

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Summary of Quotations

1. Because men do not fortify justice, they justify force. -- Pascal
2. Runaway inflation is a catastrophe that destroys economic life and the fabric of a nation's social integration. -- Dorothy Thompson
3. The old age has passed, the new is yet to be built. -- Ernest Bevin
4. Young folks tell what they do, old ones what they have done, and fools what they intend to do. -- French Proverb
5. Do not delay; the golden moments fly. -- Longfellow

April Cost of Living Indexes

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index remained unchanged at 115.9 on April 1 and has recorded an increase of 15 per cent between August 1939 and April 1942. All groups indexes with the exception of homefurnishings and services were unchanged between March 2 and April 1.

Scattered small increases affected a considerable number of foods including butter, beef, tea, bananas, and oranges, but these were balanced by further substantial declines for eggs and minor decreases for veal and potatoes, leaving the food index at 123.7.

Rentals remained at 111.2, fuel and light at 112.9, and clothing at 119.8. An increase in homefurnishings and services from 118.0 to 118.1 was due to a small increase in cleaning supplies. The miscellaneous items index remained at 107.1.

Manufacturing in 1940

Preliminary figures show that manufacturing production in Canada in 1940 was greatly stimulated by the demands created by the present war and all branches of production felt its impact, with the result that the gross value of products rose to \$4,529,173,316, the highest point in history. This compares with \$3,474,783,528 in 1939 and \$3,883,446,116 in 1929, the previous peak.

The effects of the war were first felt by the textile, food and chemical industries. With the progress of the war and its ever increasing demands for vehicles, aircraft and armaments of all kinds, the iron and the non-ferrous metal products industries also expanded their operations. For manufacturing as a whole there was an increase of 30.3 per cent in the gross value of production, 15.8 per cent in the number of persons employed and 24.8 per cent in the salaries and wages paid.

The greatest expansion in production, as measured by the number of persons employed was reported by the iron and its products group with an increase of 35.8 per cent. This was followed by chemicals and allied products with 22.5 per cent, non-ferrous metal products 21.9 per cent, textiles and textile products 14.8 per cent, wood and paper products 11.1 per cent, vegetable and non-metallic mineral products 10.4 per cent, miscellaneous industries 8.9 per cent, and animal products 6.2 per cent.

Due to the expanded operations in 1940, the manufacturing industries of Canada reached a new high level of production, greatly surpassing the previous peak attained in 1929. Compared with that year, there was an increase of 14.4 per cent in the number of employees, 18.5 per cent in the salaries and wages paid and 16.6 per cent in the gross value of production. When final figures are available, it is expected that the physical volume of production in 1940 will be about 25 per cent greater than in 1929.

Indexes of Wholesale Sales in March

The dollar value of wholesale trading averaged 24 per cent higher in March of this year than last and was 23 per cent above sales in the previous month. The general unadjusted index on the base 1935-1939=100 was 154.7 for March, 136.1 for February and 125.1 for March, 1941. Sales during the first three months of this year averaged 23.7 per cent heavier than in the same period of 1941.

Review of Employment in 1941

Reflecting the gathering momentum of the war effort and in response to the new stimulus provided by the growing threat in the Pacific, industrial employment in the Dominion showed extraordinary expansion during 1941. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics tabulated an aggregate of 151,069 reports on employment during 1941, a monthly average of 12,589. The employees of the cooperating establishments averaged 1,514,953, the maximum number reported being 1,688,005 at the beginning of December. In 1940, the indicated staffs had averaged 1,215,431. From the 1941 low point to the peak of employment at December 1, there was a gain of well over one-fourth in the personnel of the larger employers, while in the preceding year, the increase between the minimum and the maximum had been just under one-fifth.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the annual index in 1941 was 152.3; the 1940 figure had been 124.2, previously the highest in the record. For each 1,000 persons employed, on the average, by the firms furnishing data in 1940, 1,226 were at work in 1941. As compared with 1939, the ratio was 1,337 per 1,000 in favour of the year under review.

