

# V-F-O-M-A-

Thursday, December 24, 1992

# **OVERVIEW**

#### Foreign Investment in Canadian Securities Resumes

In October, foreign investors purchased a net \$2.5 billion in Canadian securities following two months of net disinvestment totalling \$5.1 billion.

#### Number of UI Beneficiaries Relatively Stable

In October, the seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits decreased marginally to 1.2 million.

#### Higher Vehicle Prices Push Up Consumer Price Index

The all-items CPI for Canada rose half a percentage point in November, largely because of higher prices for 1993-model cars and trucks.

#### Wholesale Trade Resumes Upward Trend

Wholesale merchants' sales rose 1.2% in October to \$16.3 billion, resuming the sixmonth upward trend interrupted in September.

## Retail Sales Increase Marginally

The level of seasonally adjusted retail sales edged up by 0.1% in October after slipping by 0.2% in September.

# Alcoholic Beverages: Profits Decline For the First Time Since

Sales of alcoholic beverages continued to decrease in 1990-91, pushing net profits of provincial liquor authorities down 1.8% to \$2,342 million.

Note to our subscribers: The next Infomat issue will be published on January 8, 1993.

#### Foreign Investment in Canadian Securities Resumes

In October, foreign investors purchased a net \$2.5 billion in Canadian securities following two months of net disinvestment totalling \$5.1 billion. Most of the investment was directed to Canadian bonds while non-residents also sharply reduced their net disinvestment of Canadian money market paper.

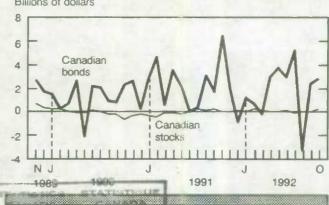
Non-residents increased their net holdings of Canadian bonds by \$2.8 billion, almost exclusively new issues (\$4.1 billion). New bond purchases totalled \$5.9 billion but were partially offset by retirements of maturing bonds in the amount of \$1.9 billion.

In the secondary market, the \$1.3 billion net disinvestment in outstanding bonds was made up of \$0.8 billion of federal issues and \$0.5 billion of provincial issues. The bulk of the net selling in October came from Europe (\$1.0 billion), followed by the United States (\$0.2 billion) and Asia (\$0.1 billion).

(continued on page 2)

### Security Transactions

Billions of dollars



DEC 24 1992

LIBRARY BIELIOTHEQUE



# ... Foreign Investment in Canadian Securities Resumes

Non-residents reduced their holdings of Canadian money market paper for the third month in a row, by \$0.4 billion in October. This brings to \$4.5 billion the total net disinvestment during that period.

Canadian residents reduced their holdings of foreign securities by \$0.6 billion, an amount similar to September and representing the third significant monthly net reduction in two years. For the first time this year Canadians sold overseas stocks (\$110 million) but continued to buy U.S. stocks (\$143 million).

For further information, order Canada's International Transactions in Securities (catalogue number 67-002) or contact Balance of Payments Division at (613) 951-1864.

## Number of UI Beneficiaries Relatively Stable

In October, the seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits edged down by 0.1% to 1,175,000 but was 5.7% above its year-earlier level.

Increases in the number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits were recorded in half of the provinces and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The steepest declines were registered in Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Ontario. In Ontario, this was the first decrease in 11 months.

Total benefit payments slipped in October after a slight gain in September. At \$1,335 million, benefit payments were 6.5% above their year-earlier level. After a marginal decline in September, the number of benefit weeks paid to beneficiaries dropped 0.4% in October to 5.2 million.

For further information, order Unemployment Insurance Statistics (catalogue number 73-001) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4039.

