

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

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Weekly Quotation

The wickedness of a few is the calamity of all. -- Syrus

Weekly Indexes

There are six indexes available on a weekly basis in Canada that reflect the general economic trend. These cover respectively:

Business - carloadings and wholesale prices

Finance - bank clearings and capitalized bond yields

Speculation - common stock prices and shares traded.

The six indexes and the composite are shown here on the base of 1926 despite the fact that the index of carloadings is reported elsewhere on the new base of 1935-1939. Notes on the indexes follow:

The railway traffic movement receded in the last week of the year, carloadings amounting to 45,031 against 61,760 in the preceding week. After seasonal adjustment the index receded from 109.6 to 107.0. Carloadings amounted to 3,189,447 cars during the year, against 2,812,597 in 1940.

The acceleration in the movement of commodities over the preceding week was consequently more than 13 p.c. Nine of the 11 commodity groups were moved in greater volume during 1941. Marked increases were shown in miscellaneous commodities, grain, merchandise L.C.L. Coal and other forest products recorded recession. Appreciable gains were shown in the movement of lumber, pulp and paper and ore. The gain in the traffic in livestock amounted to 8,477 cars.

Wholesale prices were slightly stronger in the week of December 26, the index advancing from 93.7 to 93.8. The standing one year ago was 84.2, an increase of 9.6 points having been recorded. During the year the largest percentage gains were shown in animal products and in chemicals. The index for animal products rose from 84.1 to 98.8, a gain of 14.7 points. Considerable gains were also shown in crop products and in wood and paper. A minor gain only was recorded in non-ferrous metals, the index rising $\frac{1}{2}$ point to 78.2.

An increase was shown in the index of common stocks, the rise having been one point to 73. The decline from the same week of the preceding year was 4.3 p.c. Shares traded were at a low position compared with the preceding week and with the same week of 1940. High-grade bond prices were fully maintained, an increase of 2 p.c. in an index of capitalized bond yields having been shown over the same week of 1940.

The weekly index based on the above-mentioned factors was 117.6 in the week of December 27, against 118.7 in the preceding week, a decline of 0.9 p.c. The standing one year ago was 107.3, an advance of 9.7 p.c. having been indicated.

Four of the six factors recorded gains over one year ago. Common stock prices, and shares traded showed a setback.

A Weekly Index with Six Components on the Base of 1926=100

Week Ending	Car loadings	Whole-sale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields	Bank Clearings	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index
Dec. 27, 1941	107.0	93.8	146.8	120.3	73.0	19.6	117.6
Dec. 20, 1941	109.6	93.7	146.8	123.4	72.0	43.8	118.7
Dec. 28, 1940	95.8	84.2	143.9	99.4	76.3	24.0	107.3

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending December 26 the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 1,331,388 bushels compared with 811,473 in the corresponding week last year. The accumulated total for the twenty-one weeks ending December 26 was 58,443,960 bushels compared with 37,776,592 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending December 26 amounted to 4,184,498 bushels compared with 5,770,135 in the previous week and 8,580,045 in the corresponding week last year. Totals follow by provinces, with 1940 figures in brackets: Manitoba, 701,528(1,080,700) bushels; Saskatchewan, 1,764,861(4,099,179); Alberta, 1,718,109(3,400,166).

Marketings in the three provinces during the twenty-one weeks ending December 26 aggregated 146,651,668 bushels compared with 280,831,654 in the like period of the previous crop year. Totals were: Manitoba, 27,913,985(38,120,016) bushels; Saskatchewan, 75,700,051(152,277,680); Alberta, 43,037,632(90,433,958).

World Shipments of Wheat

World shipments of wheat during the week ending December 20 amounted to 6,015,000 bushels compared with 5,457,000 in the previous week and 4,944,000 in the same week last year. Shipments during the twenty weeks ending December 20 aggregated 109,151,000 bushels compared with 100,164,000 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on December 26 was 504,967,611 bushels compared with 507,541,092 on December 19 and 492,622,524 on the corresponding date last year. The stocks in elevators in Canada on the latest date totalled 471,669,401 bushels, the balance of 33,298,210 being in storage in the United States.

Canada's External Trade in November

Canada's external trade reached a particularly high point in November when the value aggregated \$298,269,146 as compared with \$280,496,801 in the previous month and \$220,-637,838 in the corresponding month last year. These figures do not include gold. The balance of trade was favourable to Canada to the extent of \$29,883,112 compared with an unfavourable balance in October of \$1,142,275 and a favourable balance in November last year of \$16,120,464.

