

Business Activity in August

The business activity recorded a slight advance in August over the preceding month. The standing of the index on the base 1935-1939=100 was 135 in July and according to preliminary information a further gain was shown in August. Available factors indicating the trend of mineral production recorded a lower position in August than in July. The release of tobacco rose rather sharply in the month under review. Cigarette releases were 852 million against 844 million, while the index of cigar releases was nearly maintained at 130.4 against 132.1 in July. The release of raw leaf tobacco was 283,000 pounds against 266,000 pounds.

The index of inspected slaughterings receded from 140.4 to 119. Declines were shown in each of the three main classes of livestock. Butter and cheese production recorded minor increases after seasonal adjustment. The consumption of cotton by the textile industry was at a lower position in August than in July but a considerable gain was shown over August, 1941. Newsprint production was 253,000 tons against 241,000. The new business obtained by the construction industry was nearly maintained at \$31.8 million against \$32.1 million. Probably affected by the occurrence of five Sundays in August, freight traffic was at a lower position, loadings amounting to 282,216 cars against 293,769.

Business Indicators for August compared with July last and the same month of 1941

	August 1942	July 1942	August 1941
Physical Volume of Business ..... 1935-1939=100	*	135.0	141.5
Cost of Living ..... 1935-1939=100	117.7	117.9	113.7
Factory Cheese Production ..... pounds	28,076,322	30,243,521	23,949,120
Creamery Butter Production ..... pounds	36,164,745	40,229,926	35,528,807
Newsprint Production ..... tons	253,239	241,178	293,054
Contracts Awarded ..... \$	31,771,200	32,093,400	36,123,900
Carloadings ..... No.	282,216	293,769	278,646
Raw Cotton Consumption ..... lb.	15,158,238	17,012,696	14,545,435
Slaughterings			
Cattle and Calves ..... no.	121,827	143,741	146,962
Sheep and Lambs ..... no.	68,478	56,996	86,020
Hogs ..... no.	352,286	411,745	367,270
Cigarettes Released ..... no.	852,492,930	843,604,787	816,691,352
Cigars Released ..... no.	15,979,927	16,001,821	14,914,441

\* The index of the physical volume of business according to preliminary calculations showed a slight increase over the preceding month.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in August

Financing of motor vehicle sales during August totalled 6,610 units financed for an amount of \$2,149,656, being down 54 per cent in number and 68 per cent in dollar volume from the 14,467 new and used vehicles financed to the extent of \$6,680,439 in August, 1941. Cumulative totals for the first eight months of this year showed 50,215 vehicles financed for \$19,313,656 as compared with 143,799 for \$67,784,383 in the corresponding period of 1941, declines amounting to 65 per cent in number and 72 per cent in amount of financing.

There were 328 new vehicles financed for an amount of \$281,630 in August, volume falling to little more than 10 per cent of that for August a year ago when 2,790 new vehicles were financed for \$2,428,879. In both number and volume, new vehicle financing during the first eight months of this year was only 20 per cent of the amount recorded in the same period of last year.

In the used vehicle field, declines below August 1941 amounted to 46 per cent in number and 56 per cent in amount of financing, the 6,282 vehicles financed for \$1,868,026 in the month under review comparing with 11,677 units financed for a total of \$4,251,560 in August last year. Totals for the first eight months revealed decreases of 61 per cent in number and 66 per cent in amount below the similar period of 1941.

### Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on September 18 aggregated 406,319,198 bushels compared with 399,769,606 on September 11 and 472,866,892 on the corresponding date last year. Stocks in elevators and in transit in Canada on the latest date totalled 386,390,204 bushels, the balance of the visible stocks of 19,928,994 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 September 18 amounted to 10,620,246 bushels compared with 4,847,368 in the previous week and 8,176,398 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, figures in brackets being those for 1941: Manitoba, 2,309,561 (1,071,540) bushels; Saskatchewan, 6,928,526 (5,530,119); Alberta, 1,382,159 (1,574,739).

Marketings during the seven weeks ended September 18 aggregated 19,099,971 bushels compared with 39,419,429 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces: Manitoba, 4,669,868 (7,494,162) bushels; Saskatchewan, 10,538,101 (23,214,882); Alberta, 3,892,002 (8,710,385).