#### U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits, October 1992

Seasonally Adjusted

Province/Territory	Total (000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	1,175	-0.1	5.7
Newfoundland	70	-1.9	5.7
Prince Edward Island	13	-2.3	-1.5
Nova Scotia	54	0.5	1.8
New Brunswick	57	-1.3	-1.7
Québec	376	0.2	3.5
Ontario	340	-1.9	15.3
Manitoba	31	2.0	-2.1
Saskatchewan	26	-0.4	2.0
Alberta	81	1.9	7.3
British Columbia	127	1.6	0.7
Yukon	2	3.1	1.8
Northwest Territories	2	3.2	15.0

#### Higher Vehicle Prices Push Up Consumer Price Index

The all-items Consumer Price Index (1986=100) for Canada rose 0.5% in November to a level of 129.1, the largest increase recorded since January. Six of the seven major components posted gains but the greatest upward impact came from the transportation index which climbed 2.5%. In spite of this increase, the year-over-year rate stood at 1.7%, slightly higher than October's level of 1.6% but similar to rates experienced in the first four months of the year.

The notable monthly increase in the transportation index resulted mainly from higher prices for new motor vehicles. Prices of new-model vehicles are reported in November and take into account changes in quality. Thus, the 5.3% hike in prices of new automotive vehicles represents the change in the amount that consumers are paying for vehicles of comparable quality. Higher air fares and

gasoline prices, up 1.9% and 1.7%, respectively, also contributed to the rise in the transportation component.

After posting four consecutive monthly declines, the food index advanced by 0.2% in November, largely due to an 8.3% jump in the price of fresh vegetables.

The housing index rose slightly (0.2%), reflecting higher charges for rent, homeowner's maintenance and repairs, natural gas and fuel oil.

Higher prices for cosmetics and toilet preparations pushed the health and personal care component up 0.3%. The recreation, reading and education index and the tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index both increased by 0.2% in November.

(continued on page 3)

# ... Higher Vehicle Prices Push Up Consumer Price Index

The clothing index fell by 1.2%, the sixth decrease in eight months. Almost three-quarters of this decline came from a 1.8% drop in the price of women's wear as retailers used promotional pricing to stimulate consumer spending. Men's wear prices decreased 0.9%, also because of competition and promotions.

For further information, order Consumer Price Index (catalogue number 62-001), or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9606. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 6.)

The Consumer Price Inde	ex, Percentage Chan	ge, November	1992/1991 *		
Province/territory	All-items	Food	Energy	All items excluding Food and Energy	Housing
Canada	1.7	1.0	2.6	1.8	1.5
Newfoundland	1.4	0.0	0.4	2.0	0.9
Prince Edward Island	0.9	0.2	1.4	1.0	0.3
Nova Scotia	0.4	0.0	-0.6	0.6	-0.7
New Brunswick	0.2	1.4	0.1	0.0	0.3
Québec	1.8	0.5	-0.2	2.4	1.
Ontario	1.2	0.8	5.7	1.0	0.5
Manitoba	1.5	3.0	0.8	1.3	0.5
Saskatchewan	2.4	2.4	5.6	2.1	1.0
Alberta	1.6	0.8	3.3	1.7	0.
British Columbia	3.5	2.8	-0.4	4.0	3.9
Yukon	0.8	-0.6	-1.6	1.4	1.3
Northwest Territories	1.0	-3.7	8.4	1.4	1.0

## Wholesale Trade Resumes Upward Trend

In October, seasonally adjusted wholesale merchants' sales rose to \$16.3 billion, up 1.2% from the revised September figure of \$16.1 billion. This increase follows a 0.1% decline in September and six successive monthly increases. Sales were 8.2% above their year-earlier level, the fifteenth consecutive month to have a year-over-year advance.

Eight of the nine trade groups recorded higher sales. Sales by wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies rose for the fifth time in six months, by 2.2% in October. Merchants of food, beverage, drug and tobacco products, which account for more than a quarter of total sales, posted a 1.3% increase. After a decline of 0.7% in September, sales by distributors of other products (farm and paper products, agricultural supplies, industrial and household chemicals) grew 2.2%.