The expansion in industrial employment in 1941 was widely distributed, both geographically and industrially. All provinces, the eight cities for which data are segregated, and all industries included in the current surveys, generally reported greater activity than in 1940; in most cases, the levels of employment were also higher than in any preceding year.

In the provinces, the increases recorded in the personnel of the cooperating employers ranged from 10.8 p.c. in Saskatchewan and 13.9 p.c. in Prince Edward Island, to 23.8 p.c. in New Brunswick and Ontario, and 29.4 p.c. in Nova Scotia. Firms in the more highly industrialized provinces of Quebec and Ontario added the largest numbers of persons to the working forces, although their percentage gains were not the greatest; the proportion of workers employed by the establishments reporting in Quebec and Ontario to the total in the Dominion has shown no significant change in the last three years.

The highest level of activity on record was indicated in the eight leading industrial centres - Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Windsor, Winnipeg and Vancouver. In these cities taken as a unit, employment during 1941 showed greater improvement than was elsewhere noted, the percentage gain over 1940 being 25.3 p.c., as compared with a rise of 21 p.c. in other parts of the Dominion. Despite this greater proportionate advance in the above-named cities, an index calculated for these centres as a unit continued rather below the general index in the Dominion.

Almost without exception, employment on the whole in the various industries was in greater volume in 1941 than in 1940 or any earlier year. The manufacturing and non-manufacturing divisions shared in unequal proportions in the advance. The former, influenced more directly by the stimulus of the war effort, showed particularly impressive expansion, the personnel of manufacturing establishments being increased by 28½ p.c.; the gain in the non-manufacturing classes was 15.4 p.c.

Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in store on May 1 totalled 436,217,520 bushels compared with 441,871,056 a week earlier and 471,243,186 on the corresponding date last year. The amount in transit on the lakes was 6,215,143 bushels compared with 7,926,929 on the same date last year, while the total in transit by rail was 17,175,313 bushels compared with 23,660,372.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending May 1 amounted to 4,207,404 bushels compared with 7,226,588 in the same week last year. The accumulated total for the thirty-nine weeks ended May 1 was 121,712,654 bushels compared with 110,891,842 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending May 1 totalled 1,413,653 bushels compared with 1,602,344 in the previous week and 8,634,853 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, figures in brackets being those for 1941: Manitoba, 239,365(1,152,718) bushels; Saskatchewan, 750,388(4,499,979); Alberta, 423,900(2,982,156).

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Marketings during the thirty-nine weeks ended May 1 aggregated 181,825,176 bushels compared with 367,423,335 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces: Manitoba, 34,788,233(47,514,948) bushels; Saskatchewan, 91,012,087 (191,321,403); Alberta, 56,024,856(128,586,984).

Economic Conditions During First Quarter of 1942

Economic activity recorded a marked gain in the first quarter of the present year over the same period of 1941. The important changes included the expansion in business operations and the advance in wholesale prices. The index of the physical volume of business averaged 137 in the first three months of the present year against about 127 in the same period a year ago, a gain of about 8 p.c. The index of the physical volume of business has shown marked advance during recent years reaching a high position especially since the outbreak of hostilities. While the general index of employment has shown a similar trend, the advance over the first quarter of 1941 was of greater proportions. The index averaged 165.4 against 134.9 in the same quarter of 1941.

For slightly more than two years, subsequent to the outbreak of war, wholesale prices recorded a considerable advance. The first month of war was characterized by a sharp increase. Subsequent advances were of a more moderate character but the cumulative effect was important especially during the first ten months of 1941. During the first quarter of the present year, the index of wholesale prices on the base of 1926 was 94.7 against 85.2 in the same period of last year. Since November moderate fluctuations have been shown in a range below the ceiling of that month.

The deposit liabilities of the banks were at a new high level in the first quarter of the present year. An upward trend has been shown since the first part of 1934 and the war has served only to accelerate the expansion. While savings deposits have shown considerable fluctuation in view of heavy payments on Dominion Government loans, the sum of the different classes of deposits have fluctuated to a much lesser extent. Government deposits showed changes in the opposite direction from the fluctuations in notice accounts. Speculative factors including the price of common stocks and speculative trading were at a lower position in the first quarter of this year.

