

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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January Employment Situation

In conformity with the invariably downward movement at the opening of the year, industrial employment showed a contraction at January 1 this year; although this involved the release of a considerable number of workers, the losses in general were smaller than at that date in any earlier winter in the record of 23 years. The 13,415 establishments furnishing information to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported a personnel of 1,839,754. As compared with their staff of 1,867,843 at December 1 there was a reduction of 28,089 employees or 1.5 per cent.

This winter's celebration of the Christmas and New Year's holidays on a Friday resulted in the closing of many businesses for a lengthier period than is usually the case when the anniversaries fall earlier in the week. This prolongation of the holiday season was reflected in a considerable decline in the reported weekly payrolls. These aggregated \$51,349,119 as compared with \$56,147,178 paid on or about December 1. The reduction amounted to 8.6 per cent. The per capita weekly average fell from \$30.06 a month earlier to \$27.91 at the beginning of January. The average at the same date of last year had been \$26.13.

Mining, logging and trade afforded more employment on the latest date; the improvement in trade was seasonal, while that in the other two groups was contrary to the usual trend at the time of year. The remaining industrial divisions - manufacturing, communications, transportation, construction and maintenance and services - showed seasonal curtailment, which in most cases was below-average in extent. The largest decline took place in construction, from which 24,225 persons were released by the co-operating employers.

The reporting manufacturing establishments laid off 11,333 men and women, a loss of one per cent, which was the smallest percentage reduction at January 1 in the period since 1920. Tobacco, iron and steel, non-ferrous metal and miscellaneous manufactured products afforded more employment, but other divisions showed reduced activity. The greatest contractions in employment were in textile, food, lumber, pulp and paper and chemical plants. In general, the declines in the various industries were less-than-usual for the time of year, and employment in many cases was above its level at January 1, 1942.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Sales in January

Wholesale trade recorded a minor increase during the first month of 1943 with dollar sales for nine lines of business for which statistics are available averaging five per cent above the corresponding month last year. The five per cent increase conforms with the pattern of wholesale trading witnessed in the latter months of 1942. The January unadjusted index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stands at 138.7 compared with 132.2 a year ago.

Pronounced increases of 69 per cent in the footwear trade and 59 per cent in the clothing trade form the outstanding features of the January results. The dry goods trade registered an increase in sales of 32 per cent. Wholesalers in the fruit and vegetable trade did 21 per cent more dollar business, the tobacco and confectionery trade nine per cent, while the drug trade reported a six per cent increase in sales.

Reports from hardware wholesalers indicated that the dollar volume of business was on a par with January, 1942. Sales of wholesale grocery houses declined by three per cent from the dollar value of business transacted a year ago, while a decline of 22 per cent in sales was reported by automotive equipment dealers.

Index Numbers of Retail Sales in January

The dollar volume of retail trading in January this year was unchanged from the corresponding month last year, increases for five kinds of retail business included in the survey being offset by declines for seven other trades. January sales were 26 per cent above January, 1941, 43 per cent above January 1940, and 62 per cent above January, 1939. The general index of sales, unadjusted for seasonal changes stands at 128.4 compared with 128.1 in January, 1942.

Retail sales generally average lower in January and February than in any other month of the year. After making adjustments for differences in number of business days in the month and for normal seasonal movements, the adjusted index for January stands at 156.2, practically on a par with the December figures of 156.4.

Increases over January 1942 were recorded by candy stores, women's clothing stores, drug stores, grocery and meat stores and restaurants, while declines below January were reported by shoe stores, men's clothing stores, department stores, furniture stores, hardware stores, radio and electrical stores and variety stores.

Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and other Countries during 1942

A larger net inflow of capital to Canada was reflected in the international trade in securities in 1942 than in any of the nine previous years for which statistics are available. Total sales of securities of \$167.0 million exceeded total purchases of \$61.5 million by \$105.5 million. In 1941 sales of securities totalled \$108.3 million and purchases \$75.3, the excess of sales over purchases amounting to \$33.0 million.

