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## THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

June 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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June 1, 1976

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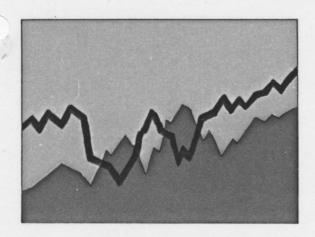
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# WEEKLY BRIEFING NOTES ON U.S. DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

Prepared for the President and the Vice President

June 1, 1976



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



Labor Turnover in Manufacturing
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment and Earnings Statistics for the United States"

Productivity Indexes
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Real Earnings
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment and Earnings Statistics for the United States

Exports and Imports
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Highlights of Exports and Imports"

Agricultural Prices
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Crop Reporting Board

Composite Index of Leading Indicators
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Business Conditions Digest"

<u>Disability</u>
U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, NCHS, "Persons Injured and Disability Days," Series 10, No. 105, January 1976

Retirement Benefits
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Finances of Employee Retirement Systems of State and Local Governments: 1974-1975," GF75, No. 2, March 1976; "Governmental Finances in 1964-1965," GF No. 6, June 1966

Consumer Confidence
The Conference Board

Pollution Abatement
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Environmental Quality Control," State and Local Government Special Studies No. 71, February 1975



The data on which this Chartbook is based come from a variety of survey and other sources. Data from sample surveys are subject to sampling error, and the data from all sources are subject to possible nonsampling error due to nonresponse, reporting, and analysis error. The tables and charts are believed to be useful within the limits of such errors.

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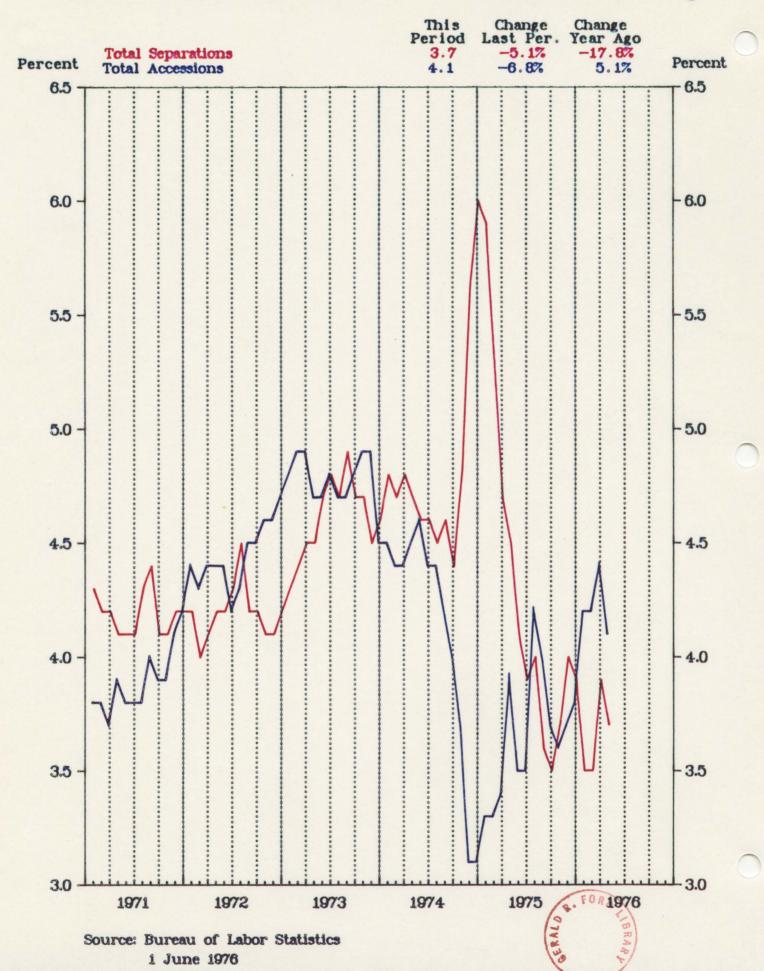
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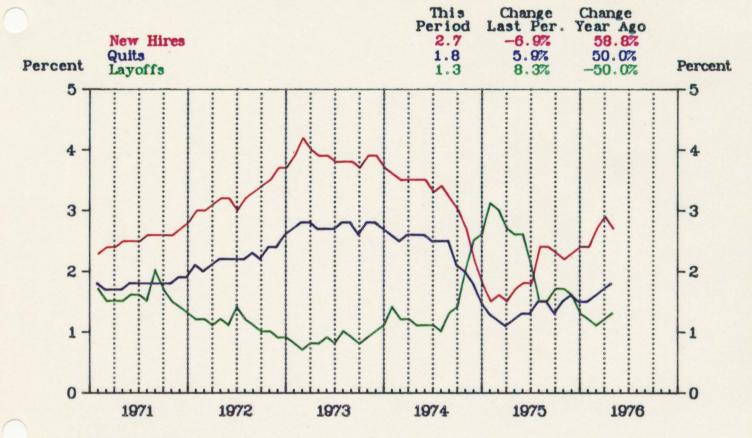
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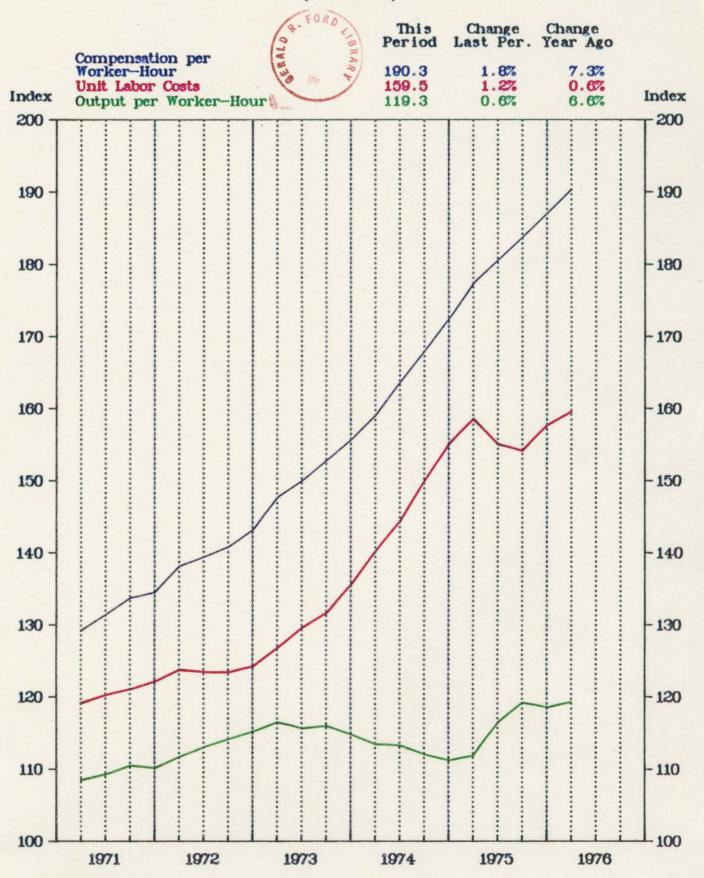
## A.2.4-Components of Labor Turnover



