

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Department of Trade and Commerce



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Business Advance in October

Further expansion was recorded in the volume of business during October over the preceding month. The index of the physical volume of business on the base of 1935-1939 equalling 100 was 207.2 against 206.1 in the preceding month. The standing in October last year was 178.7, which in turn registered a marked increase over October, 1940.

The gain in the general index reflected the influence of the considerable advance in manufacturing activities. The index of output, due to expansion on war contracts rose from 253 in September to 262.6 in October. The index of the iron and steel industry was 517.2 against 510, marked increase having been shown in the output of steel and pig iron. Interest was centred in the gain in operations of the tobacco industry as measured by the release of different classes of tobacco. An index based on such releases advanced from 156 to 188. The meat-packing industry participated in the greater activity of the month, an index of inspected slaughtering standing at 148 against 134. Despite the decline in the output of newsprint after seasonal adjustment, an index of forestry operations showed an increase of more than 10 points to 126.7. The operations of the textiles industry were practically maintained, a considerable increase having been shown in cotton consumption.

Four other main divisions, the activities of which are included in the index of the physical volume of business, showed recession in October. The index of mineral production was at a considerably lower position, declines having been shown in the output of gold and coal. New business obtained by the construction industry was at a lower position even after seasonal adjustment. The index of electric power production was 138.5 against 140. While the index of tons carried on railways rose from 132.3 to 134.5, the index of distribution showed a decline of more than three points to 142.

A marked gain was shown in grain marketings, the index having been based upon deliveries to the country elevators in the Prairie Provinces. Due to the late harvesting, deliveries in September were at a low position, especially after seasonal adjustment. The index of livestock marketings was 78.9 against 85.7.

Economic Activity in October compared with the preceding month

	1942	
	October	September
Physical Volume of Business, 1935-1939=100	207.2	206.1
Industrial Production	238.6	235.1
Mineral Production	195.7	225.8
Gold Production*	112.4	121.0
Coal production	94.6	114.8
Manufacturing	262.6	253.3
Flour production*	126.5	142.9
Rolled Oats production*	67.6	47.4
Inspected slaughtering	148.0	134.4
Cattle	107.2	80.4
Sheep	95.3	102.8
Hogs	181.6	178.0
Creamery Butter	115.2	117.2
Factory Cheese	156.5	153.7
Tobacco	188.0	156.3
Cigar releases	134.1	136.8
Cigarette releases	192.6	153.1
Boots and Shoes Production*	118.7	114.7
Textiles	168.6	169.1
Cotton consumption	158.0	148.5
Forestry	126.7	116.2
Newsprint	101.5	105.2
Iron and Steel	517.2	510.4
Steel production	285.7	271.9
Pig iron production	346.4	262.6
Coke production	135.2	145.7

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Economic Activity in October compared with the preceding month

	1942	
	October	September
Construction	99.2	128.4
Contracts awarded	95.6	121.4
Building permits	113.5	156.5
Cost of Construction	124.5	123.5
Electric Power	138.5	140.0
Distribution	142.1	145.8
Tons carried	134.5	132.3
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings	106.6	43.6
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators	112.9	33.9
Wheat	113.8	35.9
Oats	487.5	129.6
Barley	465.7	144.6
Rye	311.7	105.7
Live Stock Marketings	78.9	85.7
Cattle	76.5	69.8
Calves	79.7	94.9
Hogs	89.9	139.0
Sheep	88.0	96.1
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month	122.5	116.6
Eggs	190.8	191.7
Butter	71.4	79.7
Cheese	173.7	162.4
Beef	80.5	44.4
Pork	153.3	122.1
Mutton	63.6	73.8
Poultry	168.9	171.3
Lard	149.9	251.9
Veal	84.3	83.0

* Preceding month.

Production of Iron and Steel in October

Production of pig iron in Canada in October amounted to 175,424 tons as compared with 155,900 in the previous month and 153,568 in the corresponding month last year. Output in October this year included 148,761 tons of basic iron, 12,761 tons of foundry iron and 13,902 of malleable iron made for sale.

Production of steel ingots and steel castings during October totalled 271,127 tons compared with 244,922 in September and 249,595 in October, 1941. Output in the month under review included 254,887 tons of ingots and 16,240 tons of castings. The average daily rate of output was 8,746 tons against 8,164 in September.

Output of ferro-alloys in October amounted to 18,266 tons compared with 18,548 in the previous month and 18,826 in the corresponding month last year.