Domestic exports in November totalled \$162,435,094 compared with \$138,129,242 in October and \$117,452,172 a year ago. Imports were valued at \$134,190,517 compared with \$140,819,038 in October and \$102,283,687 last year. Foreign exports amounted to \$1,643,535 compared with \$1,548,521 in October and \$951,979 in November, 1940. Duty collected amounted to \$14,289,138 in November compared with \$16,620,310 in October and \$13,088,593 in November, 1940.

November Production of Iron and Steel

The Canadian production of pig iron in November totalled 133,735 tons compared with 137,114 in the previous month and 109,576 in November, 1940. Included in the total for the latest month were 111,619 tons of basic iron, 12,456 tons of foundry iron and 9,660 of malleable iron. For the eleven months of 1941 pig iron production aggregated 1,215,957 tons compared with 1,058,417 in the like period of 1940.

The November production of steel ingots and castings totalled 221,367 tons compared with 176,113 in November a year ago. The month's total included 209,801 tons of ingots and 11,566 tons of castings. To the end of November steel production aggregated 2,193,276 compared with 1,825,752 in the same period of 1940.

The output of ferro-alloys in November amounted to 17,078 tons compared with 16,809 in the previous month and 11,654 in November, 1940.

Imports from Principal Countries in November

The value of Canada's November imports, excluding gold, totalled \$134,190,000 as compared with \$102,284,000 in the corresponding month last year, a gain of \$31,906,000. To the end of November the aggregate value was \$1,322,906,000 as compared with \$979,648,000 in the like period of 1940, an increase \$343,258,000.

Imports in November from the United States were valued at \$95,546,000 compared with \$74,452,000 a year ago, while the total for the eleven months amounted to \$911,950,000 as compared with \$675,202,000 in the same period of 1940. November imports from the United Kingdom totalled \$12,830,000 compared with \$9,902,000 last year, with the eleven-month total standing at \$125,915,000 in comparison with \$124,971,000 in 1940.

November imports from other leading countries were as follows, with 1940 figures in brackets: British South Africa, \$450,000(\$513,000); British India with Burma, \$1,817,000(\$1,586,000); Straits Settlements, \$1,296,000(\$2,250,000); British Guiana, \$1,046,000(\$952,000); British West Indies, \$1,212,000(\$618,000); Australia, \$3,179,000(\$2,107,000); Fiji, \$522,000(\$300,000); New Zealand, \$1,651,000(\$292,000); Brazil, \$1,279,000(\$833,000); Colombia, \$725,000(\$1,301,000); Cuba, \$968,000(\$76,000); Netherlands East Indies, \$507,000(\$212,000); San Domingo, \$630,000(\$393,000); Venezuela, \$693,000(\$225,000).

Commercial Failures in October

The total number of commercial failures in October as reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding-Up Acts was 71 as compared with 67 in the previous month and 70 in October, 1940. The defaulted liabilities for October, were \$548,892 compared with \$541,173 in September and \$492,126 in October, 1940. Assets were estimated at \$352,439 compared with \$368,651 in September and \$360,488 a year ago.

Manufacturing Industries of Ontario

Ontario is the most important manufacturing province in the Dominion and in 1939 reported a gross value of manufactured products totalling \$1,745,674,707, an increase of 1.9 per cent over the previous year. This favourable position is not of recent growth, but has been maintained over a long period of years. In spite of the rapid industrial development in recent years in other provinces, Ontario is maintaining a manufacturing production equal to that of the remainder of the Dominion. Ontario also has the greatest diversification of manufacturing production of any province.

Outstanding among the industries in which Ontario is pre-eminent is that of agricultural implements and automobile manufacture which is carried on practically in this province alone. Other important industries in which Ontario leads, with the percentage which the production of each bears to that of the Dominion total in 1939, are as follows: leather tanneries 88 per cent; rubber goods, including footwear 80 per cent, electrical apparatus and supplies 76 per cent, fruit and vegetable preparations 67 per cent, castings and forgings 64 per cent, primary iron and steel 64 per cent, hosiery and knitted goods 59 per cent, flour and feed mills 57 per cent, and furniture 56 per cent.