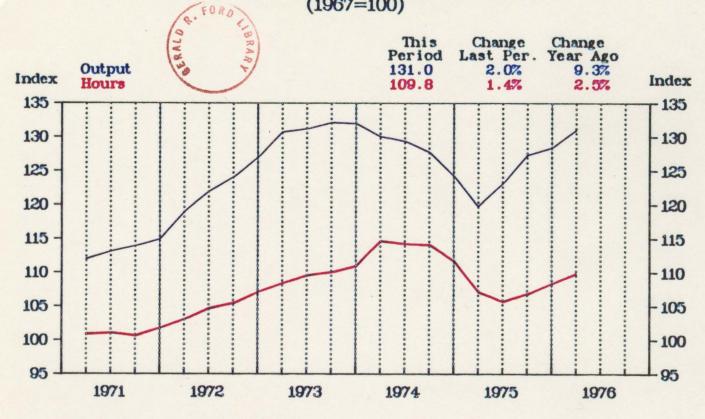
- The Total Separation Rate declined 5.1 percent in April, the first decline in 3 months.
  - Layoffs rose for the second straight month, up 8.3 percent.
  - ◆ The Quit Rate increased 5.9 percent in April, rising an average of 6.3 percent per month since February.
- Total Accessions declined for the first time since October 1975, down 6.8 percent.
  - New Hires fell 6.9 percent to a rate of 2.7 per 100 employees.



### A.3.3—Productivity and Costs Nonfinancial Corporations (1967=100)

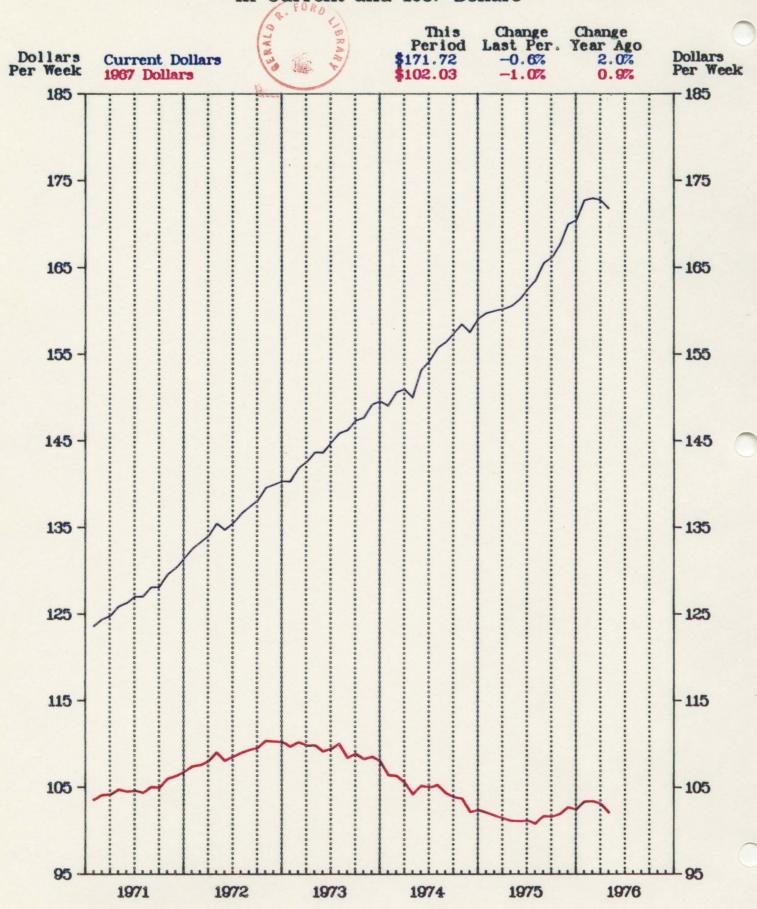


A.3.3-Productivity and Costs Nonfinancial Corporations (1967=100)

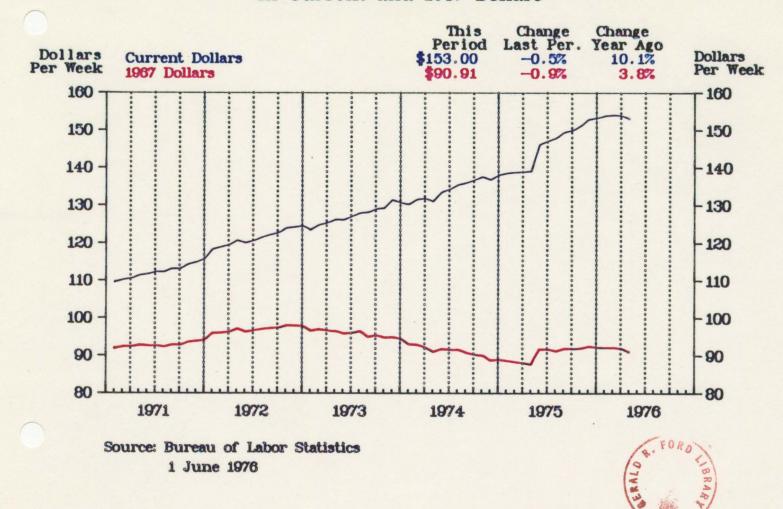


- Productivity in Nonfinancial Corporations (all corporations doing business in the United States with the exception of banks, stock and commodity brokers, and finance and insurance companies) increased at an annual rate of 2.4 percent in the first quarter of 1976, reversing the 2.1-percent annual rate of decline in the preceding quarter.
  - Reflects an 8.3-percent increase in output and a 5.8-percent increase in hours of all employees.
- Compensation per Worker-Hour rose at an annual rate of 7.4 percent, nearly identical to the 7.3-percent annual rate in each of the 3 preceding quarters.
- The increase in Productivity, combined with the nearly unchanged annual rate of increase in hourly compensation, halved the annual rate of increase in Unit Labor Costs from 9.6 percent in the prior quarter to 4.8 percent in the first quarter of 1976.