The only decrease was reported by wholesalers of motor vehicles, parts and accessories, down 2.1%. This drop more than offset a 0.8% rise in sales in September.

Six provinces reported higher sales. Ontario wholesalers registered the strongest growth while Saskatchewan had the steepest decline.

Wholesale merchants' inventories amounted to \$25.1 billion, up 0.9% from September and 6.3% above their previous year's level.

For further information, order Wholesale Trade (catalogue number 63-008), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3540.

#### Retail Sales Increase Marginally

Seasonally adjusted retail sales totalled \$15.5 billion in October, up marginally from the previous month but 3.5% above their year-earlier level, the fifth straight month to have a year-over-year increase. The trend for retail sales, which has been rising steadily since March 1992, advanced at a slower pace in October.

Small offsetting movements resulted in the marginal growth in October. Sales increased in seven of the 16 trade groups, decreased in seven and remained unchanged in two. Sales by "other retail stores" (liquor stores, opticians' shops and pet stores), which account for only 5.5% of total retail sales, grew 1.5% in October. This represented the second straight monthly rise following four consecutive monthly declines. Sales of automotive parts, accessories and services rose 1.3% after

dropping by 1.2% in September. This group has displayed a pattern of alternating gains and decreases throughout 1992. Drug and patent medicine stores recorded an advance of 1.1%, more than offsetting a 0.2% decline in September.

Partly offsetting these gains, motor and recreational vehicle dealers recorded a 0.4% drop and sales by supermarkets and grocery stores fell by 0.3%. These groups account, respectively, for 20.1% and 24.3% of total retail sales.

Four of the 10 provinces and the territories reported lower sales in October but on a year-overyear basis, sales were higher in all provinces and territories.

For further information, order Retail Trade (catalogue number 63-005), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3551.

#### PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Retail and Wholesale Trade, October 1992

Seasonally Adjusted

	Retail Sales		Wholesale Sales		
	\$ millions	% change from previous month	\$ millions	% change from previous month	
Canada	15,495	0.1	16,279	1.2	
Newfoundland	284	0.5	167	-2.6	
Prince Edward Island	70	1.0	43	-1.8	
Nova Scotia	515	2.1	360	5.5	
New Brunswick	403	-2.7	240	3.1	
Québec	3,818	1.6	4,098	1.3	
Ontario	5,730	0.0	6,761	1.5	
Manitoba	529	1.0	555	-0.6	
Saskatchewan	432	-0.5	476	-2.6	
Alberta	1,640	-0.9	1,445	0.1	
British Columbia	2,059	-2.3	2,110	1.8	
Yukon	15	-2.8	24	-1.4	
Northwest Territories	32	-1.5	24	***	

## **Alcoholic Beverages: Profits Decline For the First Time Since** 1950

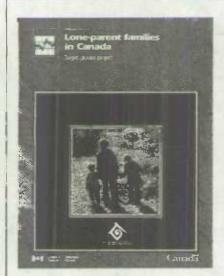
In 1990-91, sales of alcoholic beverages totalled 182 million litres, down 3.2% from a year earlier. However, the value of alcoholic beverages sold reached \$10,094 million, up 1.6% over the fiscal year 1989-1990.

The decline in the volume of sales reduced the net profit of provincial liquor authorities for the first time since 1950. The net profit totalled \$2,342 million in 1990-91, down 1.8% from 1989-1990. The decline contrasts with the average annual growth in net profit of 7.0% registered from 1979-1980 through 1989-1990.

For the third consecutive year, lower sales were recorded for all three types of alcoholic beverages: spirits, wines and beer. Sales of Canadian spirits dropped 5.9% to 112 million litres while sales of imported spirits fell 3.0% to 32 million litres. Wine sales totalled 237 million litres, down 3.7%. Canadian wines accounted for the entire decrease while sales of imported wines remained at 122 million litres. Beer sales declined by 30 million litres to 2,082 million litres. Canadian beer sales fell 1.0% but there was a steep decrease in the sale of imported beer (-11.2%).