Transactions with the United States constituted over 96 per cent of the total volume. Sales of securities to that country amounted to \$165.1 million, while purchases totalled \$56.0. Trading in bonds represented the major part of the transactions. Of the total net sales of \$109.1 million to the United States, net sales of Canadian bonds accounted for \$96 million. Dominions, Dominion Guarantees and provincial issues made up most of this amount, net sales of these groups being \$18.8, \$48.0 and \$25.9 millions, respectively,

Net purchases of securities by Canada from the United Kingdom amounted to \$4.2 million, sales to that country amounting to \$0.1 million and purchases \$4.3 million. Canadian securities represented most of this balance, net sales of Canadian bonds being \$2.5 million and Canadian stocks, \$1.5 million. The official repatriation of Canadian securities held in the United Kingdom are not included in these statistics.

Production of Butter and Cheese

The Canadian production of creamery butter advanced 27.6 per cent in February over the corresponding month last year, the total being 11,903,151 pounds as compared with 9,328,810. During the first two months of the year the output aggregated 24,004,495 pounds compared with 20,047,125 in the like period of 1942, a gain of 24.7 per cent.

Cheddar cheese production in February declined 60.9 per cent from the February 1942 output, the total in the latest month being 1,539,787 pounds as compared with 3,943,003 a year ago. Production during January and February this year amounted to 3,548,133 pounds compared with 8,931,038 in the same period of last year, a decline of 60.3 per cent.

Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on March 4 amounted to 447,128,773 bushels, including 437,576,332 in Canadian positions and 9,552,441 in United States positions. On the corresponding date last year stocks totalled 475,074,479 bushels.

Farmers' Marketing of Wheat

During the week ending March 4 deliveries of wheat from farms in western Canada totalled 2,491,600 bushels compared with 3,114,214 in the previous week. Marketings during the elapsed portion of the crop year amounted to 168,265,666 bushels compared with 167,826,813 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Fruit, Nursery Stock and Floriculture

The fruit crops produced in Canada during the 1942 season were generally larger than those of the previous year. The apple, pear, peach, cherry, apricot, raspberry and grape crops were all heavier than in 1941 but production of plums, strawberries and loganberries were somewhat lighter. Prices received by growers were for the most part, at a higher level and with the larger crops the total value of production rose to \$24,461,000, an increase of 30 per cent over the 1941 value of \$18,745,000.

For the year ended March 31, 1942, the total value of fruit nursery stock sold in Canada amounted to \$266,986 as compared with \$238,678 for the previous year. Apple-trees numbering 354,243 and valued at \$91,381 comprised the largest single item. Ornamental nursery stock, flowers and flowering plants sold during the twelve months were valued at \$3,754,343 compared with \$3,469,951 in 1941. Cut flowers and greens grown in greenhouses made up the bulk of the sales and were valued at \$2,440,178.

Stocks of Unmanufactured Tobacco

Stocks of unmanufactured tobacco on hand at the end of 1942 totalled 113,831,944 pounds, including 112,195,478 pounds of Canadian tobacco and 1,636,466 pounds of imported tobacco. On the corresponding date in 1941 stocks amounted to 100,861,829 pounds and included 99,046,121 of Canadian tobacco and 1,815,708 of imported tobacco.

Canadian Sugar Refining Industry

The Canadian production of sugar of all kinds in 1941 amounted to 1,226,753,068 pounds, recording an increase of 69,945,878 pounds over the 1940 output, according to a revised report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 1941 output included 1,010,873,797 pounds made from cane and 215,879,271 pounds made from beets. The production of cane sugar increased over 1940 by 67,669,118 pounds and that of beet sugar by 2,276,760 pounds. Granulated sugar comprises over 85 per cent of the total sugar produced.

A new plant for the production of beet sugar came into operation in 1940. As a result, the output of beet sugar rose from 213,602,511 pounds in 1940 to 215,879,271 pounds in 1941. In 1940, the percentage of beet sugar to the total produced was 18.5, the highest since the inception of the annual census of manufactures in 1917, but this declined to 17.6 in 1941.

Prices of refined sugar at the factory were slightly higher in 1941 than in the previous year. Sugar of all kinds rose from 4.84 cents per pound to 4.95. Granulated sugar rose from 4.87 cents to 4.98 cents, yellow sugar from 4.42 cents to 4.44 cents, while icing sugar rose from 5.43 cents to 5.56 cents.