# A.3.4-Gross Average Weekly Earnings In Current and 1967 Dollars

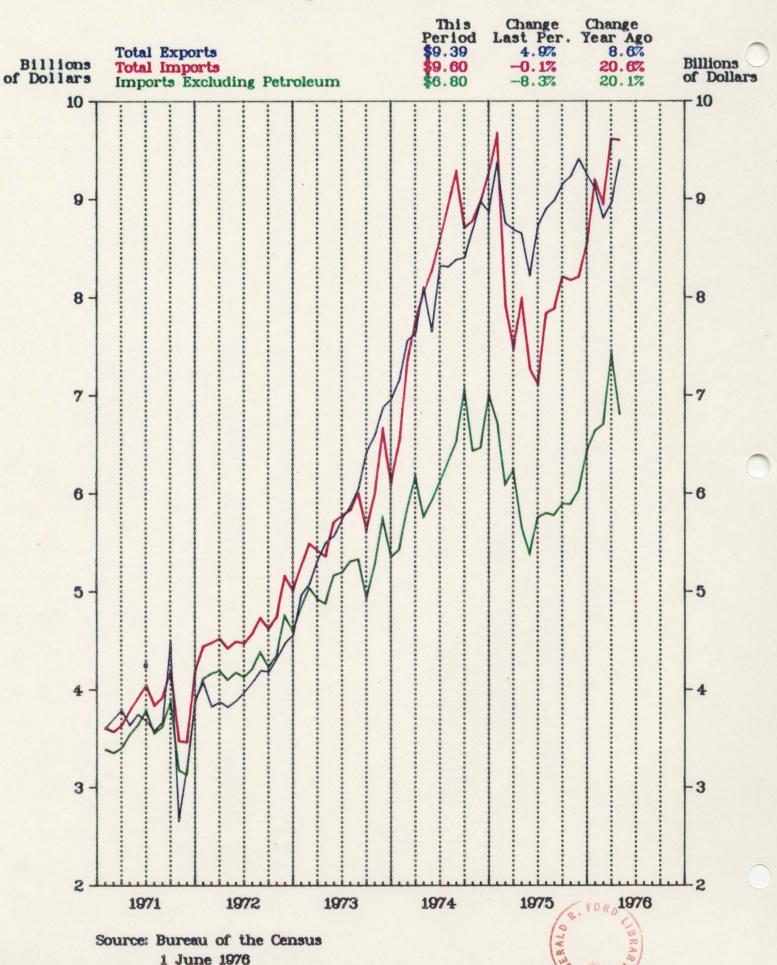


#### A.3.4—Spendable Average Weekly Earnings In Current and 1967 Dollars

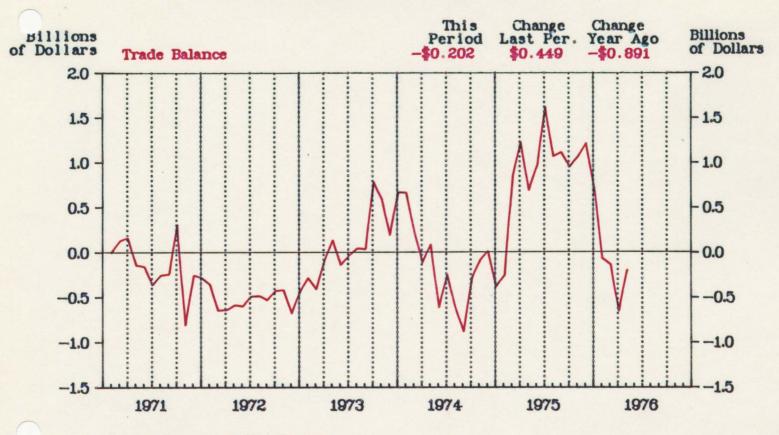


- Real Gross Weekly Earnings (1967 dollars) declined 1.0 percent in April.
  - Decrease was due to a 0.6-percent decline in average weekly hours, no change in average hourly earnings, and a 0.4-percent increase in the Consumer Price Index.
- Real Spendable Earnings (1967 dollars) dropped 0.9 percent below the March level.
  - Over the year, Real Spendable Earnings were up 3.8 percent.
- For the second time in 5 years, Spendable Earnings, in current dollars declined for the second straight month.

## A.5.1-Exports and Imports



# A.5.1—Merchandise Trade Balance Excluding Military Assistance

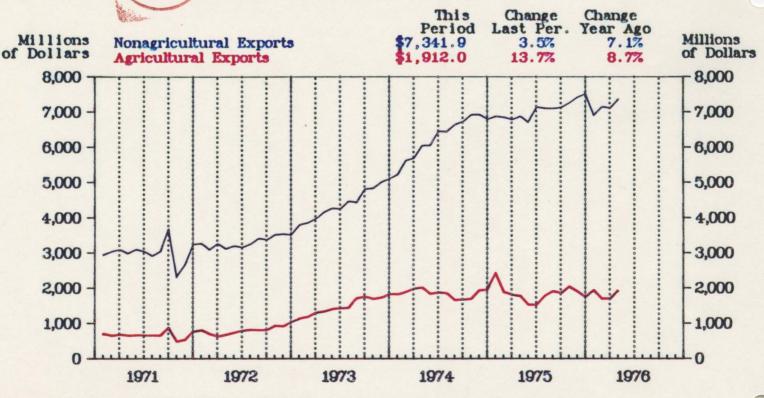


- Total Exports rose for the second month in a row in April and Imports edged down slightly, resulting in a narrowing of the Trade Deficit to \$202 million.
  - One-third as large as the \$651 million posted in March.
  - Fourth in a row, for a total deficit of \$1.07 billion in 1976.
- Exports rose to \$9.39 billion, the highest level since last November.
  - Up \$438 million, or 4.9 percent, over March.
- Total Imports declined \$108 million to \$9.69 billion (0.1 percent) from the 14-month high reported in March.
- Imports Excluding Petroleum declined 8.3 percent or \$615 million, almost erasing the \$719 million gain reported in March; however, a sharp rise in Petroleum Imports was almost completely offsetting.

