

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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### Summary of Quotations

1. Facts are stubborn things. -- Elliot.
2. On their own merits modest men are dumb. -- G. Colman (Younger).
3. "I was in darkness, but I took three steps and found myself in paradise: the first step was a good thought, the second a good word, and the third a good deed." - Zoroaster.
4. Rich gifts wax poor, when givers prove unkind ... - Shakespeare.

### A Height and Weight Survey of The Toronto Elementary School Children

Canadian school children are considerably taller and heavier than average English and Scottish children, but only slightly taller and heavier than American children of the same age, according to a report prepared on the subject by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children and the Department of Health of the City of Toronto. This survey which was taken in November 1939 of children ranging in age from 5 to 15 years, provides an up-to-date table of average heights and weights for Canadian school children, superseding that based on a similar survey made in 1923.

The report makes interesting comparisons between the surveys of 1923 and 1939 and finds a remarkable increase in the stature and weight of children during the past 16 years. It is found that the excess in height of children in 1939 over 1923 amounts to from one to two inches between the ages of 7 and 13. A five-year old boy in 1939 is 0.8 of an inch taller on the average than a boy of the same age in 1923, while a five-year old girl is one-half inch taller. This variation increases steadily with age up to a point where a 14-year old boy of to-day is as tall as a 15-year old in 1923, and a 13-year old girl to-day is only about half an inch shorter than a 15-year old girl in 1923. Weights, it is found, follow the same general trends as height.

In addition to furnishing a new table of average heights and weights to be used as a standard by medical and public health officers and practitioners, the report includes a sociological study of the influence of certain environmental factors on the height and weight of children. Some factors which are found to affect the build of children are: the occupation of the father, whether the family is or is not assisted by direct relief; whether the school which the child attends is located in a relatively poor or a relatively prosperous district; the birth-place of the parent; and the physical defects of the child. Curiously enough, it is found that no disease which the child has had has seemed to affect his build. An analysis also, of the academic standing of the children reveals that normal, i.e., more nearly physically perfect children are more advanced in school grade than are abnormal children.

The report, covering 36 pages, contains complete detailed and summary tables, charts, and short bibliography. It may be obtained for the price of 25 cents per copy from the Dominion Statistician Ottawa, or from the Department of Paediatrics, Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto.

### Estimate of the Tobacco Crop

The first estimate of Canadian leaf tobacco production in 1942 shows a total crop of 79,235,800 pounds from a planted area of 77,480 acres as compared with 91,160,600 pounds from 70,560 acres planted in 1941. Although this represents an increase of 6,920 acres or 10 per cent, with lower yields being harvested for all types of tobacco, the total crop will be smaller than the 1941 crop by 11,924,800 pounds or 13 per cent.

Weather conditions have been generally favourable for the development of the crop during the past month. Harvesting operations are now in full swing and although a good proportion of the crop will be harvested at an early date, the harvesting period will likely be extended for another month owing to the labour shortage, and the late maturing of many crops.



### Department Store Sales in July

Retail sales in Canadian department stores during July were 10 per cent higher than in the same month last year, but declined 20 per cent from the previous month. Unadjusted indexes of sales on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 112.3 for July, 139.5 for June and 102.2 for July, 1941. Sales during the first seven months of this year averaged 14 per cent higher than in the corresponding period in 1941.

### Bank Debits to Individual Accounts in July

Bank debits in July were 14.3 per cent greater than in the corresponding month last year, the total being \$3,704,000,000 against \$3,242,000,000, a gain of \$462,000,000. Marked gains were shown in each of the five economic areas except the Prairie Provinces. Twenty-seven of the thirty-three centres recorded a gain during the last twelve months. Debits in the first seven months of this year aggregated \$25,296,000,000 compared with \$22,052,000,000 in the like period of 1941.

The totals for July by economic areas were as follows, with figures for the corresponding month last year in brackets: Maritime Provinces, \$85,424,746 (\$75,364,669); Quebec, \$1,091,203,248 (\$907,052,456); Ontario, \$1,731,574,037 (\$1,426,403,990); Prairie Provinces, \$519,557,992 (\$622,220,753); British Columbia, \$276,372,668 (\$210,663,779).

### World Wholesale Price Movements

In the first half of 1942 wholesale price levels continued upward in most countries, but at a less rapid rate than in 1941. Wholesale price index increases during the period were generally between 2 and 8 per cent; a decline of 1.4 per cent in the New Zealand series was exceptional.

Comparisons of June 1942 wholesale indexes and those for December 1941 show the following percentage gains during the past six months: United States, 5.3; Canada, 2.4; United Kingdom, 2.5; Switzerland, 5.3; Union of South Africa, 3.7; Mexico, 5.5; and Argentina, 7.9.

Comparisons of August 1939 indexes and those for the latest months available in the first half of 1942 indicated the following wartime gains: Switzerland, 94.8 p.c.; Argentina, 77.9; Hungary, 66.9; Sweden, 65.8; United Kingdom, 62.9; Union of South Africa, 36.2; Canada, 52.5; United States, 31.5; New Zealand, 25.3 and Mexico, 14.9 p.c.