Recession was shown in mineral production, gold receipts at the Mint having been 1,165,000 fine ounces against 1,300,000 in the same period last year. Recession was also shown in silver shipments while the output of coal rose from 4.8 million tons to 5.2 million. A considerable increase was recorded in manufacturing production in the first quarter of the present year. Flour production, based on statistics for two months, rose 19 p.c. A gain of nearly 17 p.c. in cattle slaughterings and a minor increase in hogs was shown.

A marked increase was recorded in the use of cigars and cigarettes, the gains in the releases having been 18.2 p.c. and 23.3 p.c., respectively. The forestry industry was more active, newsprint production rising 13.2 p.c. A decline, however, of 22 p.c. was shown in the exports of planks and boards. A marked advance was recorded in the operations of the iron and steel group. Steel ingot production rose 38.6 p.c., while pig iron production rose more than 60 p.c.

Despite the revival in March, construction contracts awarded were lower during the first quarter than in the same period of 1941. A minor increase was shown in building permits in 58 municipalities. The gain in electric power production was 21 p.c., the total having been 9,312 million kilowatt hours against 7,674 million. Exports in the first quarter amounted to nearly \$496 million against \$292 million in the same period last year. Imports also showed a large increase, the advance having been from \$296 million to \$407 million.

A gain of nearly 14 p.c. was shown in the railway freight traffic, car-loadings having amounted to 792,000 cars. The gross revenue of the Canadian National Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway rose 27.5 p.c. and 26.2 p.c., respectively.

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers amounted to 535,198 at the end of March compared with 529,397 on the corresponding date last year. Calf and kip skins on hand increased to 764,687 from 480,704, goat and kid skins to 159,018 from 126,465 and horse hides to 29,890 from 23,479.

Canada's Tourist Trade in 1941

A preliminary estimate of the tourist trade between Canada and other countries in 1941 made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics places expenditures of foreign travellers in Canada at \$108,000,000 and expenditures of Canadian travellers in other countries at \$21,000,000, representing a net balance in Canada's favour of \$87,000,000. This compares with revised figures for 1940 of \$102,000,000 and \$42,000,000 respectively, and a net favourable balance in that year of \$60,000,000.

The salient features of the tourist trade in 1941 were a considerable increase in the expenditures of American travellers in Canada, and a further large decline in Canadian expenditures in the United States, the latter reflecting the operation of official travel restrictions over the full 12-month period. These two factors together were responsible for the marked rise in net favourable balance on United States account from \$55.2 to \$86 millions.

Travellers from the United States spent an estimated total of \$104,000,000 in Canada in 1941 as compared with \$95,000,000 in 1940, while Canadian visiting the United States spent \$18,250,000 in that country compared with \$39,800,000. Travellers from overseas countries spent \$4,000,000 in Canada in 1941 compared with \$7,000,000 the year before, while Canadians travelling in overseas countries spent \$2,750,000 compared with \$2,600,000.

The important place which United States tourist expenditures occupy in the Canadian economy in normal times has been more fully recognized since the outbreak of war, as a result of unprecedented demands for United States dollars to pay for much-needed war materials. Sterling balances built up through exports to the sterling area can no longer be converted into United States dollars to pay for purchases in the United States, and thus direct sources of United States exchange such as the tourist trade have been of great importance in the furtherance of Canada's war effort.

Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries in February

Net sales of securities reported in the International trade in securities in February were \$1.8 million. This amount, however, excludes the large sales of outstanding securities in the United States which were effected by the National War Finance Committee in connection with the Victory Loan campaign. These sales were extended over a period from January to March and while the amounts sold in February were substantial, the volume was more heavily concentrated in March.