Production of Coal and Coke in October

The Canadian production of coal during October totalled 1,588,595 tons compared with 1,467,272 in the preceding month and 1,903,605 in the like month last year. Bituminous production in October amounted to 1,054,121 tons, sub-bituminous 62,850 tons and lignite coal 471,624. Total production of coal during the ten months ended October was 15,485,837 tons compared with 14,583,021 in the corresponding period of 1941.

Production of coke in October amounted to 278,000 tons compared with 269,000 in the previous month and 276,000 in the corresponding month last year. Production during the ten months ended October aggregated 2,731,000 tons compared with 2,599,000 in the like period of 1941.

Farmers' Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Farmers' marketings of wheat in western Canada during the week ending December 3 totalled 6,304,519 bushels compared with 5,746,622 in the previous week. Marketings of coarse grains were as follows in the latest week, with figures for the previous week in brackets: oats, 2,052,983 (2,581,147) bushels; barley, 1,081,571 (1,137,709); rye, 50,953 (56,557); flaxseed, 72,649 (167,285).

Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on December 3 totalled 456,604,255 bushels compared with 453,889,449 a week earlier and 502,384,275 on the corresponding date last year. Of the total in store on the latest date, 436,082,370 bushels were in Canadian positions and 20,521,885 were in United States positions.

The Butter Situation

Good news is revealed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics with regard to the butter situation. The increase in the creamery butter make as compared with the same month of the previous year moved from less than one per cent in October to 13 per cent in November; and the cumulative production since January is reduced to a decline of only 1.7 per cent. The total output in November amounted to approximately 16,900,000 pounds as compared with less than 15,000,000 pounds in the corresponding month last year. The eleven-month total reached 269,400,000 pounds as compared with 274,000,000 in the period January to November, 1941.

The closing of cheese factories has produced a diversion of milk into butter manufacturing which promises to relieve the shortage which has been indicated in recent months as the result of the increase in domestic disappearance. Up to the end of October the disappearance advanced 10.7 per cent over the same period of the previous year.

Cheese production also continued its upward trend, showing a total of 9,500,000 pounds as compared with 7,600,000 in November 1941, an increase of 24 per cent. For the eleven months the output amounted to 197,000,000 pounds as against 142,800,000 in the period January to November, 1941.

Cash Income from the Sale of Farm Products

Cash income from the sale of farm products in Canada during the first nine months of 1942 totalled \$671.4 million compared with \$590.9 million in the corresponding period of 1941. This represents an increase of 13.6 per cent over 1941 and 37.7 per cent over the corresponding period of 1940. Cash income was higher in all provinces except Saskatchewan where the income from wheat was sharply lower than during the same period of 1941. The greatest increase in the first three quarters of 1942 occurred in the province of Ontario, although substantial increases were also reported for Quebec, the Maritimes and British Columbia.

Cash income to farmers from the sale of live stock and live stock products amounted to \$476.0 million during the first nine months of 1942 compared with \$369.3 in the corresponding period of 1941. Income from the sale of dairy products increased most sharply with a gain of \$44.4 million, while the income from the sale of hogs increased to \$29.8 million.

A further increase over 1941 appears likely during the fourth quarter of 1942. Owing to the late harvest in western Canada, grain marketing was delayed but from August 1 to the end of November marketings of oats, barley and flaxseed were sharply higher than during the same period a year previously. While wheat marketings were still below those of a year ago, current farm deliveries have been relatively heavy. The usual fall increase in marketings of hogs was also delayed this year but recent figures indicate that the expected increase will be forthcoming.

Income to farmers in the form of Government subsidies and bonus payments are not included in these calculations except in those cases where the assistance has resulted in higher prices to the producers.

Production of Leather Footwear in October

The production of leather footwear in Canada during October amounted to 2,992,325 pairs compared with 2,807,754 in the previous month and 3,141,512 in the corresponding month last year. The output during the ten months ended October aggregated 27,664,545 pairs compared with 26,975,064 in the like period of 1941.

Canadian Textile Industries in 1940

An impressive increase was recorded in the gross value of products manufactured by the Canadian textile industries in 1940, the total being \$547,451,110 as compared with \$392,657,759 in 1939, an increase of 39.4 per cent. The number of employees increased to 138,793 in 1940 from 121,022, while the amount paid in salaries and wages rose to \$133,136,316 from \$107,117,035. The provinces of Ontario and Quebec are the leading textile manufacturing provinces of the Dominion.