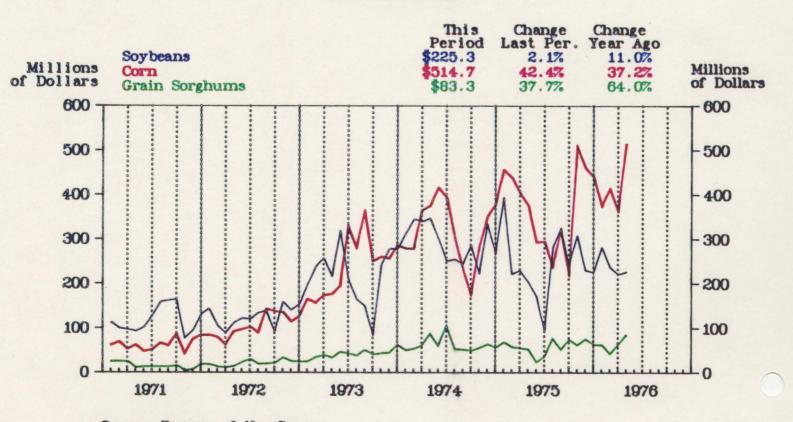




# A.5.1—Exports Domestic Nonagricultural and Agricultural Commodities

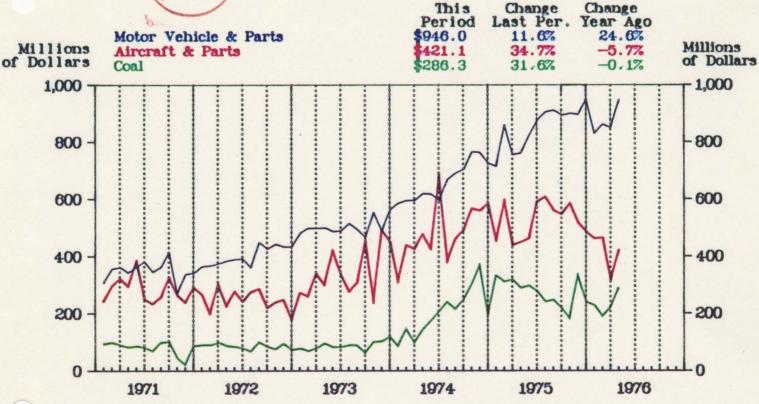


Components of Domestic Agricultural Commodities



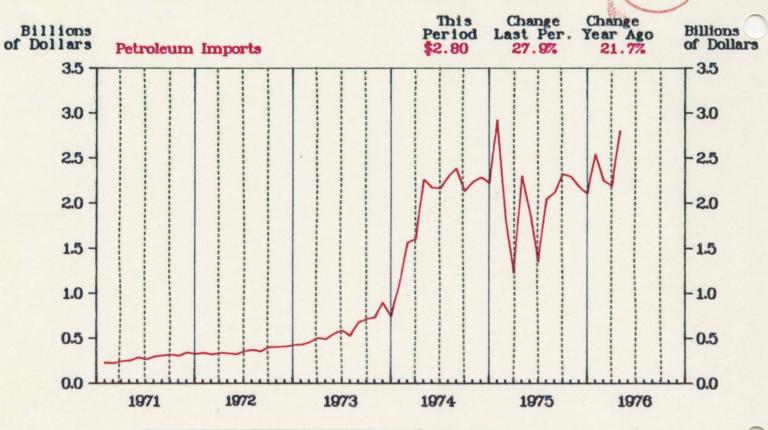


#### A.5.1-Exports Selected Components

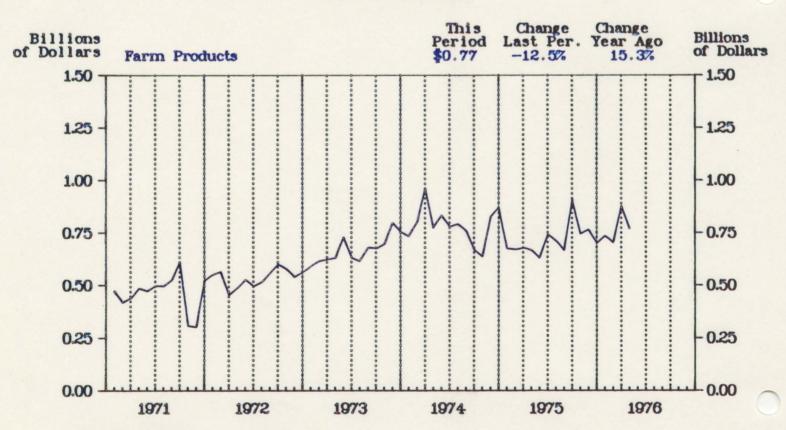


- Reversing the March decline, Nonagricultural Exports rose 3.5 percent, or \$248.5 million to \$7,341.9 million.
  - Contributing to the April rise were exports of Motor Vehicles and Parts, up \$98.5 million to \$946.0 million; only 0.3 percent below last December's record high.
  - Recovering from March's decline, exports of Aircraft and Parts rose 34.7 percent, or \$108.5 million, to \$421.1 million.
  - Coal exports rose for the second month, up \$68.7 million to \$286.3 million; the highest level since last November.
- After 2 months of decline, Agricultural Exports rose \$230.0 million to \$1,912.0 million.
  - More than half of the April rise was accounted for by a 42.4percent rise in Corn exports, up \$153.0 million to a new high of \$514.7 million.
  - Soybeans rose 2.1 percent to \$225.3 million; and Grain Sorghums rose \$22.8 million, or 37.7 percent, to the highest level since June 1974.

# A.5.1-Imports Petroleum and Petroleum Products



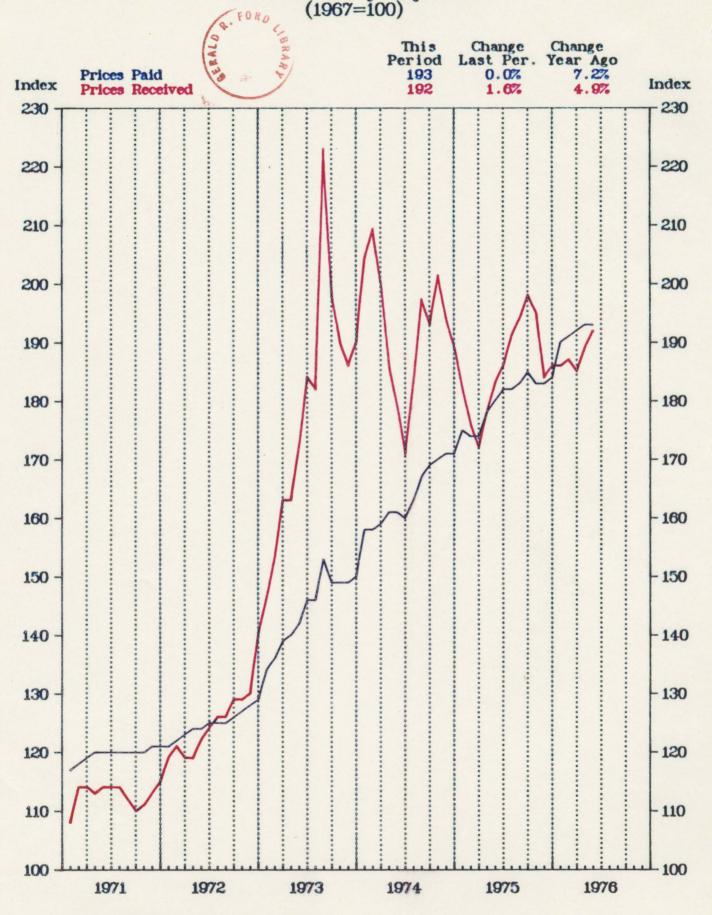






- After seasonal adjustment, Petroleum Imports rose approximately \$600 million in April to \$2.80 billion, only 4.1 percent below the historical high of \$2.92 billion reported in January 1975.
- Among Imports Excluding Petroleum, the largest decline occurred in imports of Farm Products, down \$96 million from March.

A.9.1-Prices Received and Paid by Farmers
Not Seasonally Adjusted
(1967=100)



Source: Department of Agriculture 1 June 1976



- During the month ending May 15, the Index of Prices Received by Farmers for All Farm Products rose 3 points (1.6 percent) to 192, the highest level since last October.
  - Contributing most to the rise were higher prices for corn, cotton, and soybeans; lower milk and cattle prices were partially offsetting.
- The Index of Prices Paid, which has increased more in recent months than Prices Received, was unchanged from the April 15 high of 193.
  - Lower prices for feeder livestock and farm and motor supplies more than offset higher prices for feed, farm motor vehicles, and fuels and energy.

