

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

Vol. LX - No. 15

Ottawa, Saturday, April 11, 1942

Price \$1.00 per annum.

Summary of Quotations

1. Knowledge is proud that he has learn'd so much;
- Wisdom is humble that he knows no more. -- Cowper
2. Wisdom is oft concealed in mean attire. -- Cowper
3. Young men think old men fools, and old men know young men to be so. --
Quoted by Camden

Business Advance During First Two Months of 1942

The index of the physical volume of business for the first two months of 1942 stood at 137.5, representing a gain of 7.2 p.c. over the same months one year ago. The corresponding advance for industrial production was 2.3 p.c., the index standing at 144.9 for the period under review. The index of wholesale prices was 94.3 for the first two months of the current year, 11.3 p.c. above the figure for 1941. Common stock prices stood at 65.8, having receded 4.5 p.c. from the same period one year ago. The amount of cheques cashed was 11.7 p.c. greater for the period under review than for the corresponding months of 1941.

The index of mineral production fell off somewhat during the first two months of the current year, standing at 117.0 as compared with 123.9 for the corresponding period of 1941, a decline of 5.6 p.c. The general increase in manufacturing production continued the index rising 12.6 p.c. to 155.4 for the first two months of the present year as compared with 138 for the same period one year ago. Production of iron and steel shows continued expansion. Nearly 503,000 tons of steel ingots were turned out during the first two months of the current year, an advance of 26 p.c. over the high level of 1941. The corresponding gain in pig iron output was no less than 41.2 p.c. An average index of general employment for the first two months of 1942 was nearly 23 p.c. over the corresponding figure for 1941.

The unprecedented expansion of Canadian exports during the summer of 1941 is being fully maintained during the winter months. The February total of \$168 million is the second highest recorded for any month since the commencement of hostilities. During January and February, exports amounted to \$321 million, over 69 p.c. more than the figure for the same months of 1941. The corresponding percentage gain for imports was 39.2 p.c.

Internal trade rose steeply during January of the present year, wholesale and retail sales being both about 25 p.c. higher than in January 1942. The distribution of commodities during the first two months of 1942 was well ahead of one year ago, carloadings having risen 16.7 p.c. to 520,495. The gross revenue of the Canadian lines on the C.N.R. had risen 27.5 p.c. to \$44,263,000, the corresponding gain for the C.P.R. being 27.3 p.c.

Indexes of Wholesale Sales in February

Dollar sales of wholesale merchants in Canada averaged 23 per cent higher in February of this year than last, and declined by about two per cent from January, according to reports received from a representative number of wholesale houses in nine trades. The February index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stands at 135.9 compared with 132.2 for January and 110.6 for February, 1941.

March Cost of Living Indexes

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index increased from 115.7 on February 2 to 115.9 on March 2. This index has risen 15 per cent between August 1939 and March 1942. The March increase was due entirely to the food index which moved up from 123.1 to 123.7. Small advances occurred for butter, meats and fish, potatoes and bananas, while eggs and lemons declined moderately. Other group indexes remained unchanged, as follows: rents 111.2, fuel and light 112.9, clothing 119.8, home furnishings and services 118.0, and miscellaneous items 107.1.

February Employment Situation

There was a further slight decline in industrial employment at February 1 when the 12,891 establishments furnishing information to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported a staff of 1,653,942 compared with 1,658,681 at the beginning of January. This reduction of 4,739 persons or 0.3 per cent lowered the crude index from 165.8 on January 1 to 165.3 on February 1; it was then higher by 22 per cent than the February 1, 1941, index of 135.2, previously the highest for that date in the period since 1920.

The reduction at the beginning of February took place wholly in the non-manufacturing industries, factory employment showing important expansion. In the former class, only logging and railway construction and maintenance reported increased activity. There were moderate losses in mining, building, communications and services, together with large contractions in transportation, highway work and trade. In many cases, the curtailment was seasonal in character.

Following the slowing down over the holidays, the upward trend was resumed in manufacturing, in which the reported increase in the number of employees was approximately three times as great as the number laid off in the curtailment indicated at January 1. Ordinarily, the recovery at the beginning of February results in the reinstatement of little more than half the number released in the preceding month. In spite of this situation, there was paradoxically a fractional decline in the seasonally corrected index at February 1, the first indicated since April 1, 1940.

There was further important expansion in iron and steel plants, the cooperating establishments reporting an increase of some 13,600 in their personnel. Textile, chemical, tobacco, electrical apparatus, non-ferrous metal and many other lines also showed decided gains. On the other hand, there were losses in rubber, food and beverage factories, those in the last two classes being seasonal in character.

At the first of February the sum of \$45,746,190 was distributed to the 1,653,942 persons on the staffs of the 12,891 establishments furnishing data; at January 1 these employers had reported 1,658,681 employees, whose earnings in the week preceding aggregated \$43,341,195. A decline of 0.3 per cent in the personnel was thus accompanied by an increase of \$2,404,995 or $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in the weekly payroll. The per capita weekly average at \$27.66 was higher by \$1.53 than indicated for January.

Railway Operations in 1941

Operating revenues of Canadian railways for the year 1941 amounted to \$533,332,774 the second largest revenue earned in any year and only 4.6 per cent below the peak year of 1928. The increase over 1940 revenues was \$108,511,877 or 25.5 per cent. Freight revenues were up by \$86,736,801 or 26.2 per cent and passenger revenues by \$17,213,548 or 40.8 per cent. Operating expenses amounted to \$399,313,548 as compared with \$331,592,246 for 1940 and \$437,976,704 for 1928, thus producing the highest net operating revenue on record of \$134,019,226. For 1928 it was \$120,040,637 and for 1940, \$99,930,887.