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada amounted to 438,363 at the end of January compared with 617,324 on the corresponding date last year. Calf and kip skins totalled 766,143 compared with 772,285, goat and kid skins 24,135 compared with 189,956, horse hides 29,276 compared with 40,425 and sheep and lamb skins 80,200 (dozen) compared with 67,434 (dozen).

Miscellaneous Foods Industry in 1941

According to a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics a considerable advance was recorded in the output of the miscellaneous foods industry in 1941, when the total value of products was \$69,452,785, an increase of 24 per cent over 1940. The principal items of production included roasted and ground coffee, blended and packed tea, mixed whole or ground spices, baking powder, yeast, flavouring extracts, jelly powders, etc.

Production of Leather Footwear in January

The production of leather footwear in January amounted to 2,612,258 pairs compared with 2,463,947 in the corresponding month last year, a gain of six per cent. Footwear made in sizes for women accounted for 45.9 per cent of the total, for misses and children 11.7 per cent, for men 32.9 per cent, for babies and infants 5.7 per cent and for boys and youths 3.8 per cent.

Civil Aviation in November

Revenue passengers carried by civil air carriers during November numbered 16,720 as compared with 19,530 in October and 11,202 in November 1941. Freight declined to 310,521 pounds from 1,262,078 in October and 460,364 in November, 1941. Mail increased to 499,515 pounds from 470,028 in the previous month and 243,002 in November, 1941.

Operating revenues of Canadian carriers over licensed routes amounted to \$970,963 as compared with \$588,301 in November 1941, and operating expenses were \$923,731 as against \$628,711. The net operating revenue was \$37,232 compared with a debit of \$40,410 in 1941. Gasoline consumption amounted to 357,889 gallons in November, an average of 56.6 gallons per aircraft hour flown as compared with a total of 288,064 and an average of 52.1 gallons in November, 1941.

Production of Iron and Steel in January

Production of pig iron in Canada amounted to 116,327 net tons in January compared with 164,382 in the previous month and 163,156 in the corresponding month last year. The total for the latest month included 97,100 tons of basic iron, 8,971 tons of foundry iron and 10,256 tons of malleable iron.

Production of steel ingots and steel castings during January totalled 207,800 net tons compared with 269,834 the month before and 259,016 in the like month last year. Output in the month under review included 191,644 tons of ingots and 15,364 tons of castings. The drop in output was due entirely to the strike at two of the leading steel plants.

Production of Coal and Coke in January

The Canadian production of coal in January was recorded at 1,542,236 tons compared with 1,735,620 in December and 1,919,264 in January, 1942. As indicated by the following totals decreases were shown by all main producing provinces, bracketed figures being those for January last year: Alberta, 663,568 (829,036) tons; Nova Scotia, 524,598 (671,196); Saskatchewan, 164,811 (179,521); British Columbia, 157,158 (199,425); New Brunswick, 31,882 (39,918); Manitoba, 221 (168).

Canada imported 827,061 tons of coal in January compared with 933,613 in the like month last year, receipts including 220,911 tons of anthracite, 606,053 tons of bituminous and 97 tons of lignite coal. Exports of Canadian coal amounted to 35,130 tons compared with 49,587 in January, 1942. Coal made available for consumption during the month totalled 2,334,167 tons as compared with 2,803,268 a year ago.

The January production of coke was recorded at 232,000 tons compared with 275,000 in the previous month and 278,000 in January, 1942.

Asbestos Products Industry in 1941

Production by manufacturers of asbestos goods in Canada in 1941 was valued at \$4,359,217, an increase of 70.5 per cent over the 1940 valuation of \$2,556,278. Products made included brake linings valued at \$1,371,791, boiler and pipe covering at \$611,431, clutch facings at \$199,846, asbestos packings at \$224,870 and such other lines as asbestos gaskets, cloth, yarn, dryer felts, cement, etc.

Telephones in Canada in 1941

The number of telephones in use in Canada in 1941 established a new high record, the total being 1,562,146 as compared with 1,461,038 in 1940, an increase of 6.9 per cent. The telephone density was 13.58 per 100 of population which was exceeded only by the United States with 16.58, Sweden with 14.26 and New Zealand with 13.96.

