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THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

March 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL BAROODY

Attached is this week's copy of the Weekly Briefing Notes.

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WEEKLY BRIEFING NOTES

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FOR CALENDER YEAR 1976

March 1, 1976

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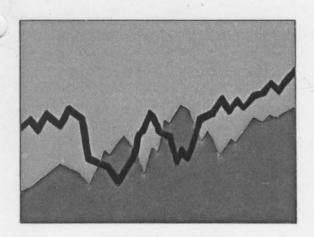
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Prepared for the President and the Vice President

MARCH 1, 1976

A. FOROLIBRAA

COMPILED BY THE FEDERAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Coordinated by the Bureau of the Census at the request of the Statistical Policy Division, Office of Management and Budget

Vincent P. Barabba, Director Bureau of the Census

Joseph W. Duncan,
Deputy Associate Director
for Statistical Policy
Office of Management and Budget



SOURCES OF DATA

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Victims of Crime

Bureau of Domestic Commerce, "The Cost of Crimes Against Business"

Trends in Employment of College and University Graduates

Endicott, Frank S., Director of Placement, Emeritus; Northwestern University; "The Endicott Report: 1976."



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Q. FORD

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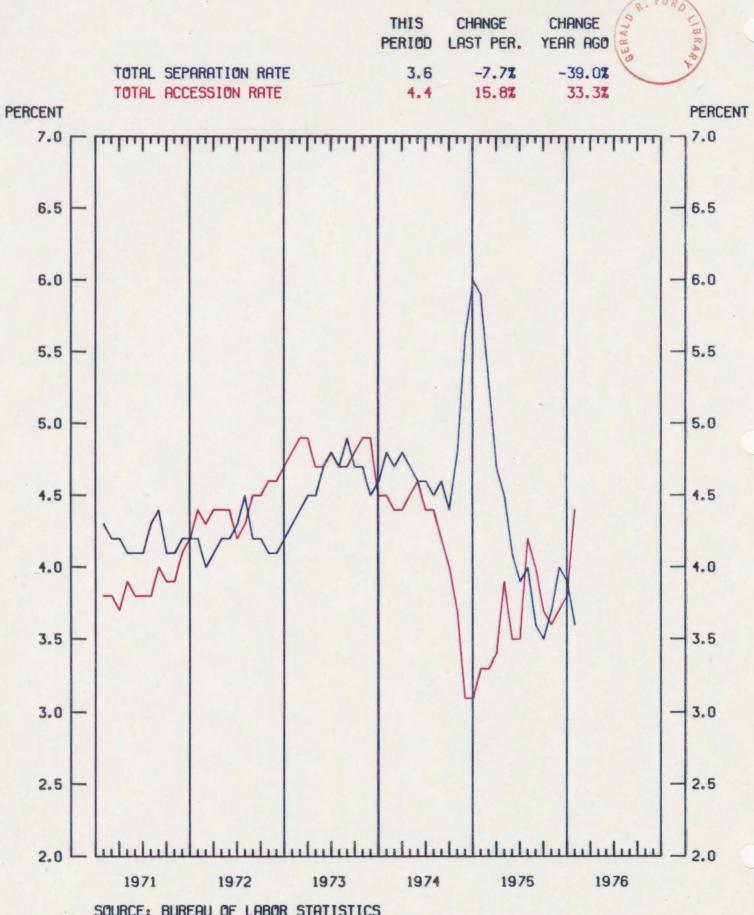
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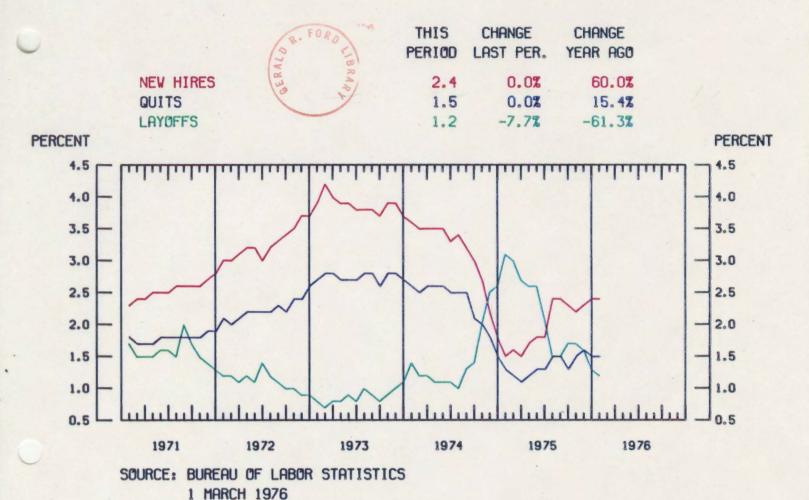
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A.2.4 - Labor Turnover Rates in Manufacturing



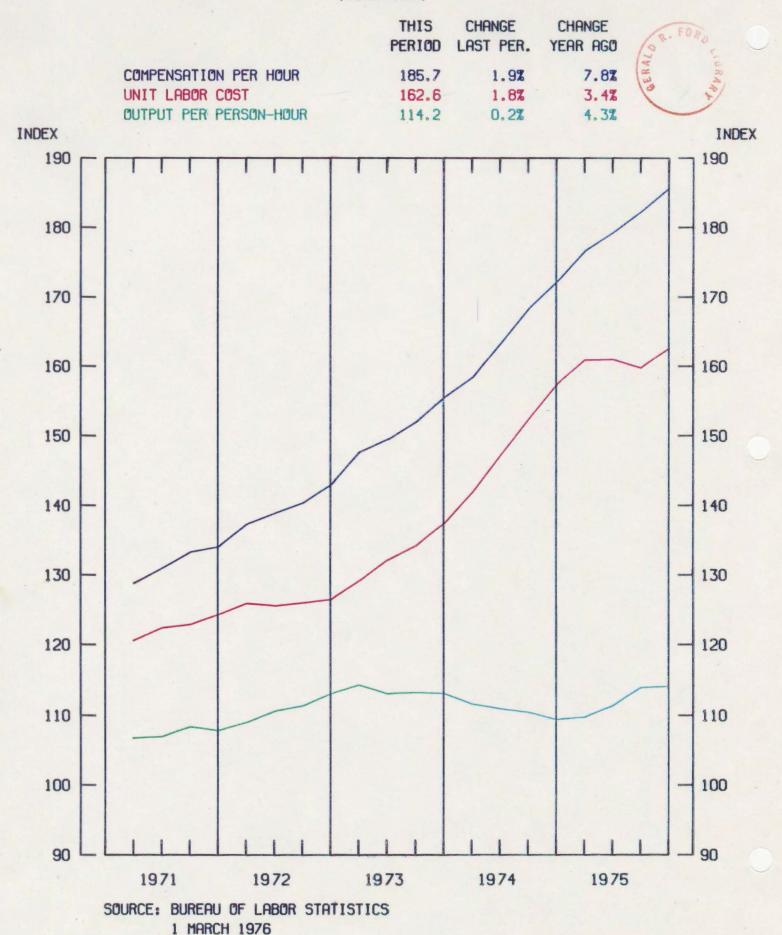
SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS 1 MARCH 1976

A.2.4 - Components of Labor Turnover



- The Total Separation Rate declined 7.7 percent in January, the second consecutive decline.
 - Layoffs decreased 7.7 percent, while the Quit Rate remained unchanged.
 - The Layoff Rate was 61.3 percent below the recession high reached in January 1975 and at its lowest level since July 1974.
- Total Accessions rose almost 16 percent to a rate of 44 per 1,000 employees—the highest level since July 1974.
 - The Accession Rate exceeded the rate of Separations for the first time since October, and showed the largest margin over Separations in the last 5 years.
 - Most of the increase in Accessions came from recalls while the rate of New Hires stayed the same as in December.

