

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics  
Department of Trade and Commerce



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Summary of Quotations

1. We do not count a man's years until he has nothing else to count. -- Emerson
2. Towns and countries are never more ruined than when counsel is taken from foreigners. -- German Proverb.
3. The rays of happiness, like those of light, are colorless when unbroken -- Longfellow
4. Facts are chieftains that winna ding. -- Robert Burns
5. Nothing comes to us too soon but sorrow. -- Bailey
6. No man can mortgage his injustice as a pawn for his fidelity. -- Edmund Burke

Traffic on Railways in November

Revenue freight loaded at railway stations in Canada and received from foreign connections during November amounted to 10,870,811 tons as compared with 11,524,652 in October and 9,139,649 in November, 1940.

Advance in Business Activity in January

Business activity in the first month of the year was at a slightly higher level than in December, the index of the physical volume of business rising from 141.3 to 142.4. The factors indicating the trend of mineral production averaged somewhat lower, the index receding about 4 points to 120.2. The output of coal showed a contra-seasonal increase, the total having been 1,898,000 tons. The index of manufacturing rose from about 159 to 163.2, being the main influence in raising the general index of business activity. Industrial plants using crop products as raw materials were slightly less active in January than in December, the index dropping more than 4 points to 122.3.

The index of the release of tobacco recorded a gain in the month under review, the standing being 173.4 as compared with 160.5. The release of cigars was at a lower point than in December but a considerable gain was shown in cigarettes. The total was 747.7 million against 720.0 million in December. The index after seasonal adjustment advanced from 155.7 to 171.1. The release of raw leaf tobacco was at a lower position than in the last month of 1941.

Manufacturing plants using animal products were less active in January than in December, the index having been 155 against 180. The index of inspected slaughterings dropped from 157 to 143. Dairy production was uneven, a recession having been shown in cheese production, while creamery butter was produced in greater volume after seasonal adjustment.

The textile index was 207.6 in January against 142.7, constituting one of the bright spots of the month. Activity in the woollen textile industry showed acceleration and the index of cotton consumption was at a somewhat higher position. The index of forestry production, based on four factors, was 126.9 against 127.5. An index of activity in the iron and steel group rose from 238.4 to 241.9. The index for the group was revised for the purpose of a better recording of the effect of the war effort. The index of petroleum imports was 128.6 against 201.3, the total amount having been 88.9 million gallons against 126.3 million.

The index of new business obtained by the construction industry was 125.8 against 164.4. Electric power output was 3,266.3 million kilowatt hours against 3,220.8 million in December. The index of distribution based upon carloadings, employment in internal trade, imports and exports, was 125.3 against 118.1 in the preceding month.

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Economic Activity in January Compared with the Preceding Month.

	1942 January	1941 December
Physical Volume of Business, 1935-1939=100 .....	142.4	141.3
Industrial Production .....	151.9	154.1
Mineral Production .....	120.2	124.4
Gold, Mint receipts .....	115.7	114.7
Silver shipments .....	94.9	37.6
Asbestos exports .....	147.0	109.9
Coal production .....	128.2	118.1
Manufacturing .....	163.2	158.9
Flour production .....	-	158.0
Oatmeal production .....	-	30.2
Inspected slaughterings .....	143.3	157.0
Cattle .....	123.6	129.3
Sheep .....	115.3	117.3
Hogs .....	179.5	203.6
Creamery butter .....	114.2	112.8
Factory cheese .....	300.3	446.9
Salmon exports .....	111.7	197.2
Tobacco .....	173.4	160.5
Cigar releases .....	204.7	216.6
Cigarette releases .....	171.1	155.7
Rubber imports .....	9.6	147.8
Boots and Shoes production .....	-	205.7
Textiles .....	207.6	142.7
Cotton consumption .....	177.0	170.3
Wool imports .....	315.0	147.8
Silk imports .....	20.0	20.0
Rayon materials used .....	146.2	152.5
Forestry .....	126.9	127.5
Newsprint .....	130.4	123.6
Wood pulp exports .....	209.7	230.7
Planks and boards exports .....	90.8	113.8
Shingles exported .....	125.3	67.3
Iron and Steel .....	241.9	238.4
Steel production .....	242.0	220.8
Pig iron production .....	243.3	230.5
Iron and Steel imports .....	277.0	283.0
Automobile production .....	114.3	102.3
Coke production .....	127.5	130.9
Crude Petroleum imports .....	128.6	201.3
Construction .....	125.8	184.4
Contracts awarded .....	118.4	202.6
Building permits .....	149.6	115.2
Cost of Construction .....	122.4	121.7
Electric Power .....	142.9	138.9
Distribution .....	125.3	118.1
Carloadings .....	149.6	138.8
Imports .....	229.0	194.9
Exports (excluding gold) .....	199.7	163.9
Producers' Goods .....	160.9	162.4
Consumers' Goods .....	128.1	122.3
Marketings .....		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings .....	136.3	129.4
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators .....	110.4	206.6
Wheat .....	158.2	76.7
Oats .....	145.7	116.7
Barley .....	158.4	449.3
Rye .....	248.2	108.5
Live Stock Marketings .....	112.3	129.8
Cattle .....	125.4	132.9
Calves .....	96.7	108.8
Hogs .....	91.2	129.0
Sheep .....	70.5	114.4
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month .....	148.1	147.2
Eggs .....	187.8	130.7
Butter .....	116.7	129.3
Cheese .....	110.8	133.2
Beef .....	161.7	140.8
Pork .....	205.5	207.4
Mutton .....	111.0	101.9
Poultry .....	147.8	150.6
Lard .....	251.2	265.8
Veal .....	197.4	180.1