Over 68 per cent of all telephones were residence telephones and the remaining 32 per cent were business telephones including public pay stations. Approximately 36 per cent of the total were business and residence telephones on individual lines and 19 per cent were on private branch exchanges or extensions which might be considered in somewhat the same class as individual line telephones, raising the percentage to 55. Two-party line telephones constituted 25 per cent of the total and telephones on lines accommodating more than four telephones per line which are classed as rural, represented 17 per cent of the total. Four-party line telephones and public pay station telephones which are on individual lines made up the remaining three per cent.

The revenue from long distance telephone calls was increased from \$17,648,151 in 1940 to \$20,794,733 or by 17.8 per cent, and the excise tax on long distance calls was increased from \$884,277 to \$1,346,434 or by 52.4 per cent, the rate having been increased in April 1941 to 10 per cent from six per cent, with fixed minimum and maximum taxes per call.

Soap, Washing Compounds and Cleaning Preparations

In 1941 a total of 116 factories in Canada made soaps, washing compounds or cleaning preparations as their main products. Production from these plants was valued at \$25,713,565, or 23 per cent more than the output of \$20,855,880 from the 110 establishments included in this industry in 1940. Employment was provided for 3,080 persons compared with 2,649 in 1940, who were paid a total in salaries and wages of \$4,599,815 in 1941 compared with \$3,585,884 in 1940.

Wire and Wire Goods Industry

In 1941 there were 82 establishments in Canada engaged chiefly in drawing iron and steel wire or in fabricating products from wire of iron or steel. Factory sales in 1941 were valued at \$42,395,022, including plain and galvanized wire, barbed wire, wire fencing, wire nails, tacks, staples, screws, wire cloth, wire rope, bale ties, upholstering spring and other such commodities. In 1940 factory sales were valued at \$32,446,893.

Aerated Waters Industry in 1941

Manufacturers of carbonated beverages in Canada reported a gross value of products in 1941 of \$41,103,387 as compared with \$34,027,664 in 1940, an increase of 20 per cent. Production included carbonated beverages worth \$36,429,014 at the factory, syrups, concentrates and extracts at \$4,368,854, natural mineral waters at \$104,364 and miscellaneous products at \$201,155. In addition to the production of carbonated beverages in this industry there was an output worth \$725,541 by firms included in the brewing industry. Thus the total Canadian output of carbonated beverages amounted to \$37,154,555 in 1941.

Awning, Tent and Sail Industry in 1941

Due mainly to increased demands of the Canadian armed forces the output of the awning, tent and sail industry was considerably higher in 1941. The gross value of production aggregated \$6,537,445 as compared with \$4,636,236 in 1940, an increase of 19 per cent. The principal items of production included the following: tents valued at \$799,868, covers at \$1,284,394, bags at \$664,529, awnings \$529,842, flags and bunting \$325,244.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Telephone Statistics, 1941 (25 cents).
2. Production of Iron and Steel, January (10 cents).
3. Population of Cities, Towns and Villages in Canada, 1941 (10 cents).
4. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
5. The Employment Situation, January (10 cents).
6. Monthly Dairy Review, February (10 cents).
7. Stocks of Canadian Fruit and Vegetables, March 1 (10 cents).
8. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, March 1 (10 cents).
9. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, March (10 cents).
10. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, March 1 (10 cents).
11. The Miscellaneous Food Industry, 1941 (25 cents).
12. The Awning, Tent and Sale Industry, 1941 (15 cents).
13. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
14. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, January (10 cents).
15. Planing Mills and Sash and Door Factories, 1941 (10 cents).
16. Production of Leather Footwear, January (10 cents).
17. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, January (10 cents).
18. Coal and Coke Statistics, January (10 cents).
19. The Aerated Waters Industry, 1941 (15 cents).
20. The Asbestos Products Industry, 1941 (25 cents).
21. Current Trends in Food Distribution, January (10 cents).
22. Civil Aviation, November (10 cents).
23. Indexes of Retail Sales, January (10 cents).
24. Stocks and Consumption of Unmanufactured Tobacco, December 31, 1942 (10 cents).
25. The Wire and Wire Goods Industry, 1941 (25 cents).
26. Revised Report on the Sugar Industry, 1941 (25 cents).
27. The Soaps, Washing Compounds and Cleaning Preparations Industry, 1941 (25 cents).
28. Fruit, Nursery Stock and Floriculture, 1942 (10 cents).
29. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, 1942 (10 cents).



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