The gross value of products manufactured by the leading industries included in this group was as follows in 1940, with figures for 1939 in brackets: cotton textiles, \$115,559,067 (\$81,229,698); woollen textiles, \$77,135,832 (\$43,872,064); silk, artificial silk and products, \$31,207,809 (\$25,440,527); knitted goods, \$70,076,873 (\$58,170,145); dyeing and finishing of textile goods, \$4,885,038 (\$3,927,468); garment trades, \$194,412,155 (\$151,575,690); miscellaneous textiles, \$42,187,011 (\$28,442,167).

Indexes of Retail Sales in October

The upswing in retail trading which usually occurs in the fall months is reflected in a 13 per cent increase in sales in October over the immediately preceding month of September. According to the general index of dollar volume of sales there was an increase of 14 per cent over the corresponding month last year, while the level of trade in the first ten months of this year was 15 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of last year. Unadjusted indexes of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stood at 174.0 for October, 153.4 for September and 152.5 for October, 1941.

Population of Manitoba According to Birthplace

According to a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, 61.4 per cent of the inhabitants of the province of Manitoba in 1941 were 'native born' Manitobans as compared with 53.4 per cent in 1931. Persons born in Saskatchewan now living in Manitoba showed a marked increase since 1931, while smaller increases were shown in the number of Alberta and British Columbia born residents of Manitoba. All other provinces had decreased representation. Among the European born residents of Manitoba those born in Austria alone recorded an increase.

The total Canadian born population of the province of Manitoba in 1941 was 536,158, other British born 82,935, American born 15,740, Continental European born 93,098, Newfoundland 241 and China 1,071, making up the total population of the province of 729,244 in 1941. In 1931 the total was 700,139.

The following was the population of Manitoba according to place of birth in 1941, figures for 1931 being in brackets: Manitoba, 448,293 (375,528); Prince Edward Island, 911 (994); Nova Scotia, 2,470 (2,905); New Brunswick, 1,474 (1,733); Quebec, 8,019 (9,693); Ontario, 45,009 (56,613); Saskatchewan, 24,509 (13,447); Alberta, 3,663 (2,463); British Columbia, 1,692 (1,276); England, 49,717 (63,908); Ireland, 8,284 (10,765); Scotland, 23,614 (29,741); Newfoundland, 241 (283); United States, 15,740 (17,903); Austria, 13,439 (8,994); Finland, 386 (604); Germany, 2,285 (3,561); Italy, 855 (1,000); Poland, 33,156 (44,032); Roumania, 2,246 (3,874); Russia, 20,266 (21,988); Scandinavia, 8,893 (11,931); China, 1,071 (1,598).

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended November 28 amounted to 71,288 cars as compared with 70,260 in the previous week and 69,097 in the corresponding week last year. The normal trend at this time of the year has been downwards and consequently the index number on the base 1935-1939 equals 100 rose to 145.5 from 136.7 in the previous week.

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada amounted to 476,782 at the end of October compared with 538,763 on the corresponding date last year. Stocks on the latest date included 347,330 hides of domestic origin and 129,452 of foreign origin. Calf and kip skins on hand totalled 819,593 as compared with 631,147, goat and kid skins 55,630 compared with 115,562, and sheep and lamb skins 85,535 (dozen) compared with 78,393.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
2. Production of Iron and Steel, October (10 cents).
3. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, October (10 cents).
4. Coal and Coke Statistics, October (10 cents).
5. Preliminary Housing Bulletin, No. 30 (10 cents).
6. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, October (10 cents).
7. The Wood Turning Industry, 1941 (10 cents).
8. Forest Products of Farms, 1940 (10 cents).
9. Population of Manitoba According to Birthplace, 1941 (10 cents).
10. Current Trends in Food Distribution, October (10 cents).
11. Manitoba - Immigration and Citizenship, 1941 (10 cents).
12. Advance Report on the Textile Industries, 1940 (25 cents).
13. Alberta - Language and Mother Tongue, 1941 (10 cents).
14. Canadian Grain Statistics, Weekly (10 cents).
15. Monthly Dairy Review, November (10 cents).
16. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, December 1 (10 cents).
17. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, December 1 (10 cents).
18. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, December 1 (10 cents).
19. Stocks of Canadian Fruit and Vegetables, December 1 (10 cents).
20. Cash Income from the Sale of Farm Products, January to September, 1942 (10 cents).
21. Miscellaneous Paper Goods, 1941 (10 cents).

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