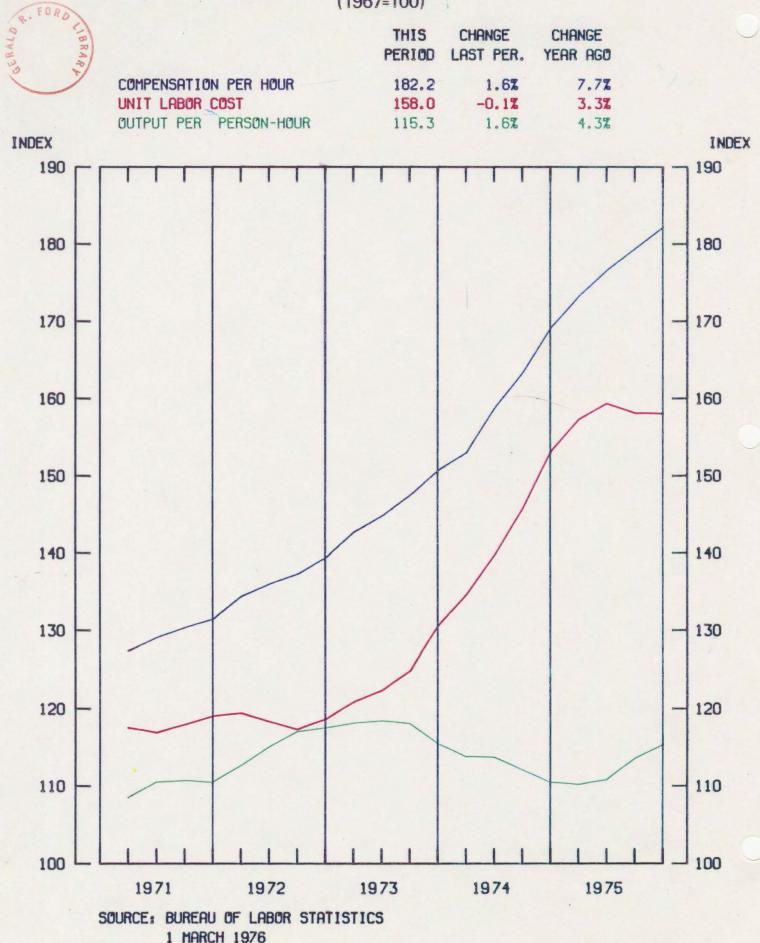
A.3.3 - Productivity and Costs in Total Private Economy (1967=100)





- Revised fourth quarter data show Productivity (Output Per Person-Hour) for the Total Private Economy increasing 0.6 percent at annual rates instead of the previously reported 1.0-percent increase.
 - For the year as a whole, Productivity was 1.3 percent ahead of 1974.
- Hourly Compensation was up 7.8 percent at annual rates.
- Unit Labor Costs resumed its upward climb, rising 7.1 percent at annual rates.

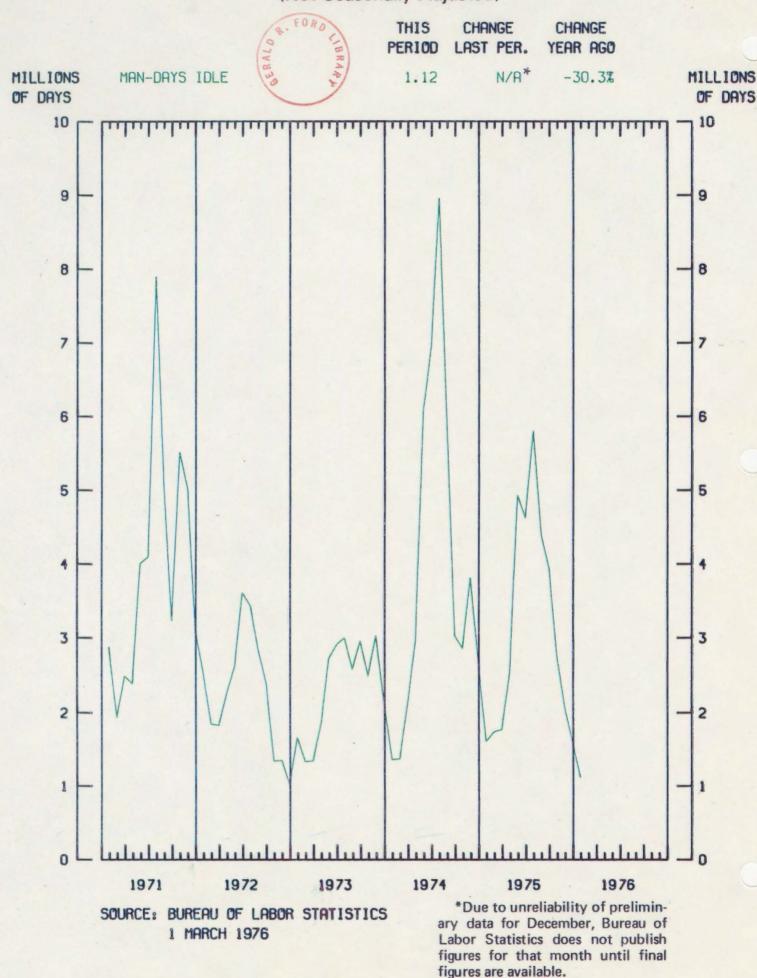
A.3.3 - Productivity and Costs in Manufacturing (1967=100)





- Productivity (Output Per Person-Hour) in Manufacturing increased for the third consecutive quarter, up 6.5 percent at annual rates.
 - Reflected a 15.1-percent annual rate increase in Output, and a 8.4-percent annual rate increase in Hours.
- Hourly Compensation posted a 6.4-percent annual rate gain.
- The increase in Hourly Compensation coupled with the increase in Productivity resulted in a 0.5-percent annual rate decline in Unit Labor Costs, the second straight quarterly decline.
 - Unit Labor Costs were 11.2 percent greater in 1975 compared with 1974.

A.3.5 - Days Idle As A Result of Work Stoppages
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



A.3.5 - Number of Work Stoppages

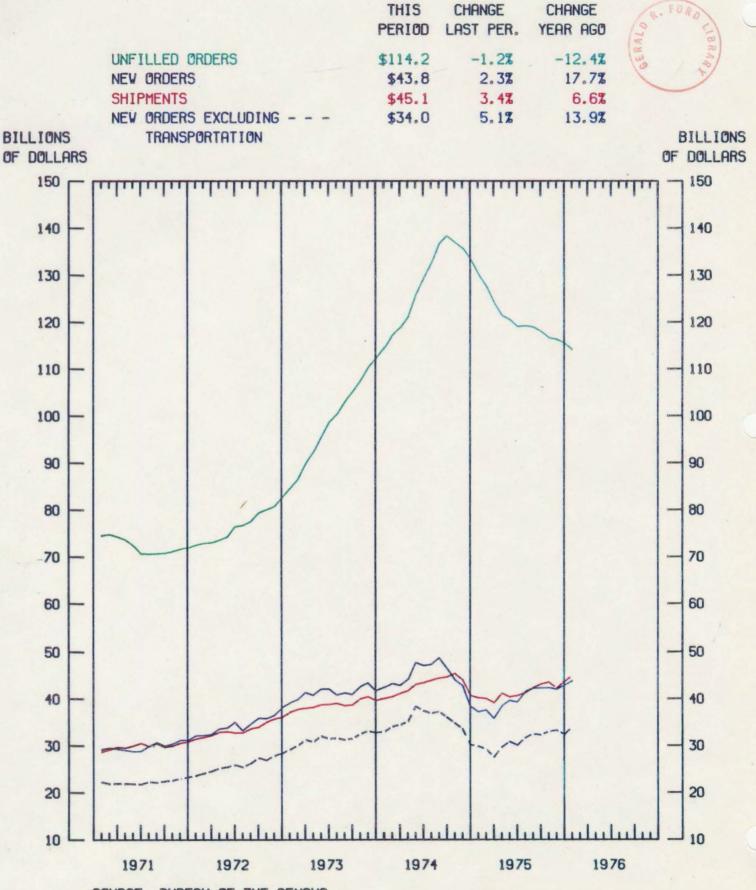
(Not Seasonally Adjusted

THIS CHANGE CHANGE YEAR AGO PERIOD LAST PER. IN EFFECT DURING MONTH 428 N/A -17.7% NUMBER OF BEGINNING IN MONTH 278 N/A -20.6% NUMBER OF STOPPAGES STOPPAGES 1300 1300 1100 1100 900 900 700 700 500 500 300 300 100 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976

- SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS 1 MARCH 1976
- Although strike activity is customarily lower in the first part of the year than in the summer months, all major work stoppage measures in January were below those for the same month in any year since 1966.
- Some 1.1 million days off the job resulted from labor-management disputes this month, compared with 1.6 million in January 1975 and 1.4 million in January 1974.
- An estimated 428 stoppages were in effect this month, 92 fewer than last January.
 - Stoppages this January were relatively small, averaging 234 workers per strike, the lowest average recorded since 1962. For the decade 1966-75, stoppages during the month of January averaged 417 workers per strike.
 - The average duration of strikes was 11.2 days compared to 10.2 in January 1975 and 7.9 in January 1974.
- Some 278 stoppages began this month, well below the 350 recorded last January.

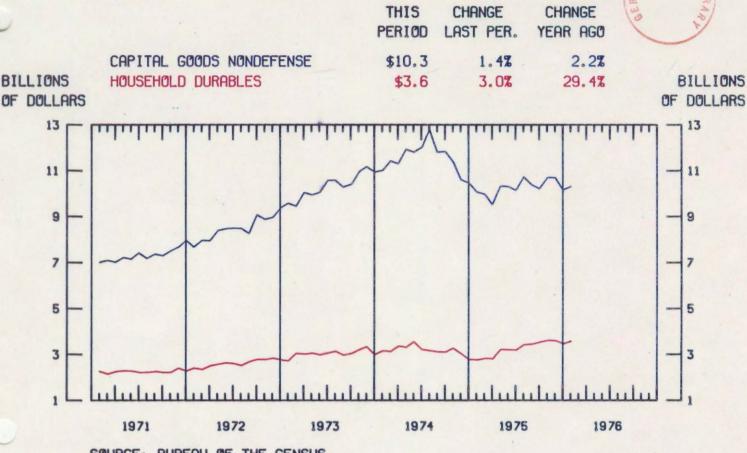
A.4.4 - Manufacturers' Shipments and New Orders

Durable Goods Industries



SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS 1 MARCH 1976

A.4.4 - Manufacturers' New Orders Selected Supplementary Series



SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
1 MARCH 1976

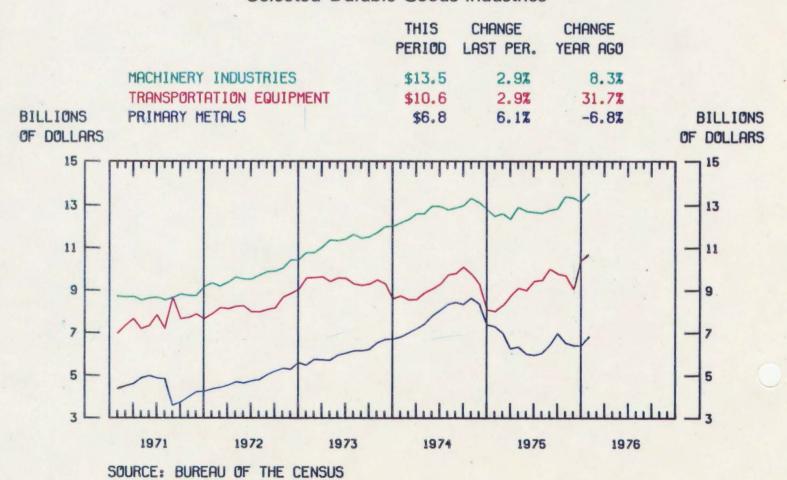
Advance data for January indicate that:

- New Orders for Durable Goods posted its largest gain in 5 months, increasing 2.3 percent, or \$980 million.
 - Excluding Transportation, Durable New Orders jumped 5.1 percent in January, the largest increase since July.
- Shipments of Durable Goods increased 3.4 percent to a level of \$45.1 billion.
- Unfilled Orders continued to fall, declining \$1.3 billion to a level of \$114.2 billion.
 - Decline concentrated in Transportation Equipment and Machinery Industries.
- New Orders in the Capital Goods Nondefense Sector, which serves as an indicator of business spending plans, moved up \$144 million following a previous 2-month decline.
 - New Factory Orders for Household Durables showed a strong advance in January, increasing 3.0 percent, or \$106 million.

A.4.4 - Manutacturers' New Orders Selected Durable Goods Industries



A.4.4 - Manufacturers' Shipments
Selected Durable Goods Industries

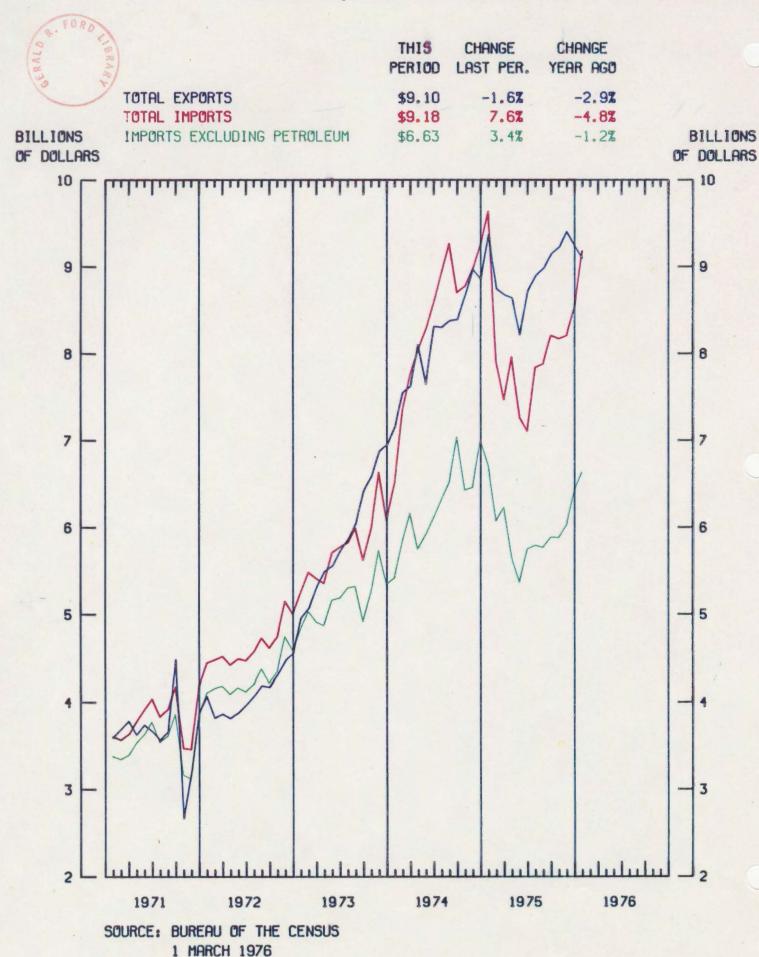


1 MARCH 1976



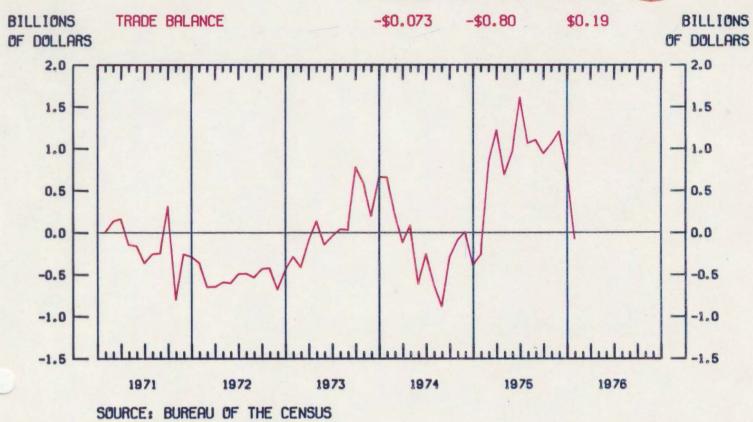
- The upswing in New Factory Orders was primarily attributable to a \$1.2 billion rebound in the Machinery Industries.
 - Transportation Equipment slipped \$656 million after a strong \$1.7 billion increase in December, with all industries except Automotive showing declines.
- The advance in Shipments was widespread with virtually all industries posting increases.
 - Major increases were reported in Transportation Equipment, up \$296 million; Machinery Industries, up \$358 million; and Primary Metals, up \$392 million.