## World Cost of Living Movements

Cost of living trends in the second half of 1941 continued to the pattern established by earlier wholesale price increases. The United States National Industrial Conference Board index of living costs advanced 5.3 p.c. between June and December of 1941, and the Canadian index showed a net increase of 4.8 p.c. for the same period. In both cases the largest increases were in the food and clothing groups. For the year 1941 the United States index rose 8.5 p.c. and the Canadian index 7.2 p.c.

The Ministry of Labour index for the United Kingdom, after declining fractionally in July, moved higher in November and December because of increases in the clothing group. It closed the year 0.5 p.c. above the June index and 3.1 p.c. above December 1940. The food index in December was 4.6 p.c. lower than a year ago.

Out of a yearly increase of 11.6 p.c., the Mexican index showed a rise of 9.8 p.c. between June and October. Other gains in the second half of 1941 were: China 30.7 p.c., Iceland 14.2 p.c., Switzerland 4.0 p.c., New Zealand 2.2 p.c., Union of South Africa 2.6 p.c.

Comparisons between August 1939 and the latest months available in 1941 show the following wartime increases in living costs: Iceland 71.8 p.c., Switzerland 32.8 p.c., United Kingdom 29.7 p.c., Canada 14.9 p.c., Mexico 12.8 p.c., United States 10.3 p.c., New Zealand 9.8 p.c.

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## Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries during 1941

Although the volume of the international trade in securities between Canada and other countries in 1941 was smaller than in 1940, the inflow of capital was larger. Total sales of \$108.3 million exceeded total purchases of \$75.3 million by \$33 million in 1941 compared with sales of \$123.9 million, purchases of \$95.1 million and a balance of \$28.8 million in 1940. Net sales of Canadian securities accounted for \$15.6 million of the balance of sales in 1941 compared with \$10.1 million in 1940. Net sales of United States securities of \$16.9 million were at about the same level as in 1940. There were net sales in each month of 1941 and these were heaviest in the period from September to November.

About 94 per cent of the volume of trading and most of the movement of capital was between Canada and the United States. Net sales of securities to the United States amounted to \$36.3 million. Sales of Canadian bonds constituted \$18.9 million of this total. Sales of Dominion issues and Dominion guarantees were particularly heavy. Provincial, municipal and corporation issues were also sold on balance while unguaranteed railway issues were repurchased. Trading in Canadian stocks were mainly offsetting while sales of United States stocks amounted to \$14.3 million on balance. There were also sales of United States government and corporation bonds.

Net repurchases of securities from the United Kingdom amounted to \$3.1 million. Most of the transactions with the United Kingdom were in Canadian securities. Both stocks and bonds were repurchased. The official repatriation of securities held in the United Kingdom and sales under vesting order are not reflected in these statistics.