Sales in February, not including the unusual sales noted above, totalled \$5,275,180 as compared with \$12,354,940 in the previous month and \$6,201,248 in the corresponding month last year. Purchases from other countries in February totalled \$3,534,080 compared with \$7,317,737 in January and \$4,831,711 in February, 1941. A large part of this trade was transacted between Canada and the United States in February.

Area Sown to Field Crops in Alberta

According to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics based on the census of agriculture, the area of field crops in the Province of Alberta in 1941 was 12,067,113 acres compared with 12,103,744 in 1936 and 12,037,394 in 1931. The area of wheat decreased by 1,056,479 acres or 14.0 per cent from 1936, and by 1,462,102 acres or 18.4 per cent from 1931.

The area of barley shows an increase of 544,059 acres or 54.5 per cent during the past five years, and an increase of 832,591 acres or 117.2 per cent during the last ten year period. The area of oats increased by 261,979 acres or 10.3 per cent between 1936 and 1941, and by 333,034 acres or 13.5 per cent between 1931 and 1941. The area of rye, both spring and fall, increased by 22,387 acres or 16.3 per cent between 1936 and 1941, and by 5,867 acres or 3.8 per cent between 1931 and 1941. The area of flaxseed increased by 117,163 acres or 874.9 per cent between 1936 and 1941, and increased by 100,035 acres or 327.8 per cent between 1931 and 1941.

The area of mixed grains showed an increase of 16,964 acres or 77.7 per cent when compared with 1936, and an increase of 22,400 acres or 136.7 per cent when compared with 1931. The area of cultivated hay increased by 154,135 acres or 34.7 per cent between 1936 and 1941, and by 301,123 acres or 101.4 per cent between 1931 and 1941.

Railway Revenues in January

Gross revenues of railways in January amounted to \$45,421,897, the highest earned in any January and is comparable with \$36,112,595 for January 1941 and \$38,420,735 for January, 1939, the previous high for that month. Freight revenues reached a new all-time high for the month but passenger revenues were less than in 1926 to 1930, inclusive. Operating expenses also reached a new peak for the month at \$35,110,802 as compared with \$29,223,863 in 1941 and \$33,762,872 in 1929. The operating income increased from \$5,094,949 in 1941 to \$7,788,800.

Total pay roll amounted to \$21,357,602 as compared with \$17,443,107 in 1941 and \$21,558,548 in 1929. The number of employees increased from 125,821 in 1941 to 135,319 but was 22 per cent below 161,149 for January 1929; the average wage was 18 per cent higher in 1942 than in 1929 according to these data.

Housing in St. John

Eighty-two per cent of Saint John homes in June 1941 were apartments or flats. Most of these were in houses or small apartment buildings, for less than 1 p.c. were reported to be in buildings containing more than 10 dwelling units. Another 7 p.c. of homes were semi-detached houses, and only 11 p.c. were single houses. Wood provided the exterior surface for 86 p.c. of dwellings, brick for 11 p.c. One in five required external repairs and 6 p.c. contained business premises. Sixty-three per cent contained 4 to 6 rooms and 26 p.c. contained more than 6.

Almost three-quarters of Saint John homes were heated by stoves, 20 p.c. by steam or hot-water furnace. Coal was the principal heating fuel for 76 p.c. of homes, wood for 16 p.c., and fuel oil for 7 p.c. Cooking was done chiefly by coal in 44 p.c., by wood in 36 p.c., and by gas or electricity in 17 p.c. Running water was installed in 98 p.c. of dwellings, electric lighting in 99 p.c., and 97 p.c. had the exclusive or shared use of flush toilet; but 35 p.c. had no bathing facilities, and 52 p.c. had no means of refrigeration. Of every 100 homes, 87 had a radio, 42 a telephone, 25 a vacuum cleaner, and 22 an auto. All these conveniences were reported in 10 p.c. of cases.

Production of Coal and Coke

Canadian coal mines produced 1,600,269 tons of coal during March compared with 1,546,530 a year ago and the five year average for the month of 1,281,802 tons. Output during the first quarter of this year aggregated 5,191,694 tons compared with 4,826,332 in the corresponding period of 1941. March coke output amounted to 287,000 tons compared with 253,000 in February and 266,000 a year ago, while the total for the first three months of this year was 818,000 tons compared with 774,000.