A.5.1 - Exports and Imports



A.5.1 - Merchandise Trade Balance (Excluding Military Assistance)

THIS CHANGE CHANGE PERIOD LAST PER. YEAR AGO



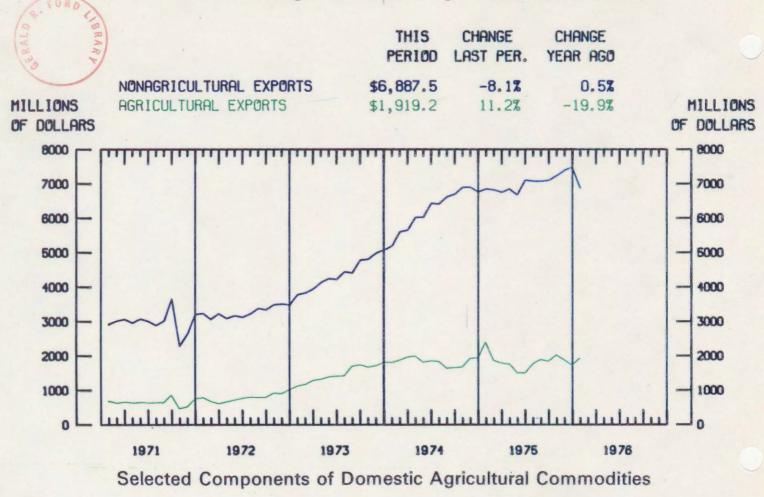
• The Merchandise Trade Balance recorded its first deficit since January 1975 as Imports exceeded Exports by \$73 million.

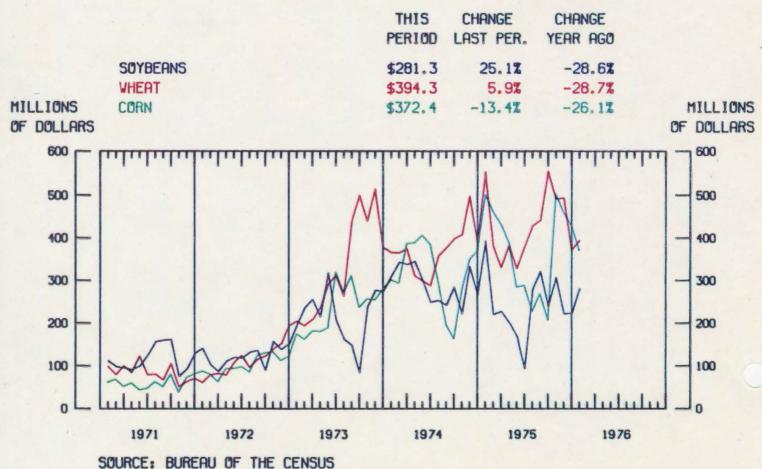
1 MARCH 1976

- For 1975, the Merchandise Trade Balance posted a record \$11.05 billion surplus.
- Total Exports declined \$146 million, reflecting an 8.1-percent drop in exports of Domestic Nonagricultural Commodities.
 - Down 3.3 percent from the November high of \$9.41 billion.
- Total Imports rose \$650 million to the highest level since January a year ago with Imports of Petroleum accounting for approximately two-thirds of the rise.
 - Largest monthly increase since July's 10.3-percent jump.
 - Imports Excluding Petroleum rose for the third month in a row, up \$220.3 million.

A.5.1 - Exports

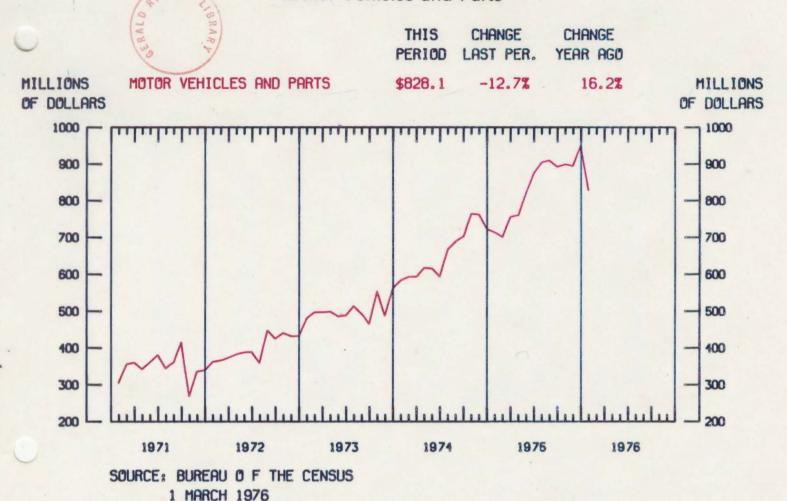
Domestic Nonagricultural and Agricultural Commodities





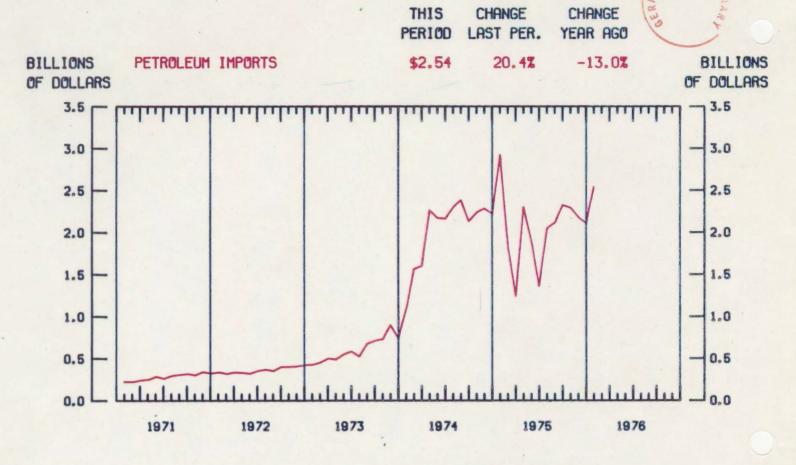
1 MARCH 1976

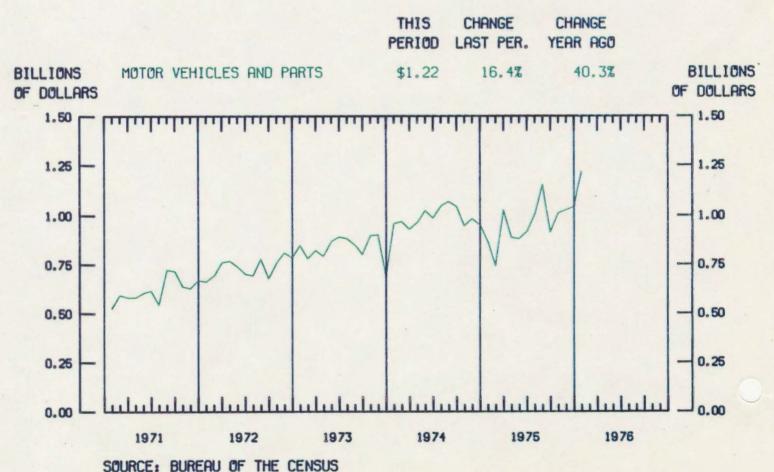
A.5.1 - Exports Motor Vehicles and Parts



- Exports of Domestic Agricultural Commodities increased \$193 million in January after posting declines the 2 previous months.
 - Soybean Exports increased for the first time in 3 months, up 25.1 percent.
 - Wheat Exports rose for the first time since September.
 - Corn Exports continued to drop, down 13.4 percent for a total decline of 26.2 percent from the October high of \$505 million.
- Exports of Domestic Nonagricultural Commodities declined \$604 million in January, the first decline in 6 months.
 - Contributing to this decline was a \$121 million drop in exports of Motor Vehicles and Parts to \$828 million, the lowest level since April.