## A.9.1-Prices Received by Farmers Selected Crops Not Seasonally Adjusted

Change Last Per. 7.0% This Change Period Year Ago Feed Grains & Hay 229 -0.4% Oil Bearing Crops 181 5.8% -3.2% Index Index 255 Cotton 14.3% 57.4% 350 350 300 300 250 250 200 200 150 150 100 -100

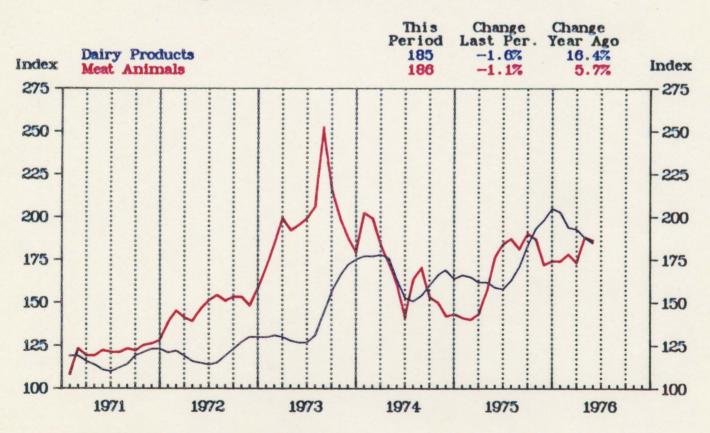
Components of Livestock and Products

1974

1975

1976

1973



Source: Department of Agriculture 1 June 1976

1972

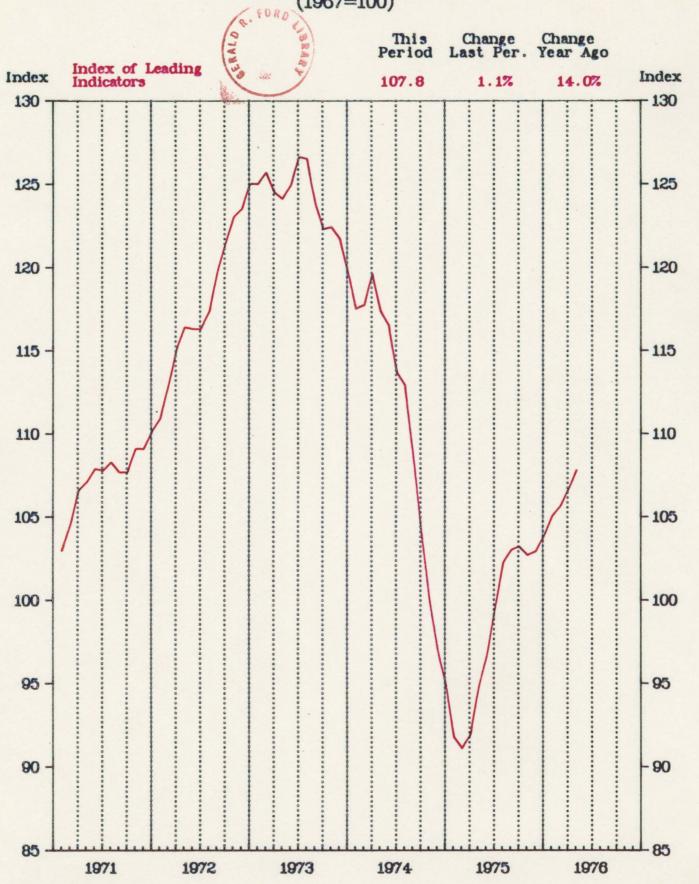
50

1971



- Reflecting higher prices for Corn and Hay, the Index of Prices Received for Feed Grains and Hay rose 15 points to 229, the highest level since last September.
  - Corn rose 15 cents per bushel to \$2.61; and Hay averaged \$64.80 per ton, up \$10.70 from April and \$8.50 from the year-earlier record high.
- Prices Received for Cotton increased 32 points to 255. Upland Cotton averaged 57.3 cents per pound, a record high. The May Index was 93 points (57 percent) above a year ago.
- Oil-Bearing Crops increased 10 points to 181. Soybeans, at \$4.87 per bushel, were 35 cents higher than a month earlier.
- The Meat Animals Index decreased 2 points to 186. Accounting for the May decline were lower Beef Cattle prices, down \$1.00 to \$36.90 per cwt.
- The Dairy Products Index declined 3 points to 185, 26 points above May a year ago. Prices received for milk sold to plants declined 4 cents to \$9.33 per cwt.

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

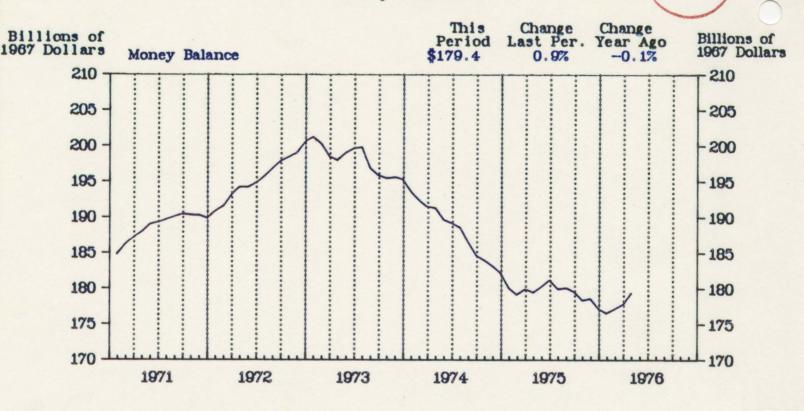


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
1 June 1976

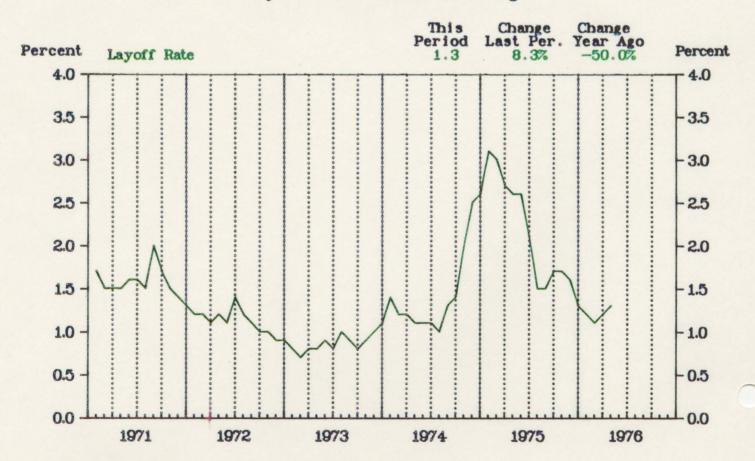


- The Composite Index of Leading Indicators rose to 107.8 in April, a 1.1-percent increase over March's upward-revised figure of 106.6.
  - The sixth consecutive monthly increase and the second highest increase in 9 months.
  - Six of the ten available indicators for April showed increases from March while four showed declines.