Financing of Motor Vehicles Sales in November

A further sharp decline in the volume of motor vehicles sales financing in Canada was recorded in November when 6,950 new and used motor vehicles were financed for \$2,866,872, down 42 per cent in number and 48 per cent in dollar volume from the 12,039 units financed for \$5,505,607 in November a year ago. November was the first complete month in which the restrictions on instalment purchasing introduced in October were in effect. Contracts purchased by finance companies during the first eleven months of this year amounted to 172,081 involving an amount of \$80,592,293 compared with 165,822 transactions involving \$69,743,439 in the corresponding period of 1940.

Building Permits in November

The value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in November was \$11,465,444 compared with \$13,137,056 in the previous month and \$11,159,379 in November, 1940. The total for the eleven months of this year was \$126,506,945 as compared with \$105,319,455 in the corresponding period of 1940. During November this year new construction of all types accounted for 84.5 per cent of the total value.

Housing in Victoria, British Columbia

Three-quarters of Victoria homes in June 1941 were single houses. Nearly all the rest were in small flat or apartment buildings, with less than 6 p.c. of homes in buildings containing more than 10 dwelling units. Over three-quarters of homes were surfaced with wood, about 15 p.c. with stucco, and only 7 p.c. with brick. External repairs were needed by nearly 17 p.c. of homes. Almost 60 p.c. of homes contained from 4 to 6 rooms, and 21 p.c. contained more than 6 rooms.

Almost as many dwellings (39.6 p.c.) were heated by stove as were heated by hot air furnaces (43.3 p.c.); the remaining heating systems were mostly steam and hot water furnaces. Wood heated 62 p.c. of homes, and about 20 p.c. were heated with coal, nearly 8 p.c. with fuel oil, 6 p.c. with sawdust, and almost 4 p.c. with coke. For cooking fuel 61 p.c. of homes used wood, 29 p.c. of gas or electricity, and 7 p.c. used coal oil or other oil fuels. Almost 100 p.c. of households had the exclusive or shared use of flush toilets. Over 98 p.c. of families had electric lighting, but 63 p.c. had no refrigeration. Out of every 100 homes, telephones were installed in 69.8; 42.4 had vacuum cleaners; 34.2 autos; and 88.7 radios. All four of these conveniences were reported by 21 p.c. of families.

Just under half of Victoria homes were occupied by their owners, who estimated the average market value at \$3,200. Of owner-occupied houses, 24 p.c. were mortgaged for about \$1,200 each. Average annual payments of interest and principal were \$230, at 6.1 per cent interest. Typical owner occupants had lived 12.3 years in their present homes, as compared to 4.5 years for tenants. Property taxes for owners approximated \$96, plus \$20 water tax.

The average monthly rental of \$23 included a garage for 28.8 p.c. of tenants, heating for 24.4 p.c., and furniture for 18.2 p.c. but 60.8 p.c. of tenants paid water taxes averaging \$16 annually. Smaller proportions of tenant homes than of owner households reported various facilities. The difference was only 2 or 3 p.c. for running water, and electric light, but was much greater for telephones, vacuum cleaners, autos, radios, refrigeration, and exclusive bathing and toilet facilities. More tenant homes than owner-occupied homes were heated by steam or hot water and cooking by gas or electricity was in equal proportion. More tenants than owners reported dwellings in need of external repair.

The foregoing is the third in the series of releases to be issued summarizing preliminary census data on housing in Canadian cities of 30,000 population and over. The Victoria record is based on a random sample of 1,131 dwellings. Other city summaries will be issued as the data become available.

Output of Central Electric Stations

Central electric stations produced 3,183,982,000 kilowatt hours in November as against 3,140,317,000 in October and 2,524,860,000 in November last year, and the index number adjusted for seasonal variations increased from 137.4 for October to 137.5. Both the quantity and the index were new high records. Output during the eleven months ending November aggregated 30,224,560,000 kilowatt hours compared with 27,495,907,000 in the like period of 1940.

Sales of Asphalt Roofing in November

Sales of asphalt roofing in November this year included 231,089 squares of shingles, siding and roofing and 3,888 tons of roofing and sheathing as compared with 184,930 squares of the former and 3,893 tons of the latter in November, 1940.

Stocks of Raw and Refined Sugar

Stocks of raw sugar held in Canada's sugar refineries on November 29 totalled 131,488,225 pounds compared with 145,308,935 on the corresponding date last year. Refined sugar on hand totalled 297,651,927 pounds in comparison with 261,986,253 on the same date in 1940.

Estimate of Canada's Mineral Production in 1941

The Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa estimates the value of the Canadian Mineral Production in 1941 to be \$553,941,000. This is the highest ever recorded and an increase of 4.6 per cent over the 1940 output of \$529,825,035.