A.5.1 - Imports
Petroleum and Petroleum Products



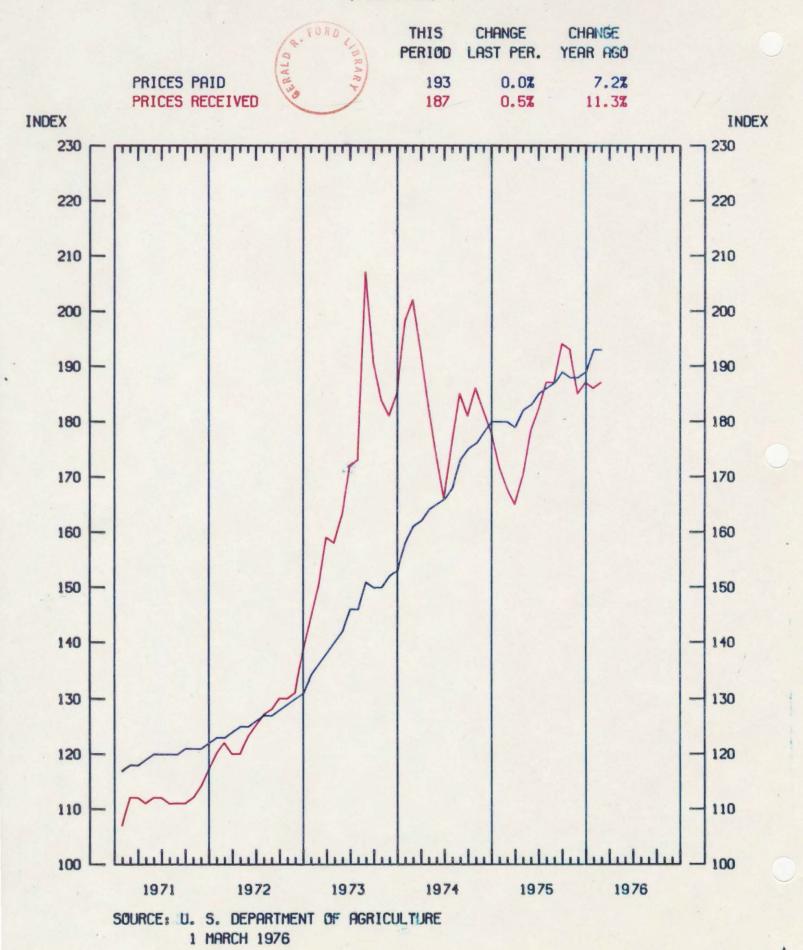


1 MARCH 1976



- Accounting for the January rise in Imports were large increases in Petroleum and Motor Vehicles and Parts:
 - Petroleum Imports jumped 20.4 percent, or \$430 million, to the highest level since a year ago when Petroleum Imports reached a record \$2.92 billion.
 - Imports of Motor Vehicles and Parts increased \$171.5 million in January, to a new record \$1.22 billion.
 - The fourth consecutive monthly rise for a total gain of 33.0 percent since September.

A.9.1 - Prices Received and Paid by Farmers (1967=100)





- The Index of Prices Received by Farmers increased 1 point (0.5 percent) to 187.
 - Higher prices for Meat Animals, Food Grains, and Fruit Crops more than offset substantial price decreases in Commercial Vegetables.
- The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers was unchanged in February at 193.
 - However, a 1.0-percent upward revision in January's figure doubled that month's previously reported rise.
 - Revision resulted from new and higher wage rate data.

A.9.1 - Prices Received by Farmers Selected Farm Commodities THIS CHANGE CHANGE PERIOD LAST PER. YEAR AGO FOOD GRAINS 232 5.5% -10.4% INDEX INDEX 400 400 350 350 300 300 250 250 200 200 150 150 100 100 50 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 Selected Farm' Commodities THIS CHANGE CHANGE PERIOD LAST PER. YEAR AGO MEAT ANIMALS 182 1.7% 26.4% COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES 160 -8.6% -6.4% FRUIT CROPS 135 4.7% 2.3% INDEX INDEX 275 275 250 260 225 225 200 200 175 175 150 150 125 125 100 100 1974 1976 1971 1972 1973 1975 SOURCE: U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1 MARCH 1976

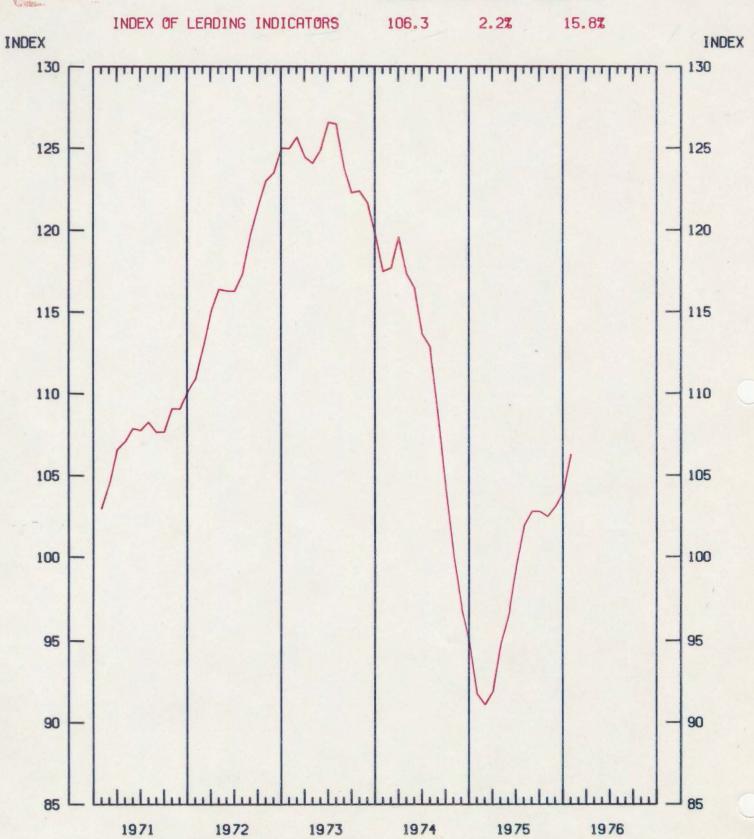


- Prices Received for Food Grains increased 12 points (5.5 percent) during February.
 - Higher wheat prices more than offset slightly lower prices for rye and rice.
- Generally higher prices for Meat Animals prevailed, except for Lamb prices which dropped 90 cents to \$46.80 per cwt.
 - The Meat Animals index stands 26.4 percent above a year ago.
- Fruit prices rose for the first time in 5 months, gaining 4.7 percent to 135.
 - Higher strawberry and orange prices contributed most to the increase.
- Commercial Vegetable prices were sharply lower in February, decreasing 15 points (8.5 percent) to 160.
 - Lower prices for lettuce, celery, and tomatoes contributed most to the index decline.