### A.11.1-Selected Components of Composite Index Money Balance



Layoff Rate-Manufacturing

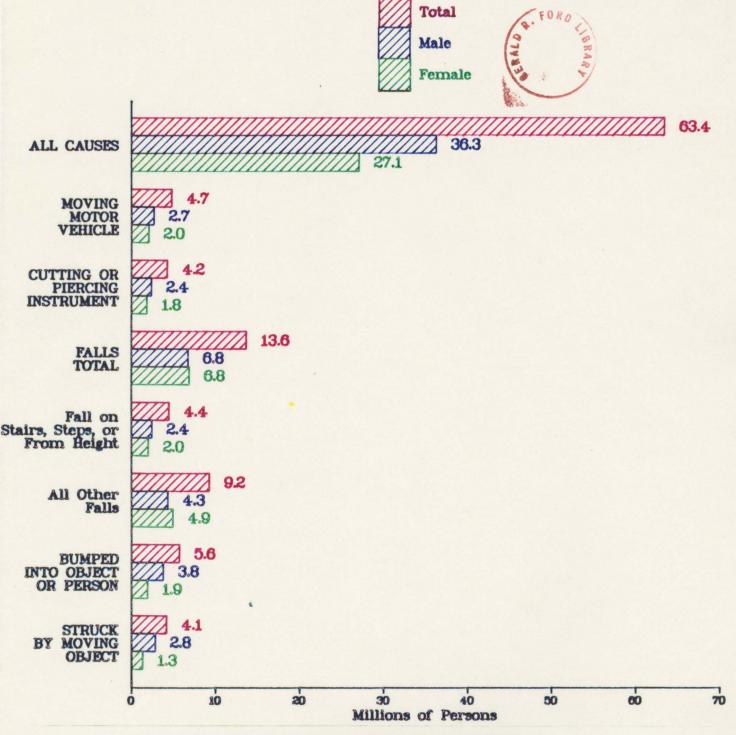


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis 1 June 1976



- Among the six rising indicators, money balance in 1967 dollars, increasing 0.9 percent to \$179.4 billion in April, made the strongest contribution to the increase in the Composite Index.
- The Layoff Rate in Manufacturing, rising from 1.2 to 1.3 percent, exerted the strongest negative influence on the Composite Index.
  - Still only one-half of the rate of 2.6 percent recorded in April 1975.

#### B.3.3—Average Number of Persons Injured per Year by Leading Causes of Accident: 1971—72



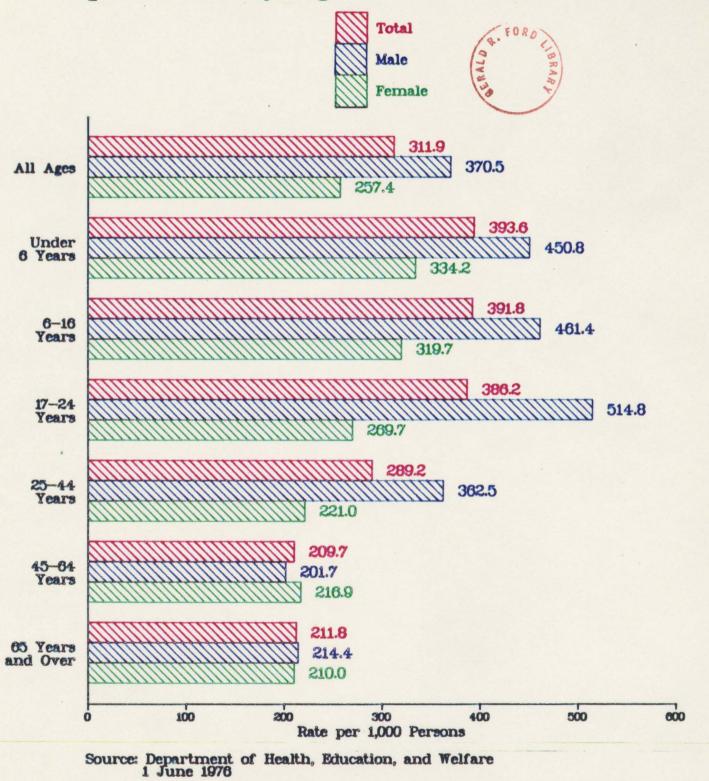
Source: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare 1 June 1976



- During 1971 and 1972, there was an estimated annual average of 63.4 million injuries\* requiring medical attention or reduction of usual activities for at least 1 day.
  - The leading cause of injury was Falls, which accounted for one out of five injuries. The five leading causes of injury accounted for 50.9 percent of all reported injuries in 1971-1972.
- Men sustained one-third more injuries than women. Within the categories of "Bumped into Object or Person" and "Struck by Moving Object," the male injury rate was twice as high as the female rate.

\*Based on injuries reported as occurring during a 2-week reference period immediately prior to household interviews conducted in a continuing nationwide survey of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Each time a person sustains an injury requiring medical attention or resulting in restricted activity, he is counted as a person injured. Therefore, the same person may be counted more than once in these statistics.

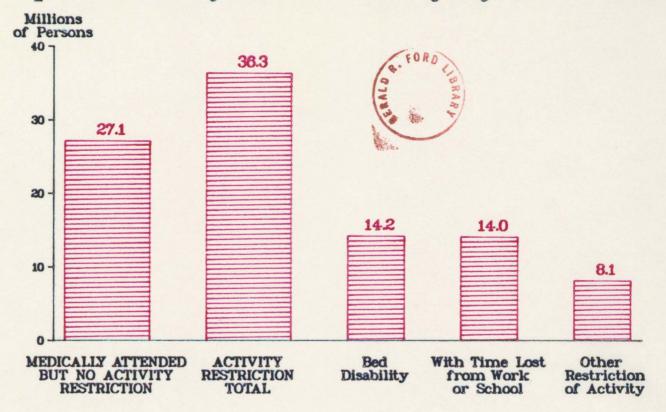
## B.3.3-Average Number of Persons Injured per Year by Age and Sex: 1971-1972

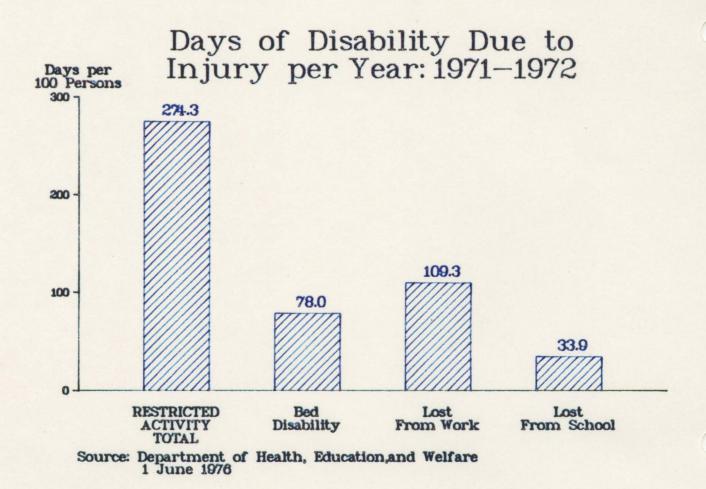




- The injury rate in 1971 and 1972 was 311.9 per 1,000 persons per year.
  - There was little difference in the overall injury rate through the age of 24 years. The rate begins to drop after age 25, reaching a low at age 45 and older.
  - Rates were substantially lower for Females up to age 44. At ages 45 and over, the injury rates for men and women are nearly the same.
    - Males in the 17 to 24 age group were most likely to have sustained injury, with a rate of 514.8 per 1,000 persons, nearly twice the corresponding rate for women.

