

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Weekly Index Discontinued

The weekly index based on six prominent factors has been discontinued. The transfer of the Canadian economy to a war footing has reached an advanced stage. The relative movement of economic indexes follows a different pattern in wartime. It is evident that a weekly composite of such indexes will not have the same significance as in the base period.

Economic Activity in 1941

The acceleration of the war effort during the year just ended, was indicated by a rise in national income, the most comprehensive measure of productive activity. The national income was at an annual rate of \$5,300 million in November compared with \$4,784 million, the tentative computation for the year of 1940. The total for November alone was \$442.3 million, increases having been shown over the preceding month as well as over the same month of 1940. The totals for the periods in question were \$440.9 million and \$427.7 million, respectively.

While the index of the physical volume of business recorded a decline from the preceding month, the standing was somewhat above that of the same month of 1940. The final index was 131.7 in November against 139.4 in October and 129.7 in November, 1940. Declines were shown in manufacturing and construction from the high levels of the preceding month, while other components were in a more favourable position.

The factors indicating the trend of mineral production were somewhat higher in November, the index having been 125.6, a gain of two points over the preceding month. An increase was shown in silver shipments, while the index of Mint receipts of gold receded two points to 124.1. Considerable decline was shown in the index of manufacturing production from the preceding month. The manufacture of sugar was at a higher position in the latest four week period. The index of canned salmon exports reflected the heavy catch of last year, rising from 99.0 to 370.4. Recession was shown in the index of forestry operations, and the primary iron and steel industry was at a lower position.

New business obtained by the construction industry fell in November from the preceding month, the index dropping from 148.8 to 132.1. Minor gain was recorded in the output of electric power after seasonal adjustment. The index of distribution rose two points to 111.8. The movement of commodities to ultimate markets was at a higher level, the index of carloadings rising from 121.1 to 126.6. Imports showed a decline, while merchandise exports, excluding gold, rose sharply. The heavier movement of wheat was the main influence in raising the index of grain marketings. The indicator rose sharply from 123 to 190. The standing in the same month of last year was 123.

Economic Activity in November compared with the Preceding Month

	1941	
	November	October
National Income, Million Dollars, Tentative Computation	442.3	440.9
Commodity producing.....	217.5	218.0
Commodity handling	93.0	91.2
Facilitating	131.8	131.7
Physical Volume of Business, 1935-1939=100	131.7	139.4
Industrial Production	143.3	156.9
Mineral Production	125.6	123.6
Gold, Mint receipts	124.1	126.1
Silver shipments	83.3	71.1
Asbestos exports	95.6	121.7
Coal production	110.0	110.7
Manufacturing	149.4	167.9
Flour production	-	97.8
Oatmeal production	-	32.0
Sugar manufactured	130.8	112.6
Inspected slaughterings	155.1	162.8

Continued on page two --

Economic Activity in November compared with the Preceding Month - Cont'd.

	1941	
	November	October
Cattle	119.6	123.9
Sheep	100.0	95.4
Hogs	215.2	229.6
Creamery butter	109.7	113.2
Factory cheese	134.0	98.2
Salmon exports	370.4	99.0
Tobacco	147.0	157.7
Cigar releases	140.2	131.0
Cigarette releases	148.5	161.1
Rubber Imports	95.4	188.8
Boots and shoes production	-	149.5
Textiles	159.5	164.3
Cotton consumption	199.2	202.8
Wool imports	164.0	168.9
Silk imports	11.8	17.5
Rayon materials used	156.6	164.0
Forestry	123.2	132.6
Newsprint	114.1	118.9
Woodpulp exports	183.6	222.9
Planks and boards exports	129.9	141.3
Shingles exported	100.3	103.6
Iron and Steel	201.1	273.5
Steel production	233.3	236.1
Pig iron production	228.4	272.3
Iron and Steel imports	239.3	312.0
Automobile production	144.8	275.5
Coke production	132.1	134.3
Crude Petroleum imports	123.7	124.6
Construction	132.1	148.8
Contracts awarded	118.7	137.5
Building permits	178.9	188.2
Cost of Construction	119.0	119.0
Electric Power	137.5	137.4
Distribution	111.3	109.5
Carloadings	126.6	121.1
Imports	159.3	170.3
Exports (excluding gold)	163.2	139.5
Producers' Goods	146.1	160.6
Consumers' Goods	118.2	119.7
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings	164.8	116.0
Grain Marketings	190.1	122.9
Wheat	144.2	91.3
Oats	141.6	169.0
Barley	342.1	548.7
Rye	736.4	725.4
Live Stock Marketings	106.1	101.3
Cattle	100.1	90.3
Calves	93.1	106.6
Hogs	127.1	133.1
Sheep	115.7	89.9
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month	141.8	137.4
Eggs	97.5	86.6
Butter	119.5	117.1
Cheese	145.6	122.7
Beef	144.0	137.5
Pork	198.9	207.4
Mutton	105.0	113.6
Poultry	139.0	184.3
Lard	282.5	183.0
Veal	190.7	169.8

Index Numbers of Living Costs for November

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of living costs on the base 1935-1939=100, advanced from 115.5 on October 1st to 116.3 on November 1st. This index has risen 15.4 per cent since August, 1939, when the index was computed at 100.8.