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## Bank Debits to Individual Accounts in January

Bank debits, the amount of cheques cashed in clearing centres, totalled \$3,230,788,844 in January as compared with \$2,941,104,197 in the corresponding month last year, a gain of 9.8 per cent. The increase over last year's total reflected greater economic activity and a higher price level due to the accentuation of the war effort.

Advances were recorded in each of the five economic areas, the greatest percentage gain having been shown in the province of Quebec. Totals follow by areas with those for January 1941 in brackets: Maritime Provinces, \$77,155,092(\$72,797,463); Quebec, \$939,781,839(\$780,324,219); Ontario, \$1,517,460,133(\$1,462,604,924); Prairie Provinces, \$499,853,274(\$448,855,061); British Columbia, \$196,538,506(\$176,522,530).

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## Indexes of Wholesale Sales in January

Wholesale trading remained at a high level during the first month of 1942 with dollar sales for the nine lines of business for which figures are available averaging 25 per cent above the corresponding month a year ago. The January index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stands at 132.2 compared with 106.2 in January, 1941.



### World Wholesale Price Movements

Records of world wholesale price index numbers for the second half of 1941 showed a continuation of the wartime ascent, but the slackening tendency noted in European indexes in the first half of the year became evident also in indexes of this continent.

In the United States, the Bureau of Labor Statistics index for December was 93.6, the peak of a steady climb which brought it 7.5 p.c. above June 1941, and 17.0 p.c. above December 1940. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics Canadian wholesale index for December, on the same base, was also 93.6, but the net increase in the preceding six months was only 3.9 p.c. as compared with 11.2 p.c. for the whole year. The imposition of Maximum Price Regulations in Canada on December 1 was followed by a slight decline in this index for December.

The United Kingdom Board of Trade index rose only 2.3 p.c. from June 1941 and 5.2 p.c. from December 1940 to December 1941. Gains in the food group were largely responsible for second-half increases. This was a reversal from the first six months in which industrial materials and manufactures contributed mainly to the advance. The Swiss October index registered increases of 4.6 p.c. and 17.6 p.c. respectively over June 1941 and December 1940.

The Mexican series followed the general trend with its November index showing an increase of 5.7 p.c. for the period under review, and 14.5 p.c. for the year. In Argentina, on the other hand, the index advanced more sharply between June and November, with an increase of 19.6 p.c. as compared with 33.9 p.c. since December, 1940. Other increases recorded during the last six months of 1941 were: India 10.2 p.c., New Zealand 3.4 p.c., Japan 2.0 p.c.

Wartime wholesale gains as noted in comparisons between August 1939 and the latest months available in 1941 were: Switzerland 79.5 p.c., Argentina 61.2 p.c., United Kingdom 58.9 p.c., Sweden 57.7 p.c., India 51.0 p.c., Union of South Africa 32.1 p.c., Canada 29.5 p.c., United States 24.8 p.c., Mexico 10.8 p.c.

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### Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on February 27 totalled 479,633,276 bushels compared with 482,465,582 on February 20 and 488,678,694 on the corresponding date last year. The stocks in elevators in Canada on February 27 amounted to 458,692,158 bushels, the balance of 20,941,118 being in storage in the United States.

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### Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending February 27 the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 3,322,823 bushels compared with 3,992,137 in the corresponding week in 1941. The accumulated total for the thirty weeks ending February 27 aggregated 84,450,624 bushels compared with 64,851,571 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

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### Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending February 27 amounted to 1,167,383 bushels compared with 1,363,403 in the previous week and 2,773,253 in the corresponding week in 1941. By provinces the receipts were as follows, with figures for 1941 in brackets: Manitoba, 332,014 (131,687) bushels; Saskatchewan, 484,503 (1,231,399); Alberta, 350,866 (1,410,167).

Marketings in the three provinces during the thirty weeks ending February 27 aggregated 165,993,231 bushels compared with 322,489,481 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces: Manitoba, 32,088,844 (42,265,228); Saskatchewan, 83,795,450 (170,276,548); Alberta, 50,108,937 (109,947,705).

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## Wheat Situation in Canada

There is continued improvement in the Canadian statistical position in wheat. The surplus available for export and carry-over on February 1, was 111 million bushels less than it was a year earlier, while the visible supply on February 20 was 10 millions less than twelve months previous. At the same time, the amount of wheat still to be delivered from farms in western Canada for the balance of the season is approximately 100 million bushels less than was marketed between February 22 and July 31, 1941.