### World Cost-of-Living Movements During the First Half of 1942

The cost-of-living index number in the first half of 1942 for the United States advanced 5.3 per cent between December 1941 and June 1942, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics index, and 11.3 per cent for the last twelve months. The Bureau of Statistics index for Canada declined at the first of the year and then rose gradually to register a June increase of 0.8 per cent over December 1941 and 5.6 per cent over June 1941.

The United Kingdom Ministry of Labour index fluctuated narrowly around the level maintained for the past year, the June 1942 figure being 0.5 per cent below June 1941 and 1.0 per cent below December 1941. The food group showed a decline of 3.6 per cent since the end of 1941.

The Swiss cost of living in May was higher by 4.3 per cent and 9.7 per cent, respectively, than December and June of 1941. The New Zealand index for April showed a decline of 1.5 per cent since the end of 1941.

Wartime gains in living costs as shown in comparisons between August, 1939, and the latest months available in the first half of 1942 were: Iceland, 76.7 per cent; Switzerland, 40.1; United Kingdom, 28.4; Mexico, 18.3; United States, Bureau of Labor,

18.1; Union of South Africa, 17.5; Canada, 15.8; New Zealand, 8.8 per cent.

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Statistics on the Operation of  
the Unemployment Insurance Act

According to the first of a series of monthly reports to be issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics based on the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, there were in the Dominion 2,465,100 persons insured under the Act between July 1, 1941 and March 31, 1942, comprising 1,810,004 males and 655,096 females. This enumeration is based upon registration cards received by the Bureau between the above-mentioned dates.

There were 862 claims for benefit received in February, the earliest month covered by the report, 2,677 in March, 2,902 in April, 2,520 in May and 2,138 in June. These figures cannot be construed as a measure of unemployment among the population, since many persons do not submit a claim when unemployed and during the early period an especially large proportion of contributors can be assumed to have insufficient contributions upon which to base a claim. This is revealed by data on registrations for employment by insured persons, numbering 26,107 in January, 24,683 in February, 31,754 in March, 29,776 in April and 29,105 in May.

Of the claims submitted, those considered entitled to benefit payments numbered 835 in February, 2,383 in March, 2,610 in April, 2,156 in May and 1,693 in June. Those considered not entitled to benefit were deemed so mainly because they voluntarily left their employment without just cause; were discharged for misconduct; or had insufficient contributions and had not been engaged in insurable employment.

The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$6.64 in February, \$21.43 in March, \$18.87 in April, \$23.68 in May, and \$21.02 in June. The average number of days for which benefit was paid per beneficiary was 3.7 in February, 11.8 in March, 10.4 in April, 13.1 in May and 11.8 in June. Thus, the average amount paid per day of unemployment was \$1.82 in February, \$1.82 in March, \$1.82 in April, \$1.80 in May and \$1.78 in June.

Population of Nova Scotia in 1941

Final figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that the population of the Province of Nova Scotia at date of the 1941 Dominion Census was 577,962 as compared with 512,846 in 1931, an increase during the ten-year period of 65,116.

The rural population of the province in 1941 totalled 310,422 compared with 281,192, a gain of 29,230. The population of urban areas totalled 267,540 compared with 231,654, increasing by 35,886 during the ten-year interval.

It is pointed out that the term "urban" in the Census applies only to incorporated cities, towns and villages. The population of all unincorporated towns and villages is included in the rural population total.

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Output of Central Electric Stations in July

Central electric stations produced 2,965,655,000 kilowatt hours during July as compared with 3,043,200,000 in June and 2,661,145,000 in July last year. The decrease from June was entirely in secondary power which fell from 342,038,000 to 214,216,000 kilowatt hours, whereas firm power increased from 2,701,162,000 to 2,751,439,000.

Production during the first seven months of 1942 aggregated 21,578,039,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 18,393,530,000 in the corresponding period of 1941.

Exports to the United States in July amounted to 195,827,000 kilowatt hours, composed of 123,333,000 of firm power and 72,494,000 of secondary power. In July last year exports to the United States totalled 197,433,000. The total for the seven months ended July was 1,448,580,000 kilowatt hours compared with 1,377,292,000 in the like period of 1941.

Production of secondary power for use in Canada dropped from 229,452,000 kilowatt hours in July 1941 to 141,722,000 or by 38 per cent. In Quebec, where over half of this power was used in 1941, the decrease was over 50 per cent, and in Ontario it was 27 per cent.

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### Business Expansion in July

The stimulant of war requirements was a main influence in expanding the productive operations in July over the preceding month. The index of the physical volume of business rose from 133.7 to 135.0. A feature of the month's developments was the advance in the index of producers' goods from 166.7 to 171.0, while the index measuring the production of consumers' goods receded from 101.8 to 100.1.

Mineral production was considerably more active in July than in the preceding month, the index advancing from 124.5 to 143.2. Advances were shown in gold receipts at the Mint and in coal production.

The manufacturing index rose 2.5 points to 146.8. Inspected slaughterings were at a higher level, the index advancing from 134.3 to 140.4. The output of creamery butter was somewhat greater after seasonal adjustment. The index of tobacco releases receded from 128.3 to 127.6.