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### Farm Family Living Costs

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of farm family living costs on the base 1935-1939=100 advanced 1.3 per cent between August and April, 1942, or from 118.4 to 119.9. The eastern regional index rose 1.1 per cent and the western series rose 1.5 per cent. The Canadian wholesale price index of farm products increased 2.1 per cent during the same period.

The increases in the general index for the Dominion and for both eastern and western regional indexes were due to advances in the food, clothing and household equipment groups. Indexes for health maintenance and the miscellaneous groups remained unchanged. The fuel index did not change for western Canada but dropped 0.2 per cent for eastern Canada and 0.1 per cent for Canada as a whole.

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### Wages Paid Farm Help

Wages paid to male hired help on farms in Canada at August 15 this year were sharply higher than those paid at the same date in 1941. For the Dominion as a whole the average wages paid for help hired by the day was \$2.50 when the employer provided the board as compared with \$2.06 in 1941. Rates were highest in British Columbia at \$2.95 per day and were above average levels in Ontario and the three Prairie Provinces.

When the men were hired by the month the average wage rate with board was \$46.82 on August 15 as compared with \$35.64 a year previously. When the workers provided their own board the average rate for men hired by the day was \$3.15 compared with \$2.54 a year ago and men hired by the month on the same basis were receiving \$64.94 compared with \$51.01. Many of the correspondents reporting to the Bureau emphasize the absolute shortage of farm labourers regardless of wage rates.

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### Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

The stocks of United States grain in Canada on September 18 included the following, with comparable figures for 1941 in brackets: corn, 5,671,080 (3,347,094) bushels; wheat, 85,772 (684,363); rye, 23,548 (23,578); soya beans, 8,933 (nil); oats, nil (36,909).

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### Index Numbers of Long-Term Bond Yields

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of Dominion of Canada long-term bond yields, on the base 1935-1939=100, moved from 98.7 for July to 99.0 for August. This compared with 101.2 for the corresponding month of 1941, and 104.3 for August, 1940.

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### Talc and Soapstone Industry

The value of crude and refined talc and soapstone sold by Canadian producers of these minerals in 1941 totalled \$360,809 compared with a corresponding value of \$229,639 in 1940. Minor shipments of soapstone in 1941 valued at \$155,925 came entirely from the eastern townships of the province of Quebec. Production of high grade talc is confined chiefly to the province of Ontario and in 1941 shipments totalling 18,171 short tons valued at \$204,884 were made from properties located near Madoc, Hastings County, and from a deposit in Clarendon Township, Frontenac County.

World production of talc, including cut soapstone, steatite, and pyrophyllite, a mineral resembling talc and used for many similar industrial purposes, amounts to about 500,000 tons a year. The United States produces more than 50 per cent of the total, its output in 1940 being 281,000 short tons. Prior to the war it was followed by Manchuria, with an output of about 100,000 tons a year. France and Italy each produce about 50,000 tons, Norway 25,000 and British India 20,000. World consumption of talc has increased more than 40 per cent in the past decade.

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### Production of Concentrated Milk in August

The manufacture of concentrated milk and by-products in August totalled 28,355,110 pounds, a decrease of 1,044,633 pounds or four per cent from the previous month's total, but an increase over August last year of 3,775,815 pounds or 15 per cent. The whole milk products accounted for 23,793,961 pounds and the by-products for 4,561,149 pounds. During the eight months ended August the combined production of all items aggregated 186,971,245 pounds compared with 173,733,340 in the corresponding period of 1941.

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### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  2. Production of Concentrated Milk, August (10 cents).
  3. The Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1941 (15 cents).
  4. Farm Wages in Canada, August 15, 1942 (10 cents).
  5. Excelsior Industry, 1941 (10 cents).
  6. Farm Family Living Costs, August, 1942 (10 cents).
  7. Prices and Price Indexes, August (10 cents).
  8. Monthly Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, August (10 cents).
  9. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
  10. New Brunswick, Age Groups, 1941 Census (10 cents).
  11. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, August (10 cents).
  12. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, June (10 cents).
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