In the matter of export shipments the total, including exports to the United States and overseas movement of wheat flour, showed a gain of 35 million bushels over last season in the six months August-January, but a little ground was lost in wheat shipments during February. Prices for Canadian wheat have been at their best levels since October with the May future at Winnipeg hovering around 80 cents per bushel.

Growers in the Prairie Provinces have delivered 165,000,000 bushels of wheat since August 1, 1941, and on the basis of current estimates of seed and feed requirements this represents all but 42 million bushels of the 1941 crop. There is reason to believe, however, that deliveries during the balance of the season will not reach this figure in view of the heavy feeding of wheat to hogs and other live stock which current reports indicate.

The wheat policy for Canada in 1942 has been under discussion for some weeks and an early pronouncement is expected from the Government. Agitation for a higher minimum price has been strong, and some 400 farmers and others journeyed recently from Saskatchewan to Ottawa to press the case of the wheat farmer. The minimum price last year was 70 cents per bushel for No. 1 Northern, basis in store Fort William or Port Arthur, but this was supplemented by various bonuses including payments to farmers who summerfallowed wheat land or diverted wheat acreage to the production of coarse grains.

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## Flour Production in January

Flour production in January amounted to 1,555,850 barrels compared with 1,177,369 for the corresponding month in 1941. January production has not been so high since 1928. Production for the first six months of the crop year amounted to 9,893,802 barrels compared with 8,641,743 in the corresponding period of 1941. The percentage of operation for the month was 71.3 compared with 51.5 in January, 1941.

During January, 7,020,607 bushels of wheat were ground in Canadian mills compared with 5,293,370 in the corresponding month of the previous year. In the coarse grain group the figures were as follows, with those for January 1941 in brackets: wheat, 7,020,607(5,293,370) bushels; oats, 1,445,283(722,400); corn, 218,409(216,418); barley, 280,864(195,316); buckwheat, 4,555(8,717); and mixed grain, 2,622,854(2,719,911).

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## World Shipments of Wheat

World shipments of wheat during the week ending February 28 amounted to 4,236,000 bushels as compared with 3,743,000 in the previous week and 4,200,000 in the corresponding week last year. During the first thirty weeks of the crop year world shipments amounted to 158,622,000 bushels compared with 143,056,000 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

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## Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on February 27 included the following, with 1941 figures in brackets: wheat, 276,852(228,289) bushels; corn, 2,534,452(68,787); soya beans, 34,148(22,546); rye, 23,548(23,578); oats, 5,176(59).

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## Production of Petroleum and Natural Gas

The Canadian production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in December amounted to 883,083 barrels as compared with 855,993 in the previous month and 738,454 in December, 1940. Output during the calendar year 1941 aggregated 10,123,532 barrels as compared with 8,718,053 in 1940. Natural gas output in December totalled 4,829,494 cubic feet compared with 3,984,832,000 in November and 4,409,617,000 in December, 1940. Production during the calendar year 1941 amounted to 39,552,333,000 cubic feet as compared with 35,952,800 in 1940.



## Canada's External Trade in January

Canada's external trade reached a particularly high point in January, being valued at \$294,434,021 as compared with \$187,335,121 in January, 1941. Both imports and domestic exports moved sharply higher, imports advancing to \$142,126,584 from \$98,382,462 in January, 1941, while domestic exports rose to \$150,519,904 from \$86,921,468. Foreign exports were valued at \$1,787,533 compared with \$2,031,191. The balance of trade continued to be favourable to Canada, amounting in January to \$10,180,853.

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## Sales of Electric Storage Batteries

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by producers who normally account for 98 per cent of the total Canadian production were valued at \$6,448,985 in 1941, including batteries for the starting and ignition of internal combustion engines to the value of \$4,485,627 cells for farm lighting plants valued at \$238,309, parts and supplies at \$903,214 and other batteries \$713,232. In 1940 the total value was \$5,249,831.

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## Indexes of Retail Sales in January

January sales of retail trading establishments declined 36 per cent from the Christmas peak in December but were 26 per cent higher than in January a year ago. The general index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stands at 128.5 for January, 201.6 for December and 102.3 for January, 1941.