An index for 46 food items rose from 123.2 on October 1 to 125.4, influenced by higher prices for eggs, fruits and vegetables. Dairy products recorded a moderate decline substantial gains in cheese prices being more than offset by easier quotations for butter. Increases for coal, coke and gas rates carried the fuel index up from 112.1 to 112.7. The clothing index rose from 119.6 to 120.0, following moderate increases in women's apparel, piece goods and footwear.

The home furnishings and services group moved up from 117.3 to 117.9 following advances in furniture, floor coverings, furnishings and textiles, hardware, dishes and cleaning supplies. An advance in the personal cleaning supplies sub-group accounted for an upward movement in the miscellaneous index from 106.5 to 106.7.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Overseas export clearances of Canadian wheat during the week ending January 2 amounted to 2,845,407 bushels compared with 911,163 in the corresponding week last year. The accumulated total for the twenty-two weeks ending January 2 was 61,289,367 bushels compared with 38,687,755 in the like period of the previous crop year.

Primary Movements of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending January 2 amounted to 3,296,764 bushels compared with 4,218,084 in the previous week and 6,758,260 in the corresponding week last year. Marketings during the twenty-two weeks ending January 2 aggregated 149,982,018 bushels compared with 287,589,914 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

World Shipments of Wheat

World shipments of wheat during the week ending January 3 amounted to 5,432,000 bushels as compared with 4,289,000 in the previous week and 3,384,000 in the corresponding week last year. During the twenty-two weeks ending January 3 world shipments aggregated 119,049,000 bushels compared with 108,592,000 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on January 2 included the following with figures for the corresponding date in 1940 in brackets: corn, 2,854,485(80,667) bushels; wheat, 686,766(310,489); soya beans, 36,778(47,371); rye, 23,578(23,577); oats, 7,529(59).

Wheat Stocks in Store

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on January 2 totalled 502,455,470 bushels compared with 504,967,611 on December 26 and 494,076,473 on the corresponding date last year. Stocks in elevators in Canada amounted to 471,491,668 bushels, with 30,963,802 bushels in storage in the United States.

Indexes of Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales averaged five per cent higher in November than in the corresponding month in 1940 with all regions of the country except the southern part of Saskatchewan reporting gains. The unadjusted index on the base 1935-39=100 was computed at 121.8 in November compared with 116.1 in November, 1940. During the eleven months of 1941 sales averaged 8.3 per cent higher than in the like period of 1940.

Production of Flour in November

Canadian flour mills reported the production of 1,664,803 barrels of flour in November compared with 1,588,428 in November 1940. This figure fell below the ten-year average production of 1,695,113 barrels. Production during the four months of the crop year was 6,760,783 barrels compared with 6,388,242 in the like period of last year. The percentage of output to capacity was 79.4 in November compared with 70.5. Wheat flour exports in November amounted to 586,513 barrels compared with 682,718.

Grains ground in Canadian mills in November were as follows, with corresponding figures for 1940 in brackets: wheat, 7,449,246(7,151,254) bushels; oats, 2,146,922(1,269,684); corn, 316,766(289,772); barley, 311,571(226,143); buckwheat, 16,523(27,237); and mixed grain, 2,868,325(2,941,971).

Production of Butter and Cheese

The production of cheese in Canada in December was the heaviest for that month in the period for which statistics are available, according to an advance release made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The output exceeded 5,800,000 pounds which represents an increase of about $3\frac{1}{4}$ times the production recorded in December of last year.

This unusual increase followed in the wake of higher prices and the lifting of restrictions on domestic sales. Stronger prices were conditioned of course, by setting the maximum price for Ontario and Quebec at 25 cents for first grade cheese at factories. Since the establishment of the maximum, sales of cheese for domestic use have moved toward the fixed price level, thus enhancing the value of milk for cheese making and inviting increased deliveries.

The butter production in December 1941 was approximately 11,800,000 pounds, a decline of nearly four per cent as compared with 12,308,000 pounds produced in December, 1940. It is a significant fact, however, that increases were recorded in the Maritimes and in the three Prairie Provinces, so that Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia shared the entire decline.

November Production of Coal and Coke

Coal production in Canada during November amounted to 1,825,158 tons compared with 1,878,344 in November, 1940, while the five-year average for the month was 1,661,793. Output during the eleven months of 1941 aggregated 16,360,474 tons compared with 15,895,789 tons in the like period of 1940, an increase of three per cent.