A further advance was shown in the operations of the iron and steel group, the index advancing from 247 to 262. Marked gain was recorded in the production of pig iron. The new business obtained by the construction industry was at a lower position than in June. The distribution index advanced nearly a point to 119.2. The railway freight movement showed a considerable expansion. Grain marketings in the Prairie Provinces recorded a marked gain, while livestock marketings were at a lower position. The index of cold storage holdings at the first of August was 129.8 against 137.3 one month before.

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### Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on August 28 aggregated 398,402,526 bushels compared with 402,396,933 on August 21 and 466,149,615 on the corresponding date last year. The amount in elevators and in transit in Canada on August 28 totalled 378,090,875 bushels, the balance of 20,311,651 being in storage in the United States.

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### Primary Marketings of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending August 28 totalled 1,564,942 bushels compared with 352,523 in the previous week and 8,272,557 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, figures within brackets being those for 1941: Manitoba, 455,543 (1,902,241) bushels; Saskatchewan, 419,809 (4,532,417); Alberta, 689,590 (1,837,896).

Marketings during the first four weeks of the crop year aggregated 1,928,533 bushels, being sharply lower than in the corresponding period last year when the total was 19,059,589. Totals follow by provinces, with figures for 1941 in brackets: Manitoba, 502,516 (4,780,728) bushels; Saskatchewan, 450,967 (9,519,453); Alberta, 975,050 (4,759,408).

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### Production of Wheat Flour in July

Canadian flour mills produced 1,590,219 barrels of wheat flour during July, making a total of 19,653,379 barrels for the crop year 1941-42. This was in comparison with 2,116,896 barrels in July last year and a total of 19,597,769 for the previous crop year. The percentage of output to capacity for July this year was 68.1 compared with 93.5 for the same month last year.

July mill grindings of Canadian grains follow, with figures for the corresponding month last year in brackets: wheat, 7,293,059 (9,439,622) bushels; oats, 812,229 (1,262,232); corn, 210,045 (178,426); barley, 235,305 (178,678); buckwheat, 1,921 (501); and mixed grain, 1,546,923 (1,640,600).

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### Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on August 28 included the following, figures for the corresponding date last year being in brackets: corn, 6,057,960 (2,583,785) bushels; wheat, 85,772 (205,249); rye, 23,548 (23,578); soya beans, 17,743 (nil).

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### Production of Crude Petroleum and Natural Gasoline

The Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in June recorded a sharp increase in June, totalling, 1,180,712 barrels compared with 892,553 in the previous month and 818,000 in the corresponding month last year. The total for the first half of this year was 5,568,972 barrels compared with 4,872,969 in the corresponding period of 1941.

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### Production of Natural Gas in June

Production of natural gas in June amounted to 2,361,652,000 cubic feet as compared with 3,076,658,000 in the previous month and 2,080,406,000 in the corresponding month last year. During the first half of this year production totalled 23,444,782,000 cubic feet as compared with 21,336,100,000 in the like period of 1941.

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### Production of Iron and Steel in July

The Canadian production of pig iron in July totalled 172,153 tons compared with 167,961 in the previous month and 114,245 in July, 1941. The total for the seven months ended July was 1,146,153 tons as compared with 814,862 in the corresponding period of 1941.

July production of steel ingots and castings aggregated 256,560 tons compared with 254,163 in June and 220,994 in the corresponding month last year, while the total for the seven month period ended July was 1,815,798 tons compared with 1,507,141 in the corresponding period of 1941.

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### Production of Coal and Coke in July

Canadian mines produced 1,474,462 tons of coal in July compared with 1,214,319 in the corresponding month last year and with the July average for the past five years of 1,110,226. During the seven months ended July the cumulative production totalled 10,939,326 tons compared with 9,676,067 in the like period of 1941.

Coke production during July amounted to 275,000 tons compared with 270,000 in the previous month and 259,000 in the same month a year ago. The total for the seven months ended July this year was 1,910,000 tons compared with 1,794,000 in the corresponding period of 1941.

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### Indexes of Wholesale Sales in July

Sales of wholesale trading establishments averaged five per cent higher in July this year than last, according to statements received from wholesale houses representing nine different lines of business. The general unadjusted index of sales for July on the base 1935-1939=100 stands at 154.2 compared with 167.5 in June and 147.1 in July, 1942. Sales during the first seven months of 1942 were up 15 per cent over the corresponding period of 1941.

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### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents). 2. Canadian Milling Statistics, July (10 cents). 3. The Sugar Industry, 1941 (25 cents). 4. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, June; and Gasoline Sales, May (10 cents). 5. Coal and Coke Statistics, July (10 cents). 6. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, July (10 cents). 7. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, July (10 cents). 8. Production of Iron and Steel, July (10 cents). 9. Department Store Sales, July (10 cents). 10. Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report (10 cents). 11. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents). 12. Population of Nova Scotia (10 cents). 13. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, February to June, 1942 (25 cents). 14. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, July (10 cents). 15. World Price Movements (25 cents). 16. Central Electric Stations, July (10 cents).

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