For further information, contact Public Institutions Division at (613) 951-1834.

# NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



#### Lone-parent Families in Canada, 1991

The structure of family living in Canada is changing. The past several decades have seen significant increases in common-law unions, the incidence of divorce and remarriage and the number of blended families. As well, the number of people who are living alone has grown substantially. One of the most dramatic changes has been the rise in the number of lone-parent families.

Currently, there are nearly one million lone-parent families in Canada, representing one of every five families with children. The vast majority of these families, over 80%, are headed by women. This situation is a concern because so many of these families are economically disadvantaged. For example, over 60% of the lone-parent families headed by women under the age of 65 currently have incomes below Statistics Canada's low-income cutoffs.

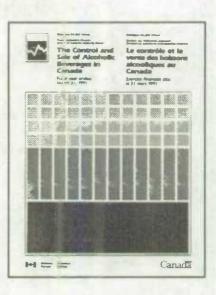
This report drew upon a variety of Statistics Canada sources to provide an overview of the demographic and family status, employment, income, housing, and activity patterns of lone parents and their families.

Lone-parent Families in Canada (catalogue number 89-522E, \$40) is now available. For more information, contact Colin Lindsay (613-951-2603), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

# The Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada

The 1990/91 issue marks the reintroduction of *The Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada*. The last issue, released in February 1989, contained data for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1987.

The publication contains statistics by province and territory on the net income of liquor authorities, provincial and territorial government revenue from the control of the retailing of alcoholic beverages, and on the value and volume of alcoholic beverages sold. Also presented are historical data on the value and volume of sales from 1986/87 to 1990/91. The Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada, Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1991 (catalogue number 63-202, \$26) is now available. For further information, contact Richard Sauriol (613-951-1829) or Patti Phillips (613-951-0767), Public Institutions Division.





## The Complete Online Guide to Geography

The Complete Online Guide to Geography (COGG) is an interactive, hypertext document created as a Windows application. An integrated learning program, it uses text, maps and graphics to introduce users to the geographical concepts that are fundamental to the activities of the Geography Division at Statistics Canada.

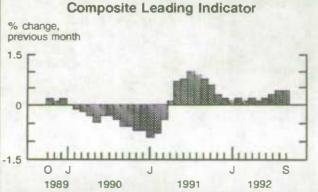
The COGG system includes the following: the Electronic Guide to Geography with descriptions of programs and concepts, five case studies and two challenging interactive activities; the Illustrated Glossary with short descriptions and illustrations for 52 geographic terms; and the Reference Book with full descriptions, including issues and rules.

For more information or to order this \$45 product, please contact your nearest Statistics Canada's Regional Reference Centre.

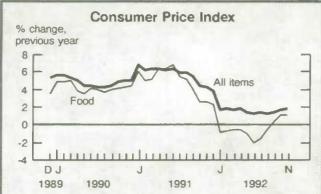
# CURRENT TRENDS



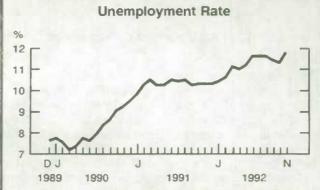
Gross domestic product at factor cost was unchanged in September. Services output was also unchanged while goods production edged down.



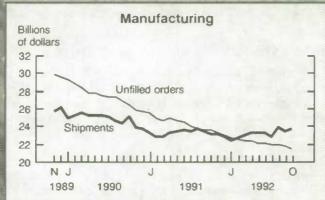
In September, the composite leading indicator rose by 0.4% for the second straight month.



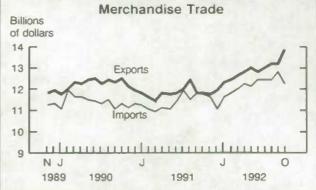
In November, the year-over-year increase in the allitems CPI stood at 1.7% and the food index showed its second straight increase of 1.0%.