The average of the monthly counts of employees for the year was 139,128 as compared with 127,028 in 1940 and 176,871 in 1928. The total pay roll for the year charged to operation, capital account, etc. amounted to \$239,697,218 as compared with \$204,192,986 in 1940 and the peak of \$276,938,988 for 1929. These monthly operating data do not include some employees and pay roll not charged to operation but included in the annual reports, and also a few small railways do not report monthly.

Gross operating revenues of Canadian lines of the Canadian National Railways for 1941 amounted to \$261,826,874 as against \$212,300,711 for 1940 and \$260,418,924 in 1928, the previous peak earnings. Operating expenses amounted to \$207,443,080, an increase over 1940 of \$31,724,514 but a decrease from 1928 of \$10,337,094, and the operating income was increased from \$31,865,095 in 1940 to \$48,501,003. The United States lines showed an increase in operating revenues of \$7,323,390, raising the system revenue to \$304,376,778 as against \$247,527,225 in 1940 and \$304,591,268 in 1928. System operating expenses were increased from \$202,519,813 in 1940 to \$237,768,437 and the system operating income was increased to \$55,626,577 from \$35,964,408 in 1940.

Gross revenues of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company increased to \$222,502,517 from \$171,535,474 in 1940 and were exceeded only by \$230,406,354 in 1928. Operating expenses at \$158,655,358 were greater than in 1940 by \$31,095,767 but less than in 1928 and net operating revenues of \$63,847,159 were the largest to date. The operating income increased from \$35,639,439 in 1940 to \$45,957,535 as compared with \$51,694,452 in 1928.

Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on March 31 totalled 462,020,832 bushels compared with 462,471,931 on March 24 and 479,386,441 on the corresponding date last year. Stocks in elevators in Canada amounted to 446,982,794 bushels, while 15,038,038 bushels were in storage in the United States.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending March 31 the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 2,082,855 bushels compared with 5,301,454 in the corresponding week last year. The accumulated total for the thirty-five weeks ending March 31 was 99,774,489 bushels compared with 86,726,987 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 31 totalled 1,377,353 bushels compared with 1,737,577 in the previous week and 3,696,828 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, figures within brackets; being those for 1941: Manitoba, 94,064(677,146) bushels; Saskatchewan, 536,535(1,674,799); Alberta, 746,754(1,344,883).

Marketings in the three Prairie Provinces for the thirty-five weeks ending March 31 aggregated 175,229,155 bushels compared with 342,981,902 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces, with 1941 figures in brackets: Manitoba, 33,985,591(44,995,924) bushels; Saskatchewan, 87,754,127(179,332,929); Alberta, 53,489,437(118,653,049).

Flour and Feed Milling Industries

The total value of all products of the flour and feed milling industries in 1940 amounted to \$123,494,759 as compared with \$101,776,429 in 1939. Of the total value of products wheat flour was accountable for \$66,925,417, followed by chopped grain feed at \$24,324,837, shorts and middlings \$8,063,783, rolled oats \$6,514,798 and bran \$5,632,145.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in February

Births registered in cities, towns and villages having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 9,041 in February, deaths 4,387 and marriages 4,631 as compared with 7,857 births, 4,436 deaths and 3,896 marriages in February last year, showing increases of 15 per cent in births and 19 per cent in marriages and a decrease of one per cent in deaths.

Sales of New Motor Vehicles in February

Sales of new passenger cars in February were down 59 per cent in number and 55 per cent in retail value from February a year ago. There were 2,733 passenger models sold for \$3,734,396 in February this year as compared with 6,717 which retailed for \$8,359,840 in the same month last year. Sales in the Maritime Provinces declined only three per cent, but substantial reductions in sales occurred in all other provinces.

Commercial vehicle sales declined 11 per cent in number in February this year below last, but increased four per cent in dollar value, the 2,200 units which sold for \$3,018,869 in the month under review comparing with 2,459 vehicles which sold for \$2,907,205 in February, 1941. Increases of two per cent in Ontario, 10 per cent in Saskatchewan and 19 per cent in Manitoba were more than offset by declines which occurred in other regions of the country.

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins in February

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada amounted to 586,675 at the end of February compared with 617,324 at the end of January and 562,159 at the end of February, 1941. Calf and kip skins on hand decreased from 772,285 at the end of January to 735,396 at the end of February, but increased over last year's total of 503,934. Stocks of other types at the end of February included 81,375 dozen sheep and lamb skins, 204,552 goat and kid skins, and 26,141 horse hides.

Country General Store Sales in February

Country general store sales averaged 15 per cent higher in February of this year than last. All regions of the country reported gains ranging from 10 per cent for the southern part of Saskatchewan to 24 per cent for the eastern section of Ontario. The index number of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stood at 94.7 in February compared with 101.1 in January and 82.1 in February, 1941.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, 1940 (10 cents).
 2. Price Movements, March (10 cents).
 3. February Employment Situation (10 cents).
 4. The Dairy Situation, Fourth Quarter, 1941 (25 cents).
 5. Economic Conditions, First Two Months of 1942 (10 cents).
 6. Current Trends in Food Distribution, February (10 cents).
 7. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, February (10 cents).
 8. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, February (10 cents).
 9. Monthly Sales of New Motor Vehicles, February (10 cents).
 10. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, February (10 cents).
 11. The Flour and Feed Milling Industries, 1940 (25 cents).
 12. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, February (10 cents).
-

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHEQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010729840