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## Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers amounted to 617,324 at the end of January compared with 599,573 on the corresponding date last year. Calf and kip skins on hand totalled 772,285 compared with 546,611, goat and kid skins 189,956 compared with 97,521, horse hides 40,425 compared with 24,803 and sheep and lamb skins 809,208 compared with 839,868.

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## Output of Central Electric Stations

The output of central electric stations continued to increase and reached a new peak at 3,226,289,000 kilowatt hours in January as compared with 3,220,800,000 in December and 2,644,695,000 in January, 1940. The index number adjusted for seasonal variations on the base 1935-1939=100 rose to a new peak of 142.9 as compared with 138.9 the previous high point established in December.

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## Production of Gold

The Canadian production of gold during December amounted to 419,104 fine ounces as compared with 442,837 in November and 450,862 in December, 1940. The total for the calendar year 1941 was 5,328,314 fine ounces valued at \$205,540,090 compared with 5,311,145 ounces valued at \$204,479,082 in 1940.

Production by areas in December was as follows, with figures for the corresponding month in 1940 in brackets: Ontario, 238,769 (280,410) ounces; Quebec, 97,594 (88,626); British Columbia, 47,898 (51,359); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 25,654 (21,686); Yukon, 890 (855); Northwest Territories, 7,746 (7,040); Nova Scotia, 525 (871).

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## Production of Iron and Steel

Production of pig iron in Canada during January totalled 163,156 net tons compared with 166,182 in the previous month and 115,455 in January, 1941. Steel ingots and castings output amounted to 257,069 net tons compared with 244,846 in December and 208,659 a year ago. Output of ferro-alloys amounted to 18,004 tons compared with 19,986 in December and 17,059 in January, 1941.

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### Housing in the City of Hamilton

Almost three quarters of Hamilton homes in June 1941 were single houses. Twenty per cent were flats or apartments, but only 4 p.c. of all households were in buildings containing over 10 dwelling units. Brick provided the exterior surface for 69 p.c. of homes, wood 25 p.c. and stucco 5 p.c. One dwelling in every 22 contained business premises. External repairs were needed by 18 p.c. of dwellings. Sixty-five p.c. contained 4 to 6 rooms, and 26 p.c. contained more than 6 rooms.

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### Country General Store Sales in January

Country general store sales averaged 21 per cent higher in January of this year than last, with all regions of the country participating in the increased business. The unadjusted index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 was 101.1 in January, 147.4 in December and 83.9 in January, 1941.

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### Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in January

Sales of 6,766 new and used motor vehicles were financed in January for a total of \$3,299,342, being 29 per cent in both number and amount of financing below the 9,518 units financed for \$4,620,409 in January, 1941. In the previous month, 7,140 vehicles were financed to the extent of \$3,140,135.

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### Retail Sales of Gasoline

Retail sales of gasoline in Canada during November 1941 totalled 77,818,000 gallons compared with 95,364,000 in October and 71,711,000 in November, 1940. The total for the eleven months ended November was 910,901,000 gallons compared with 825,932,000 in the corresponding period of 1940, an increase of 84,969,000 gallons.

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### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  2. Canadian Milling Statistics, January (10 cents).
  3. Trade of Canada, January, 1941 (10 cents).
  4. Summary of Canada's Imports, January (10 cents).
  5. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, November (10 cents).
  6. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, 1941 (25 cents).
  7. Advance Report on the Fur Farms of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 1940 (10 cents).
  8. Census of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 7 (10 cents).
  9. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
  10. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, December; and Gasoline Sales, November (10 cents).
  11. Gold Production, December (10 cents).
  12. Production of Iron and Steel, January (10 cents).
  13. Imports by Principal Countries, January (10 cents).
  14. The Wire and Wire Goods Industry, 1940 (25 cents).
  15. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
  16. Output of Central Electric Stations, January (10 cents).
  17. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, January (10 cents).
  18. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, January (10 cents).
  19. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, January (10 cents).
  20. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, January (10 cents).
  21. Current Trends in Food Distribution, January (10 cents).
  22. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, January (10 cents).
  23. Monthly Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, January (10 cents).
  24. Monthly Prices and Price Indexes, January (10 cents).
  25. Housing in the City of Hamilton, Census, 1941 (10 cents).
  26. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, 1941 (10 cents).
  27. World Price Movements, Second Half of 1941 (25 cents).
  28. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities, March 1 (10 cents).
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