Imports of coal in March were recorded at 979,169 tons compared with 703,411 in the corresponding month last year, while the average imports during the past five years amounted to 551,381 tons. Importations during the month included 342,252 tons of anthracite and 636,917 tons of bituminous. Exports of coal in March amounted to 50,360 tons compared with 27,813 in the same month last year and with 31,817 tons, the five year average for the month.

Indexes of Retail Sales in March

A further pronounced increase in retail trading occurred in March with the dollar value of purchases ranging 21 per cent above February and 22 per cent higher than in March a year ago. Part of the major increase in sales over March last year may be attributed to the fact that Easter occurred one week earlier this year than last and consequently a greater proportion of the Easter trade was transacted in March this year. The general index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100, unadjusted for seasonal movements, stands at 144.9 for March, 120.1 for February and 119.2 for March, 1941. Sales during the first three months of this year averaged 26.6 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of last year.

Production of Asphalt Roofing in March

Production of asphalt roofing by firms reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics included 145,919 squares of shingles, siding and roofing and 3,879 tons of felts and sheathing as compared with 166,218 squares of the former and 3,257 tons of the latter in March last year. Production during the first three months of this year included 523,098 squares of shingles, siding and roofing compared with 567,891 in the corresponding period of last year and 9,821 tons of felts and sheathing compared with 9,237.

Country General Store Sales in March

Country general store sales averaged 14 per cent higher in March of this year over the corresponding month last year, with all regions of the country participating. The unadjusted index numbers of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stood at 108.1 in March compared with 94.7 for February and 95.0 for March last year. The increase in sales during the first three months of this year over the corresponding period of last year was 16.4 per cent.

Indexes of Wholesale Sales in March

The dollar value of wholesale trading averaged 24 per cent higher in March of this year than last and was 23 per cent above sales in the previous month. The general unadjusted index on the base 1935-1939=100 was 154.7 for March, 136.1 for February and 125.1 for March, 1941. Sales during the first three months of this year averaged 23.7 per cent heavier than in the same period of 1941.

World Shipments of Wheat

World shipments of wheat during the week ending May 2 amounted to 6,944,000 bushels compared with 8,728,000 in the previous week and 10,878,000 in the corresponding week last year. During the first thirty-nine weeks of the crop year shipments aggregated 220,666,000 bushels compared with 218,536,000 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Area Sown to Field Crops in Saskatchewan

The area sown to field crops in Saskatchewan in 1941 was 19,760,086 acres compared with 21,967,167 in 1936 and 22,126,329 in 1931, according to preliminary figures based on the 1941 census of agriculture. The wheat acreage totalled 12,216,677 in 1941 compared with 14,743,991 in 1936 and 15,026,185 ten years ago, while that of oats amounted to 4,030,182 acres compared with 4,684,154 in 1936 and 4,294,934 in 1931.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canada's Tourist Trade, 1941 (10 cents).
2. Production of Leather Footwear, March (10 cents).
3. Advance Report on the Manufacturing Industries, 1940 (25 cents).
4. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
5. Area of Field Crops, Saskatchewan (10 cents).
6. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, February (10 cents).
7. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, March (10 cents).
8. Economic Conditions, First quarter of 1942 (10 cents).
9. Annual Review of Employment, 1941 (25 cents).
10. Price Movements, April (10 cents).
11. Coal and Coke Statistics, March (10 cents).
12. Current Trends in Food Distribution, March (10 cents).
13. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, January (10 cents).
14. Area of Field Crops, Alberta, 1941 (10 cents).
15. Housing in Saint John, New Brunswick (10 cents).
16. Production of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
17. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
18. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese And Eggs in Principal Cities, May 1 (10 cents).
19. Indexes of Country General Store Sales, March (10 cents).
20. Indexes of Wholesale Sales, March (10 cents).
21. Indexes of Retail Sales, March (10 cents).



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