## B.3.3—Average Number of Persons Injured per Year by Effect of Injury: 1971–1972



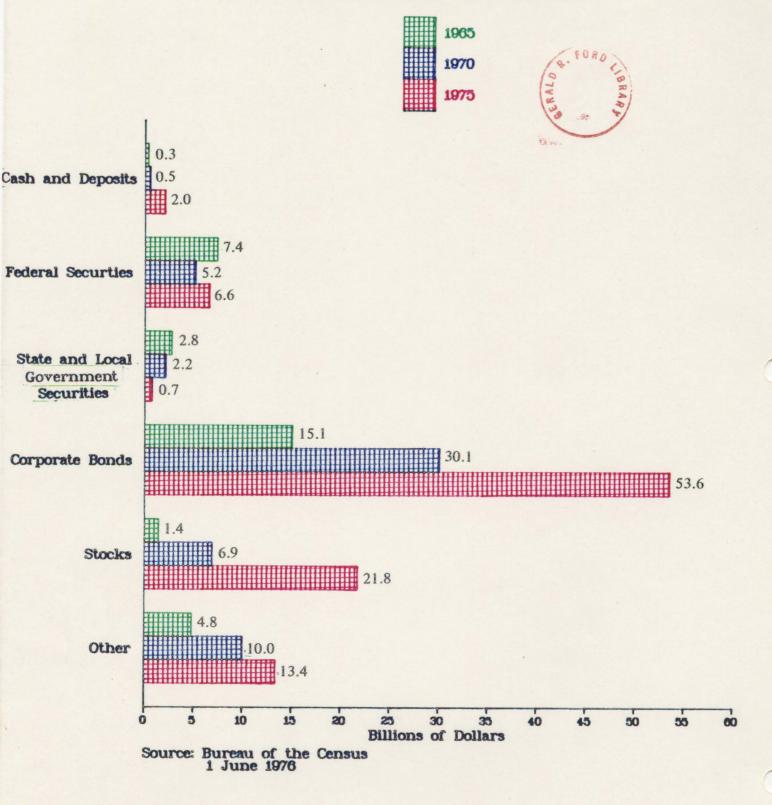




- Approximately two out of five injuries (27.1 million) sustained in 1971 and 1972 required medical attention, but were not activity restricting. The remaining 57.3 percent (36.3 million) were activity restricting, i.e., resulting in a reduction of usual activities for at least 1 day.
  - Approximately 22 percent of all injuries (14.2 million) resulted in bed disability. Almost the same proportion resulted in time lost from work or school.
- There was an average of 2.7 days of restricted activity per person per year. These resulted from injuries sustained in 1971-1972, as well as from past injuries and impairments causing disability during the 2-week reference period.
  - Approximately 1.1 days were lost from work each year for each current employed person aged 17 and over.
  - One-third of a day was lost from school each year for each person aged 6 to 16 years of age.

#### B.5.5–Financial Assets of Retirement Systems: 1965, 1970, and 1975

State and Local Governments





- From 1965 to 1975, Corporate Bonds and Stocks have grown from 52.0 percent to 76.8 percent of the total financial assets of all State and local government retirement systems.
  - Holdings of Corporate Stocks have multiplied over 15 times --increasing from \$1.4 billion in 1965 to \$21.8 billion in 1975.
  - Assets in Corporate Bonds have increased over three and one-half times--from \$15.1 billion in 1965 to \$53.6 billion in 1975.
- On the other hand, the portion of total Cash and Securities of public retirement systems invested in Federal, State, and Local Government Securities combined has dropped from 31.2 percent in 1965 to 7.4 percent in 1975.
  - In dollars, the 10-year decline has been from \$10.1 billion to \$7.3 billion.

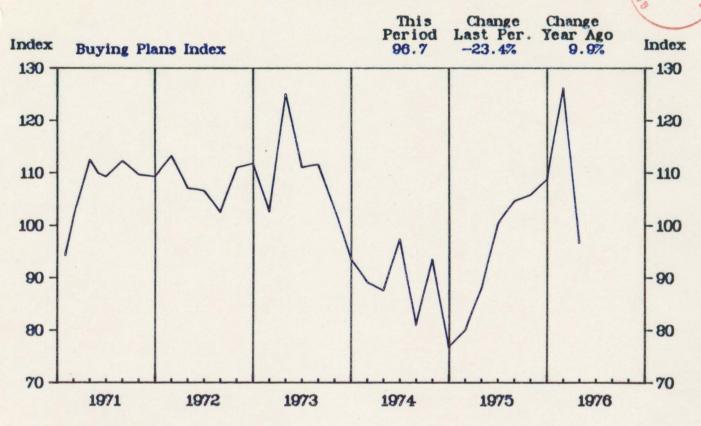


### B.6.7-Consumer Confidence Index



Source: The Conference Board
1 June 1976

### B.6.7-Consumer Buying Plans

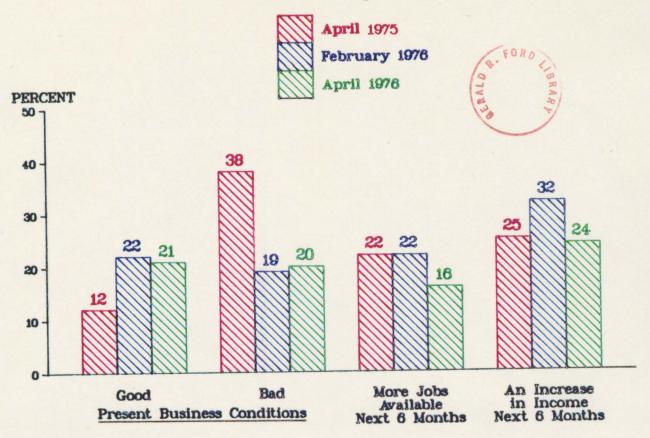


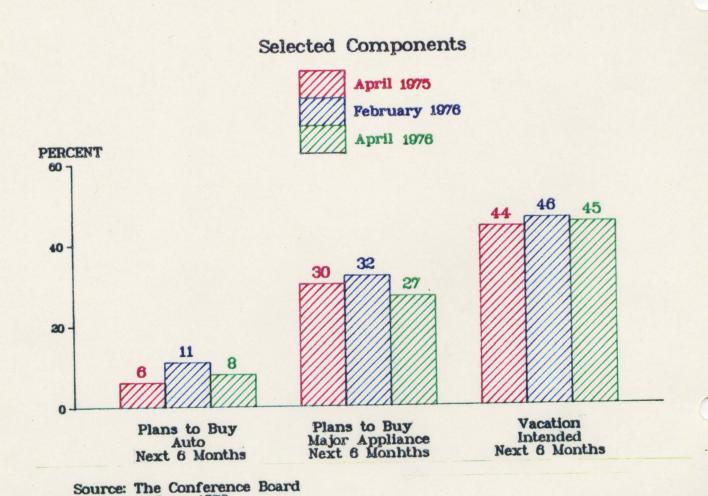
Source: The Conference Board
1 June 1976

