tube Mills, 1978	41-220	\$4.50	
Wooden Box Factories, 1978	35-209	\$4.50	
SERVICE BULLETIN			
Fruit and Vegetable Preservation , Vol. 8, No. 25, Pack of Processed Mixed Vegetables, 1979	32-023	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES			
Retail Trade, February 1980	63-005	\$3.50/\$35	\$4.20/\$42
PRICES			
Industry Price Indexes, February 1980	62-001	\$3.50/\$35	\$4.20/\$42
PUBLIC FINANCE			
Local Government Employment, October-December 1979	72-009	\$4/\$16	\$4.80/\$19.20
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS			
Radio Broadcasting, February 1980	56-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Telephone Statistics, February 1980	56-002	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Transcontinental and Regional Air Carrier Operations, November 1979	51-001	\$3/\$30	\$3.60/\$36