Imports of coal in November were recorded at 2,795,680 tons, or 91 per cent above the November 1940 figure, and included 2,423,689 tons of bituminous, 371,945 of anthracite and a small amount of lignite. Exports of coal amounted to 59,370 tons as compared with 47,902 in November, 1940.

Coke production in November totalled 270,000 tons compared with 276,000 in October and 258,000 in November, 1940, while the total for the eleven months ending November was 2,869,000 tons compared with 2,748,000 in the corresponding period of 1940.

Sales of New Motor Vehicles in November

Retail sales of new passenger cars declined sharply in November, the first complete month during which restrictions on instalment purchasing were in effect. There were 3,385 units sold during the month with a retail value of \$4,671,472 compared with 7,616 which sold for \$9,101,223 in November, 1940, recording declines of 56 per cent in number and 49 per cent in value. Substantial decreases were shown in all regions of the country. The number of units sold during the eleven months of 1941 was 79,775 having a retail value of \$103,640,620 as compared with 93,014 units retailing for \$104,378,408 in the like period of 1940, being down 14 per cent in number and one per cent in value.

New trucks and buses sold in November 1941 totalled 1,782 units valued at \$2,257,025, increases of 17 per cent in number and 14 per cent in value being recorded over the 1,525 commercial vehicles which sold for \$1,985,032 in the same month last year. Cumulative totals for the eleven months of 1941 showed that 32,218 vehicles were sold for a total of \$39,985,533, up 21 per cent in number and 28 per cent in retail value from the 26,618 vehicles sold for \$31,274,673 in the same period of 1940.

Bank Debits to Individual Accounts in November

With each of the five economic areas participating in the gain, the amount of cheques cashed in the clearing centres of Canada was \$3,427,000,000 in November compared with \$3,049,000,000 in the same month one year ago. The increase was 12.4 per cent and reflects the advance in business operations and in the level of commodity prices. Marked advances were recorded during the twelve months in the physical volume of business and in the number of wage-earners employed. The advance in wholesale prices was represented by a gain of about ten points in the official index.

Bank debits during the first eleven months of 1941 were \$35,556,000,000 against \$31,229,000 in the same period of last year. Consequently the increase was nearly 14 per cent or \$4,327,000,000. Business activity in each of the five economic areas measured by this criterion recorded advances in 1941. Thirty of the thirty-one centres recorded increases in this comparison.

November Indexes of Wholesale Sales

November sales of wholesale merchants declined 14 per cent from the October level but were 12 per cent above the dollar volume of business transacted in November, 1940. The unadjusted index on the base 1935-1939=100 stands at 147.4 for November, 170.5 for October and 122.8 for November 1940. Sales during the eleven months of 1941 averaged 18.3 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1940.

Indexes of Retail Sales in November

Substantial reduction in sales of stores specializing in the sale of furniture, radios or electrical equipment forms the outstanding feature in retail sales statistics for November, the first complete month during which the restrictions on instalment buying were in effect. Gains for other lines of business included in the monthly survey were generally smaller than those recorded in earlier months of the year, an average increase of eight per cent for all trades combined over November 1940 comparing with a gain of 16 per cent for the eleven months. The general index of sales, unadjusted for differences in number of business days or for normal seasonal movements on the base 1935-1939=100 stands at 147.1 for November 1941, 152.4 for October and 135.7 for November, 1941.

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins

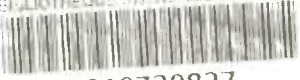
Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada amounted to 552,513 at the end of November compared with 609,294 on the corresponding date in 1940. Calf and kip skins totalled 604,806 compared with 639,930, sheep and lamb skins, 899,736 compared with 898,848, goat and kid skins 237,950 compared with 80,653 and horse hides 30,086 as compared with 21,341.

Summary of Week's Quotations

1. It is shameful for a man to be a foreigner in his own country, and a stranger to her affairs and interests. -- Minutius.
 2. For of all sad words of tongue or pen
The saddest are these: "It might have been." -- Whittier
 3. All philosophy lies in two words, "sustain" and "abstain". -- Epictetus
 4. The wickedness of a few is the calamity of all. -- Syrus
 5. Justice renders to every one his due. -- Cicero
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Reports Issued During the Week

1. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, November (10 cents).
 2. Monthly Sales of New Motor Vehicles, November (10 cents).
 3. The Miscellaneous Non-Metallio Minerals in Canada, 1940 (25 cents).
 4. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, November (10 cents).
 5. Summary of Canada's Imports, November (10 cents).
 6. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, November (10 cents).
 7. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, November (10 cents).
 8. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, November (10 cents).
 9. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 10. Butter and Cheese Production, December (10 cents).
 11. Car Loadings (10 cents).
 12. Canadian Milling Statistics, November (10 cents).
 13. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 14. Coal and Coke Statistics, November (10 cents).
 15. The Wood-Turning Industry, 1940 (10 cents).
 16. Prices and Price Indexes, November (10 cents).
 17. The Misc. Industry, 1940 (25 cents).
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