A.11.1 - Composite Index of Leading Indicators (1967=100)

THIS CHANGE CHANGE PERIOD LAST PER. YEAR AGO

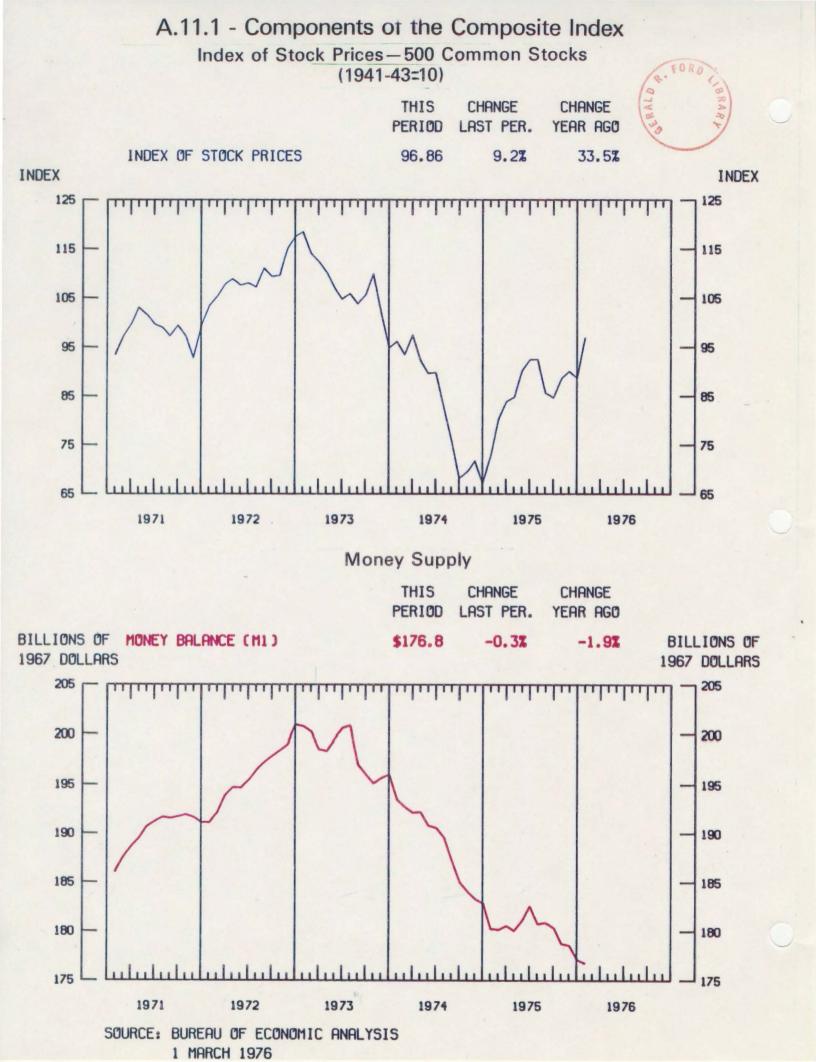


SOURCE: BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
1 MARCH 1976



Preliminary data indicate that:

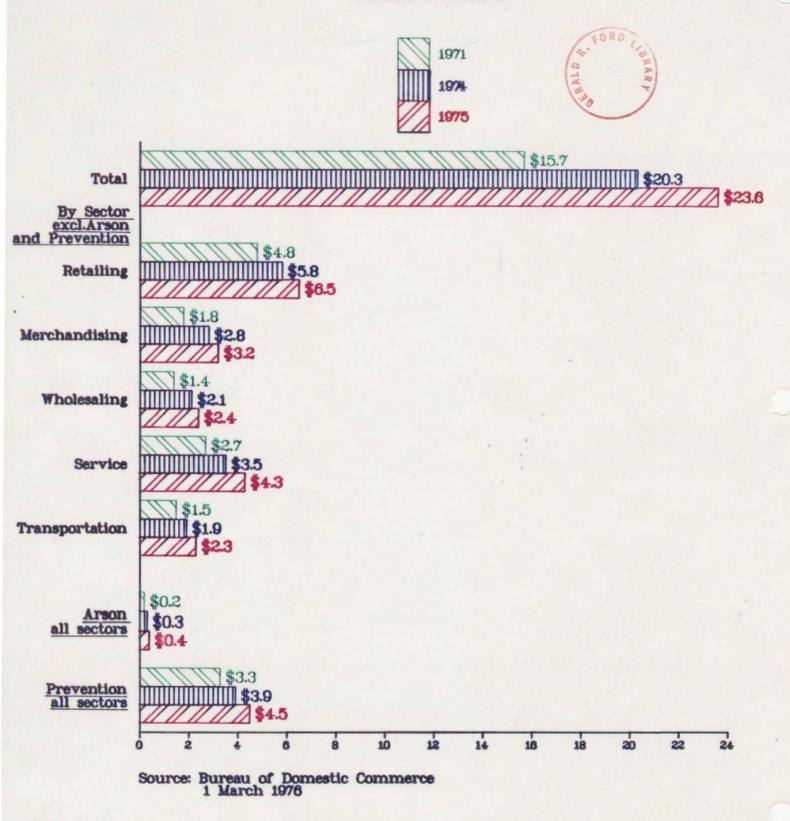
- The Index of Leading Indicators rose for the third straight month, up a strong 2.2 percent to 106.3 in January.
 - Resumed the pattern of substantial increases recorded during March through August 1975 to reach the highest level since August 1974.
 - Largest increase since the 2.5-percent rise posted in July.
 - Since the February low, the upward trend totals 16.7 percent.
 - Nine of the 11 indicators now available for January showed increases; 2 indicators declined.





- The component contributing most to the January rise was the Index of Stock Prices.
 - In January, Stock Prices increased 9.2 percent to 96.86, the highest level since March 1974.
 - 4.7 percent above the 1975 high of 92.49 recorded in July.
- For the second straight month, Money Supply, M1, (1967 dollars) had the greatest unfavorable impact on the Index.
 - Declined 0.3 percent to another new low of \$176.8 billion.
 - Since June, the Money Supply has decreased 3.2 percent.

B.9.2 - Estimated Losses Due to Ordinary Business Crime
Billions of Dollars





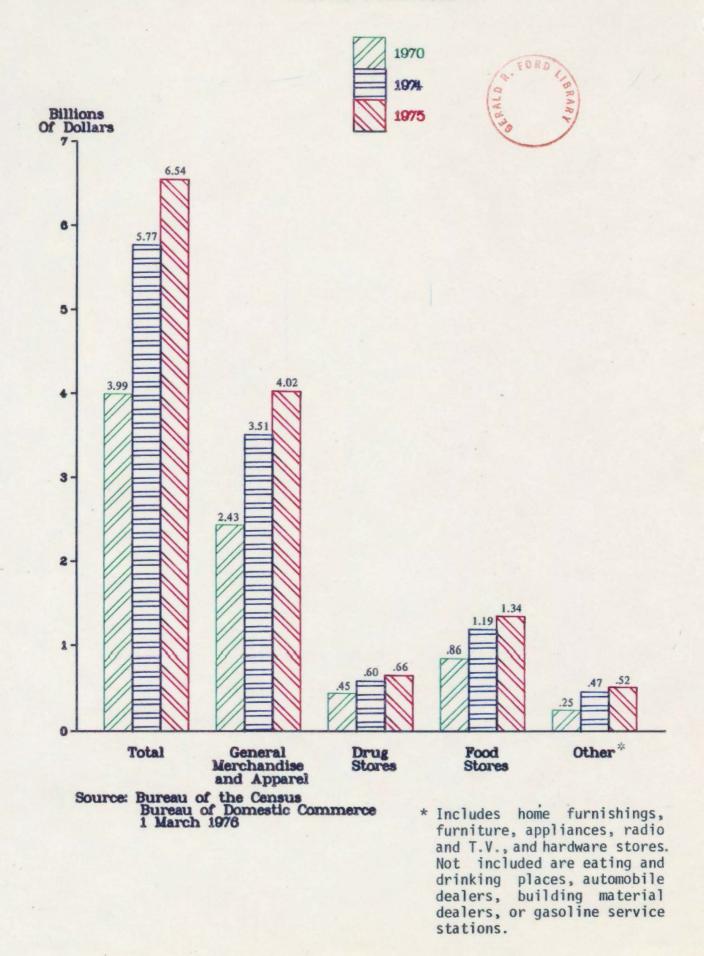
- The incidence of crime against business continues to rise, causing higher prices to consumers and losses to businessmen.
- In a recent report by the Bureau of Domestic Commerce, it was estimated that the cost of "ordinary" crimes against business would reach \$23.6 billion in 1975.
 - 16.3 percent above the 1974 figure, and 50 percent more than 1971's losses.
 - In 1975 the estimated total cost of \$23.6 billion was equal to a \$112 loss for every man, woman, and child in the country.
- Although retail businesses are hardest hit by crime--losses were expected to reach \$6.5 billion, up 35 percent from 1971--other sectors are reporting proportionately greater increases.
 - Manufacturing an estimated 78-percent increase over 1971.
 - Wholesale 71 percent higher.
 - Service Industries 59 percent above 1971.