In November, the unemployment rate climbed by half a percentage point to a nine-year high of 11.8%.



Canadian manufacturers' shipments rose 1.4% in October to \$23.7 billion. The level of unfilled orders was down for the third time in four months to \$21.3 billion.



The seasonally adjusted value of merchandise exports climbed by \$672 million in October while imports fell by \$591 million, pushing Canada's trade balance up by \$1.3 billion.

# PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM DECEMBER 18 TO 24, 1992

			Price: Issue/Subscription		
Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Othe Countrie
- Artifelia Special					US
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS					
Canada's International Transactions in Securities	September 1992	67-002	15.80/158	19/190	22.10/22:
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS	****	05 005	20	47	-
Canadian Crime Statistics Juristat Service Bulletin: Legal Aid	1991	85-205	39	47	5!
in Canada, Vol. 12, No. 23 CENSUS	1990-91	85-002	3.60/90	4.30/108	5/12
Trends and Highlights of Canadian Agriculture and its People	1991	96-303E	29	35	41
INDUSTRY Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables Coal and Coke Statistics Construction Type Plywood	October 1992 September 1992 October 1992	32-011 45-002 35-001	5/50 10/100 5/50	6/60 12/120 6/60	7/70 14/140 7/70
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers Manufacturing Industries of Canada: National and Provincial Areas	November 1992 1989	36-004 31-203	5/50	6/60	7/70
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation Monthly Production of Soft Drinks	November 1992 November 1992	44-004 32-001	5/50 2.7 <b>0/27</b>	6/60 3.20/32	7/70 3.80/38
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Primary Iron and Steel Production and Disposition of Tobacco	October 1992 October 1992	31-001 41-001	17.30/173 5/50	20.80/208 6/60	24.20/242 7/70
Products Production, Shipments and Stocks on	November 1992	<b>32-02</b> 2	5/50	6/60	7/70
Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies Production, Shipments and Stocks on	October 1992	35-002	10/100	12/120	14/140
Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia Refined Petroleum Products The Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas	October 1992 September 1992	35-003 45-004	7.10/71 18.20/182	8.50/85 21.80/218	9.90/99 25.50/255
Industry HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL	1991	26-213	26	31	36
STATISTICS Canadian Social Trends	Winter 1992	11-008E	8.50/34	10/40	12/48
INTERNATIONAL TRADE Exports by Country	January-				
LABOUR	September 1992	65-003	82.75/331	99.25/397	115.75/463
Employment, Earnings and Hours	September 1992	72-002	28.50/285	34.20/342	39.90/399
NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND ENVIRONMENT Databases for Environmental Analysis:					
Government of Canada		11-527E	55	66	77
PRICES Construction Price Statistics Consumer Price Index	Third Quarter 1992 November 1992	62-007 62-001	18/72 9.30/93	21.50/86 11.20/112	25.25/101 13/130
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS The Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada	Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1991	63-202	26	32	36
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Federal Scientific Activities Service Industries Service Bulletin: Business Services, Leisure and	1992-93	88-204	44	53	62
Personal Services, Vol. 4, No. 8 Telephone Statistics: Statistical	December 1992	63-015	7.20/43	8.65/52	10/60
Highlights, Vol. 16, No. 10	October 1992	56-002	8.30/83	10/100	11.60/116
TRANSPORTATION Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin, Vol. 24, No. 12	December 1992	51-004	9.30/93	11.20/112	13/130