- Between February and April Consumer Confidence dropped 11 points, or about 12 percent.
  - However, it remains about 30 percent higher than April a year ago.
- Household buying plans also dropped sharply.
  - The Conference Board's Buying Plans Index fell almost 30 points to 96.7, only 10 percent above last April.
  - According to the Board, the larger than expected declines may be caused by renewed fears of inflation. The upsurge in the Confidence Index earlier this year was accompanied by declining food prices, while in April the cost of food rose for the first time in 4 months.

### B.6.7-Consumer Confidence

Selected Components



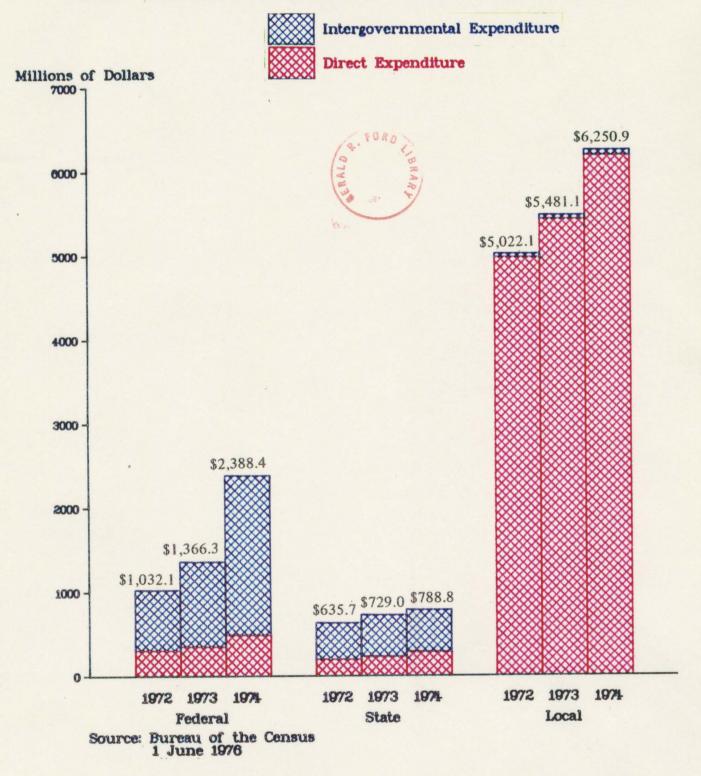


1 June 1976



- Consumer attitudes towards present business conditions were little changed in April.
  - However, substantially fewer people felt that over the next 6 months the employment situation would improve or that their incomes would increase.
    - Only 16 percent of respondents thought that more jobs would be available in the next 6 months--down from 22 percent in February.
    - 24 percent thought their incomes would increase in the next 6 months compared with 32 percent in February.
- Family buying plans had been cut back since the last survey with fewer households planning to purchase autos (new or used) or major appliances in the next 6 months.
  - Vacation plans also declined slightly.

### D.1.1-Direct and Intergovernmental Expenditure For Pollution Abatement: 1972 to 1974

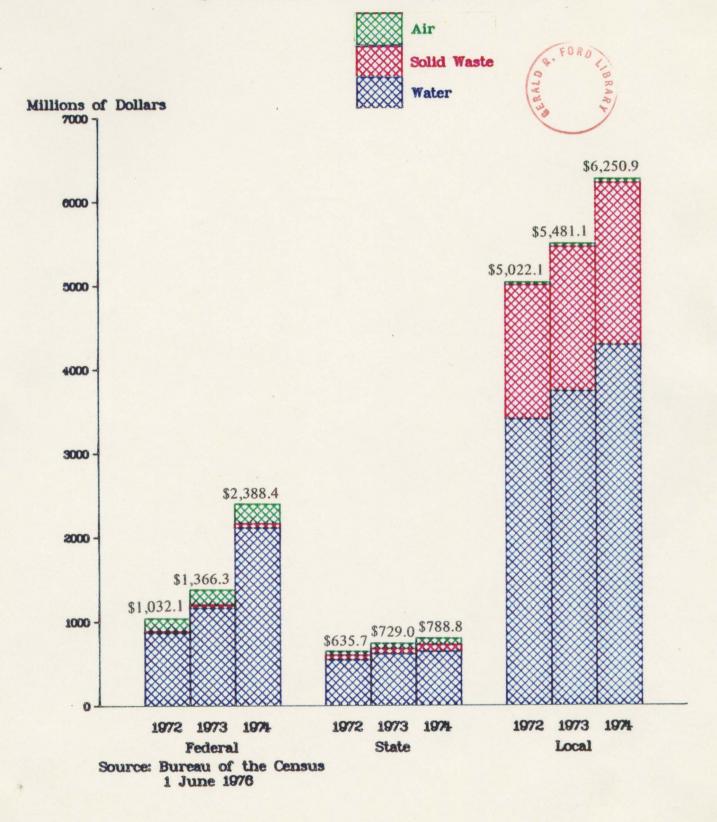




- Including duplicative intergovernmental transactions between Federal, State, and local governments, pollution abatement expenditure for fiscal 1974 totaled \$9,428.2 million. Local government direct and indirect expenditure of \$6,250.9 million comprised 66.3 percent of the total.
  - Federal intergovernmental payments to State and local governments rose to about \$1.9 billion in 1974 from \$1.0 billion in 1973, an increase of 90 percent.
- Intergovernmental payments for the construction of sewage treatment facilities represented slightly more than three-fourths of total 1974 Federal and State pollution abatement spending, up from 70.1 percent reported in fiscal 1973.

# D.1.1-Pollution Abatement Expenditure: 1972 to 1974

By Function and Level of Government





- From 1972 to 1974, Federal Government outlays for pollution abatement have risen from \$1,032.1 million to \$2,388.4 million, an increase of \$1,356.3 million, or 131.4 percent.
- Water pollution control is the primary focus of environmental quality control activities at all levels of government.
  - Constituted 88.2 percent of total Federal expenditure for pollution control in 1974.
- Solid waste operations, mainly consisting of garbage collection and disposal, are almost entirely a function of local governments.
  - A relatively small increase from \$1,602.5 million to \$1,936.4 million, or 20.8 percent, was recorded for local government solid waste programs from 1972 to 1974.