Metals, as a group, were valued at \$393,269,000 against \$382,503,012, an increase of 3 per cent; fuels, including coal, natural gas and crude petroleum totalled \$83,363,000, a gain of 6 per cent; non-metallic minerals, other than fuels, reached \$31,616,000 -- up 21.5 per cent, and structural materials advanced 8 per cent to \$45,693,000.

Gold production of the country was slightly higher than in 1940. Output totalled 5,322,247 fine ounces worth \$204,906,000 as compared with 5,311,145 fine ounces valued at \$204,479,083 last year. Silver output at 20,437,196 fine ounces was valued at \$7,813,000, a decrease of 14 per cent in quantity and value.

The combined value of the base metals, nickel, copper, lead and zinc was \$166,157,000 as compared with \$155,922,881 in 1940. The value of the remaining metals aggregated \$14,393,000.

In the fuels group, coal production was estimated at 18,136,103 short tons, an increase of 3 per cent. The mines of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia produced more coal than in the preceding year, while those of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia registered a decrease. Natural gas output was less than in 1940, but crude petroleum advanced 17.6 per cent to 10,107,000 barrels.

Non-metallies, exclusive of fuels, aggregated \$31,616,000, a gain of 21.5 per cent. Among the more important of these showing increases over the previous year and for which data are released for publication, are barytes, feldspar, gypsum, quartz, salt and sodium sulphate.

In the structural materials group, clay products were valued at \$6,550,000 as against \$6,344,547 in 1940. Cement gained 8 per cent to 8,198,000 barrels. Lime production reached 861,000 tons compared with 716,730 tons during the preceding twelve months, and the value of the output of stone and sand and gravel was estimated at \$20,070,000, as compared with \$19,158,204 in the preceding year.

Owing to war-time restrictions, no information is being published on the output of individual base metals and certain non-metallic minerals. Although gold output recorded an all-time high, indications are that with rising costs and the difficulty of getting process supplies the peak of production has been reached for the time being. Canada's base metals mines are in a position to supply the allied cause with large quantities of copper, lead, zinc, and nickel, and in addition, well established mining companies have capable staffs of technicians who are able to advise and assist on any projects in the industry necessitated by new developments. The metallurgy of the alloys has attained a very important place in the war effort. It has been announced that the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Trail, British Columbia, will erect and operate a plant to manufacture magnesium metal. A plant is also being built a short distance north of Ottawa to recover brucite from brucite-bearing limestone. Brucite may be used as a refractory and is also a possible source of magnesium metal.

Negotiations have progressed during the year towards final plans in the development of the Steep Rock iron deposit near Atikoken, west of Lake Superior. A large deposit of barytes has been developed in Nova Scotia and shipments are being made to the West Indies where it is used by oil drillers. Possible Canadian markets are also being investigated.

Petroleum production in Alberta advanced to a new peak and there was much activity in prospecting for new fields both in the plains and foothills and in the drilling of new wells.

Geological investigations and prospecting were carried on during the summer season in areas that were known to have possibilities in the yielding of certain war-time minerals that had not before been developed to any great extent.

Summary of Week's Quotations

1. "In the days to come British and American peoples will, for their own safety and for the good of all, walk together in majesty, in justice and in peace!" -- Churchill

2. A greater inheritance comes to each of us from our rights and laws, than from our parents. --Cicero

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
 2. The Paints, Pigments and Varnishes Industry, 1940 (25 cents).
 3. Sugar Report, November 8 to November 29, 1941 (10 cents).
 4. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, November (10 cents).
 5. Production of Asphalt Roofing, November (10 cents).
 6. Trade of Canada, November (10 cents).
 7. Miscellaneous Paper Goods, 1940 (10 cents).
 8. Output of Central Electric Stations, November (10 cents).
 9. Commercial Failures, October (10 cents).
 10. Production of Iron and Steel, November (10 cents).
 11. Imports from Principal Countries, November (10 cents).
 12. Housing Bulletin, Victoria, British Columbia (10 cents).
 13. Building Permits, November (10 cents).
 14. Financing of Motor Vehicles Sales, November (10 cents).
 15. Manufacturing Industries of Ontario, 1939 (25 cents).
 16. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 17. Car Loadings (10 cents).
 18. Preliminary Estimate of Canada's Mineral Production, 1941 (10 cents).
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