



Bulletin

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CANADA'S ECONOMY IN 1969 AND THE OUTLOOK FOR 1970

The following is a year-end statement by Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce:

Although serious problems of containing inflation have continued, 1969 has been another year of significant economic achievement for Canada. New export gains and renewed growth in business investment have been key factors contributing to the further expansion of production and employment. Canada's gross national product has risen 9 per cent from 1968 to 1969, with at least half of this increase representing real output growth. Business activity surged forward strongly in the early part of the year but the pace of advance moderated in subsequent months reflecting in part an abnormal amount of time lost in work stoppages due to industrial disputes.

Total employment for the year was up more than 3 per cent, a larger increase than in 1968. Labor force growth also was somewhat higher and average unemployment has changed little between the two years. Unemployment, after adjustment for usual seasonal changes, was running a little over 5 per cent of the labor force in the concluding months of 1969.

Per capita disposable income, in real terms, has increased moderately.

AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION

Industrial output was up about 5 per cent in 1969, matching the gain for the previous year. Manufacturing production has advanced somewhat faster than in 1968 even though growth has been hampered by strikes in the primary metal industries. Motor vehicle output has shown another large advance. More than 1.3 million motor vehicles came off the assembly lines, and for the first time production of passenger cars passed the 1-million mark. The number of motor vehicles turned out in 1969 was double the number manufactured in 1964, the year immediately preceding the implementation of the Canada-United States Auto Agreement. Output of motor vehicle parts and supplies has continued to move upwards.

Elsewhere in manufacturing good increases in output were realized in synthetic textiles, rubber products, industrial machinery and major consumer appliances.

A highlight among resource industries has been the resurgence of pulp and paper output following two years of little change. Production and sales have strengthened for both newsprint and woodpulp, contributing to a sharp rise in plant utilization and efficiency. High levels of lumber and plywood production were stimulated by vigorous trends in housing and other construction early in the year. However, the trend has slowed since mid-year paralleling the slowdown in residential building in Canada and the United States.

MINERALS

1969 has been a year of rising production for important mining and mineral processing sectors, among them asbestos, aluminum, oil and natural gas. Additions to sulphur and potash productive capacity have, however, increased the available supply of

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