NOTE: The figures presented are largely estimated.

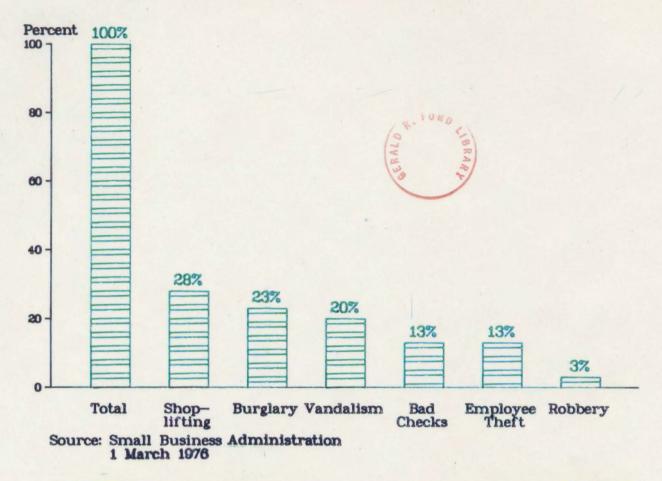
"Ordinary" crimes include burglary, robbery, vandalism, shoplifting, employee theft, bad checks, credit card fraud, and arson; but exclude organized crime and embezzlement.

B.9.2 - Estimated Retail Losses Due to Ordinary Crime

Selected Businesses

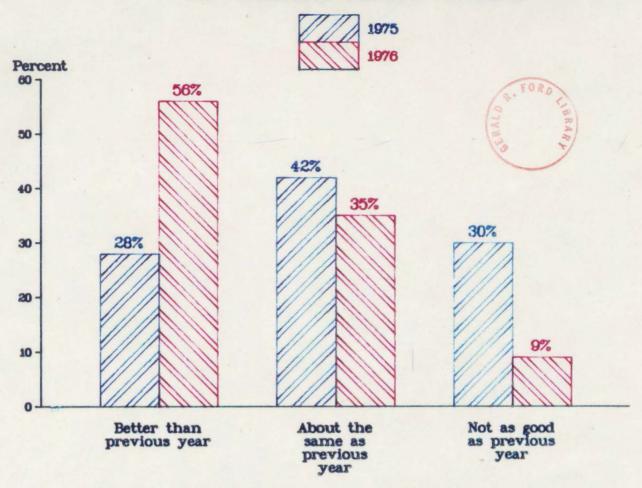


B.9.2 - Principal Types of Ordinary Crime Against Retailers

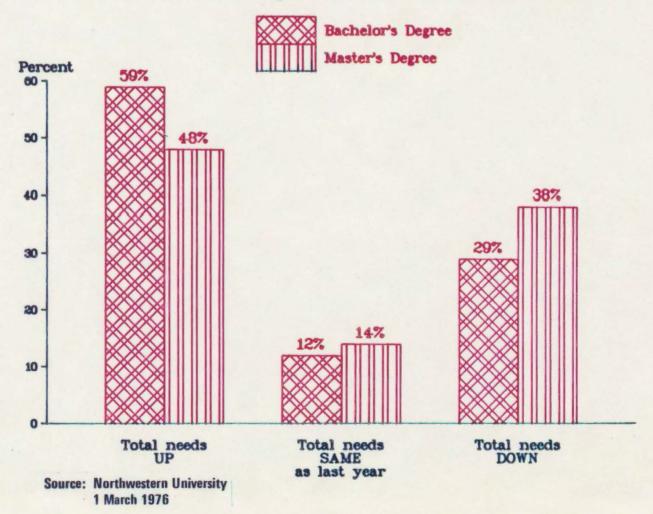


- General Merchandise and Apparel Stores are particularly vulnerable to "ordinary" crime.
 - Losses in 1975 were estimated to exceed \$4 billion, up 14.5 percent from 1974 figures.
 - According to 1975 estimates, General Merchandise and Apparel Stores accounted for approximately 40 percent of total retail sales while their losses due to crime were equal to nearly 61 percent of total losses.
- By comparison, it was estimated that in 1975, Food Stores accounted for approximately 43 percent of all sales but only 20 percent of all losses.
- The largest percentage of crime against retail business is attributed to shoplifting.
 - About 4 million shoplifters are apprehended each year. This
 figure is estimated to represent one out of 35 incidents of
 shoplifting, and would thus indicate that about 140 million
 instances of shoplifting occur every year.

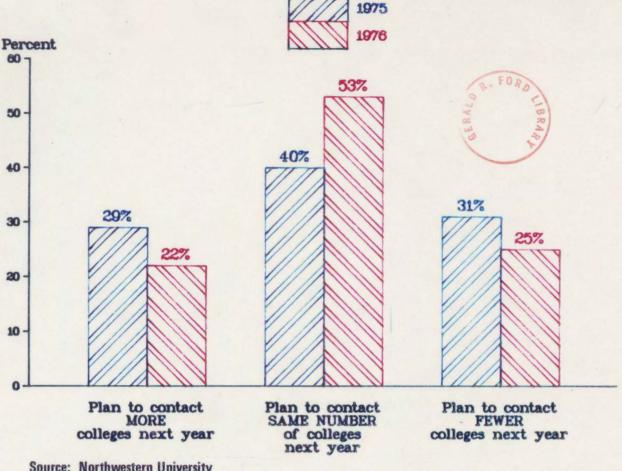
E.5 - Business Outlook For 1976



E.5 - Needs for College Graduates From 1976 Classes



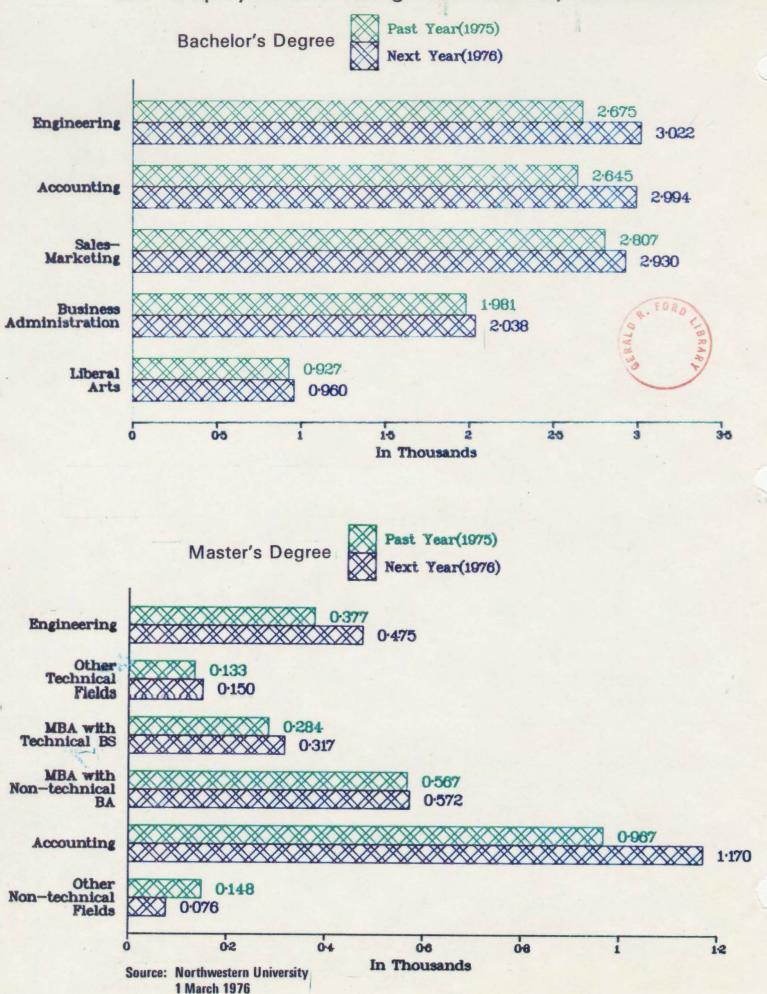
E.5 - Plans for Recruiting College Graduates