LATEST MO	ONTHLY ST	ATISTIC	$\mathbf{s}_{-}$	
	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
GENERAL		771		
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1986)	September	504.9	0.0%	1.1%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	September	147.0	0.4%	3.3%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	3rd Quarter	10.7	6.3%	-15.0%
DOMESTIC DEMAND			W. The state of th	
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	October*	15.5	0.1%	3.5%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	October	99.9	-3.6%	8.0%
	October	33.3	-0.070	0.070
LABOUR Employment (millions)	November	12.3	0.1%	0.50
Unemployment Rate (%)	November	11.8	0.1%	-0.7% 1.5
Participation Rate (%)	November	65.6	0.4	-0.4
Labour Income (\$ billion)	September	32.6	0.3%	3.1%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	September	553.19	0.3%	3.4%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	October	13.9	5.1%	17.4%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	October	12.2	-4.6%	4.2%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	October	1.7	1.3	1.6
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	October	23.7	1.4%	2.7%
New Orders (\$ billion)	October	23.3	0.6%	0.8%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	October	21.3	-1.7%	-9.6%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	October	1.44	-0.02	-0.07
Capacity Utilization (%)	3rd Quarter	75.0	0.9	1.0
	22.2. 4.00.202		0.0	
PRICES Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	November*	129.1	0.5%	1.7%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	October	110.4	0.5%	2.9%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986=100)	October	110.4	1.1%	7.4%
New Housing Price Index (1986=100)	October	134.7	0.1%	0.2%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of average weekly earnings and the price indexes.

\* New this week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5 Leading Indicator, October Employment, Earnings and Hours, October IPPI, November RMPI, November Sales of Refined Petroleum Products, November Charitable Donations, 1991	Short-term Expectations Survey Help-wanted Index, December	Building Permits, October	Labour Force Survey, December
New Housing Price Index, November New Motor Vehicle Sales, November Farm Product Price Index, November	Census of Population: Home Language, Mother Tongue and Knowledge of Languages, 1991	Department Store Sales by Province and Metropolitan Area, November Estimates of Labour Income, October	14	Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, November Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, November
Department Store Sales - Advance Release, December	19	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, November Sales of Natural Gas, November	Consumer Price Index, December	Retail Trade, November Wholesale Trade, November Department Store Sales and Stocks, November
25 Canada's International Transactions in Securities, November	26	Unemployment Insurance Statistics, November Industrial Product Price Index, December Raw Materials Price Index, December	28	Employment, Earnings and Hours, November Building Permits, November Sales of Refined Petroleum Products, December Series: No. 1, December 31 Grain Stocks Real Gross Domestic Product, November

Release dates for International Trade, the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey are fixed; dates for other data series
may change.

# I.N.F.O.M.A.T

### A Weekly Review

Published by the Communications Division Statistics Canada, 10-N, R.H. Coats Bldg, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613) 951-1187 Editor: Louise Larouche (613) 951-1197

Catalogue: 11-002E. Price: Canada: \$2.50 per issue, \$125.00 per year; United States: US\$3.00 per issue, US\$150.00 per year; Other Countries: US\$3.50 per issue, US\$175.00. Canadian customers please add 7% GST.

To subscribe: send money order or cheque payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publication Sales, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6. To order by telephone dial: 1-800-267-6677 from Canada and the United States or 613-951-7277 from all other countries. Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. <sup>©</sup> Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, 1992. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from Licence Services, Marketing Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences – Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 – 1984.



# Monthly Labor Review ... an economics iournal from the United States



	- color		
Order Processing Code: 5258 s, I am ordering a subscription to: Monthly Labor Review, MLR, for □ 1 year for \$27.50; or	Please Choose Method of Payment:  Check payable to the Superintendent of Documents		
2 years for \$55. e total cost of my order is \$	☐ GPO Deposit Account ☐ VISA or ☐ MasterCard Account		
d handling and are subject to change. (Payable in US dollars.)			
ompany or personal name)	(Credit card expiration date)  Thank you for your order!  (Signature)		
dditional address/attention line)			
treet address)			
ity, Province, Postal Code)	Mail to: New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.		

(This publication is only available in English.)

(Daytime phone, including area code)