Source: Northwestern University 1 March 1976

- In an annual report regarding the employment of college graduates by 225 well-known business and industrial concerns (large and mediumsized corporations) throughout the nation:
 - Larger corporations seem to be recognizing the signs of economic recovery--56 percent expect business to be better in 1976, while only 9 percent expected business setbacks.
 - In 1975, almost one-third of the reporting companies expected business to be worse.
 - More than half of the companies report their needs for graduates with bachelor's degrees to be up, and nearly 50 percent reported ed increasing needs for graduates with master's degrees.
 - However, significant proportions expect total needs for graduates with either degree to be down.
 - The majority of respondents (53 percent) plan to contact the same number of colleges in 1976, up from the 40 percent in 1975.
 - The proportion of companies planning to contact more colleges in 1976 declined from 1975, reflecting not only the modest increase in hirings, but also that large numbers of graduates have been making direct applications in recent years.

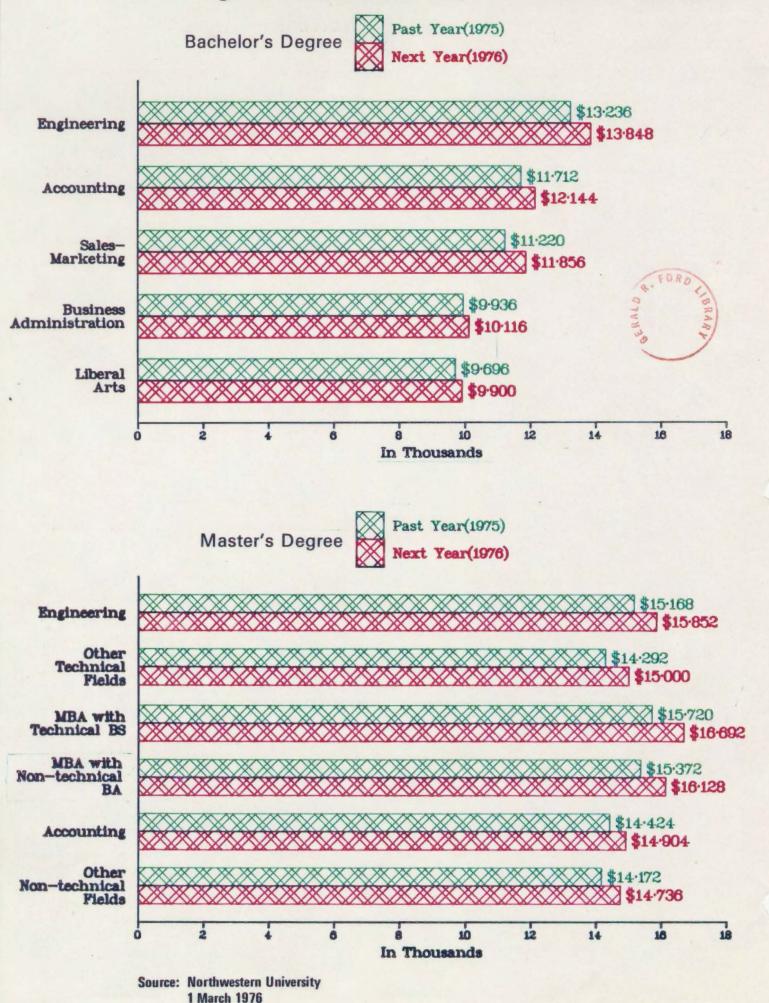
E.5 - Employment of College Graduates By Selected Fields





- Although companies plan to employ about 10 percent more graduates in 1976, this is still far short of the number of graduates hired in previous years.
- Engineering and accounting graduates are expected to be among the highest in demand; up about 13 percent in both fields for graduates with a bachelor's degree, and about 20 percent for those with a master's degree.
 - In 1976, the number of graduates with a master's degree in accounting outnumber any of the other fields by more than 2 to 1.

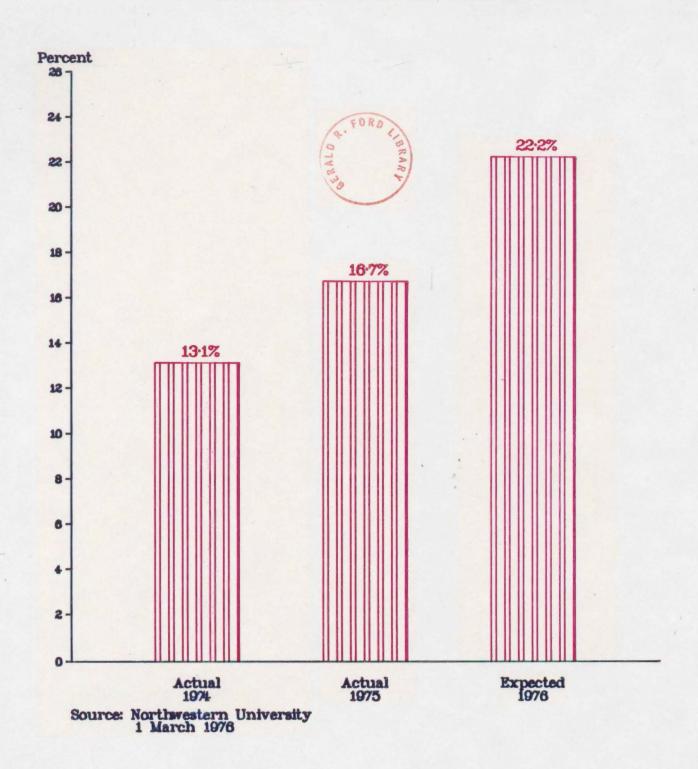
E.5 - College Graduates to be Hired at Various Salary Levels





- Almost all of the companies will raise starting salaries for 1976 graduates, with average increases by field of study ranging from 2 to 6 percent.
 - Among bachelor's degree graduates, Engineers will receive the highest predicted average salary, nearly \$14,000 per year.
 - Lowest salaries will go to Liberal Arts and Business Administration graduates, nearly \$4,000 per year less than Engineering graduates.
 - Among holders of a master's degree, Business Administration graduates are expected to receive the highest annual salary of approximately \$16,000.
 - The largest increases in salaries will go to graduates in Sales and Marketing (5.7 percent), and to those who hold a master's degree in Business Administration with a bachelor's degree in a technical field (6.2 percent).

E.5 - Employment of Women Graduates
Percent of Total Newly-Hired Graduates





- Companies report that they would like to hire 40 to 50 percent more college women from 1976 classes.
 - In 1976 women are expected to account for 22 percent of all newly hired graduates, compared to 13 percent in 1974.
- When respondents were asked what women can do to make themselves more employable in that particular company, the most frequently mentioned suggestions were:
 - Take technical courses. Go into engineering.
 - Take business-related courses.
 - Get experience in business (summer employment, part-time jobs, co-op or work-study programs).