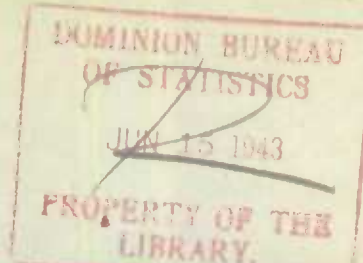


## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



Vol. XI - No. 15

Ottawa, Saturday, April 10, 1943

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Business Advance in February

The production of munitions and war supplies recorded further acceleration in February. Many of the production components of the index of the physical volume of business moved up sharply over the first month of the year. The recession in distribution was more than counterbalanced by sharp advances in manufacturing, mining and construction.

The index of the physical volume of business based on mining, manufacturing, construction and electric power, rose from 225.8 in January to 227.3 in the month under review. The standing was consequently at a new high point in history. The index of industrial production covering mining, manufacturing, construction and electric power recorded a far greater expansion than the general index. The advance was from 254.6 in the first month of the year to 267.8 in February. An index of mineral production rose from 225 to 236. A marked gain was shown in coal production, after seasonal adjustment, and the index of gold receipts at the Mint rose from 94.5 to 98.6.

The activity in manufacturing plants, especially the section engaged on war production, showed a marked gain in February. The index moved up nearly 12 points to 290.8. Gains were recorded in inspected slaughterings, the output of creamery butter, tobacco releases, forestry and iron and steel.

The new business obtained by the construction industry was considerably larger in February than in the preceding month. The index advanced from 95 to 141. Marked gains were shown both in contracts awarded and in building permits. The index of the output of electric power receded from 142.5 to 141.8. Despite the gain in railway transportation, the index of distribution dropped 23 points to 143.3. Livestock marketings were at a higher level than in the first month of the year. An index of cold storage holdings as of March 1, was 114.3 against 117.9 one month before. The index was based on average conditions during 1935 to 1939.

Economic Activity in February compared with the preceding month  
1935-1939=100

	1943	
	February	January
Physical Volume of Business .....	227.3	225.8
Industrial Production .....	267.8	254.6
Mineral Production .....	236.1	225.3
Gold Receipts .....	98.6	94.5
Coal Production .....	124.9	104.2
Manufacturing .....	290.8	279.0
Flour Production* .....	192.3	207.2
Rolled Oats Production* .....	71.8	89.0
Inspected Slaughterings .....	142.3	119.3
Cattle .....	103.3	71.5
Sheep .....	116.8	100.7
Hogs .....	173.9	157.4
Creamery Butter .....	142.3	139.8
Factory Cheese .....	120.9	136.8
Tobacco .....	221.9	201.1
Cigar Releases .....	232.8	220.0
Cigarette Releases .....	220.7	199.5
Boots and Shoes Production* .....	179.7	200.6
Textiles .....	149.2	151.3
Cotton Consumption .....	154.7	139.6
Forestry .....	120.7	105.6
Newsprint .....	101.7	97.6
Iron and Steel .....	579.1	561.9
Pig Iron Production .....	229.6	173.5
Steel Production .....	239.1	194.9
Construction .....	140.7	95.0
Contracts Awarded .....	161.4	104.5
Building Permits .....	49.6	57.1
Cost of Construction .....	129.3	129.0
Electric Power .....	141.8	142.5
Distribution .....	143.3	166.3
Tons Carried .....	175.5	155.1

Continued on Next Page

Economic Activity in February compared with the preceding month  
1935-1939=100

	1943	
	February	January
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings .....	110.3	133.5
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators .....	113.3	149.8
Wheat .....	144.3	194.1
Oats .....	290.9	506.7
Barley .....	416.4	375.7
Rye .....	435.5	84.5
Live Stock Marketings .....	97.2	62.8
Cattle .....	105.5	61.4
Calves .....	64.5	51.2
Hogs .....	90.4	75.0
Sheep .....	78.1	62.7
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month .....	114.3	117.9
Eggs .....	317.0	219.9
Butter .....	64.5	51.4
Cheese .....	136.7	206.3
Beef .....	93.3	87.8
Pork .....	139.1	152.6
Mutton .....	39.6	50.8
Poultry .....	81.8	90.4
Lard .....	76.2	74.8
Veal .....	46.6	49.0

\* Preceding Month.

#### February Cost of Living Index

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index advanced from 116.9 on February 1 to 117.2 on March 1. This index has shown a wartime increase of 16.3 per cent. The February food index mounted from 126.7 to 127.7, while other group indexes remained unchanged as follows: rents 111.3, fuel and light 112.7, clothing 120.1, homefurnishings and services 117.8, and miscellaneous items 107.5. Beef prices were firmer, and potatoes and oranges also advanced. A further small seasonal decline occurred in egg prices between February 1 and March 1.

#### Increased Production of Wood-Fuel Urged

Increased production of wood-fuel during the coming months is urgently required if the hardship felt in many localities in Canada during the past winter is not to become even worse next winter. The picture is that unless heavier production is realized, Canada will face a wood-fuel shortage so serious that many Canadian homes might be inadequately heated next winter.

Despite appeals made last year for an increased production of cord wood, insufficient was cut to last out the winter. As a consequence, some sections of the country suffered. Placing an additional burden on available wood supplies, stocks of coal became depleted in certain localities.

Recognizing the seriousness of the situation, the Department of Munitions and Supply has announced a five-point program to encourage greater production of fuel-wood for consumption next winter. An appeal is made to each municipal and township authority and every dealer and consumer to examine the local situation and to initiate steps to assist in greater production.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has issued a tabulation that will be of interest and assistance to fuel producers. This tabulation shows the principal types of fuel used for home heating in the larger urban centres in Canada in 1941. Although the figures reveal that a large percentage of householders in certain of these areas depend principally on coal and coke for heat, a number of centres such as Sherbrooke, Three Rivers, Hull and Victoria depend to a large extent on wood.

The complete table appears on page three of this Bulletin:

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO PRINCIPAL TYPE OF FUEL USED FOR HEATING FOR CITIES OF 30,000 POPULATION AND OVER  
HOUSING CENSUS, 1941

Cities	P.C. Using : Coal	P.C. Using : Coke	P.C. Using : Wood	P.C. Using : Fuel Oil	P.C. Using : Gas	P.C. Using : Electricity	P.C. Using : Sawdust
Halifax .....	79.4	8.6	1.7	9.9	.4	-	-
Saint John .....	75.6	1.0	15.8	6.5	.2	.9	-
Quebec .....	52.3	.9	38.5	7.4	.6	.3	-
Sherbrooke .....	27.7	3.2	62.1	5.9	.8	.3	-
Three Rivers .....	24.3	1.3	70.3	2.0	1.7	.4	-
Montreal .....	76.6	2.6	13.1	6.4	1.2	.1	-
Outremont .....	83.9	2.4	.6	13.0	.1	-	-
Verdun .....	87.6	3.8	3.7	4.5	.3	.1	-
Hull .....	26.7	1.7	67.8	2.4	-	1.4	-
Ottawa .....	74.3	11.1	8.5	5.6	.3	.2	-
Kingston .....	82.1	2.0	9.7	5.6	-	.6	-
Toronto .....	85.1	10.8	.4	3.6	.1	0	-
Hamilton .....	53.1	42.1	1.1	1.6	2.1	0	-
St. Catharines .....	82.5	4.1	1.1	3.7	6.0	2.6	-
Brantford .....	83.6	4.4	2.0	.9	8.9	.2	-
Kitchener .....	78.9	16.9	.6	3.2	.1	.3	-
London .....	43.0	10.3	1.1	3.2	42.4	0	-
Windsor .....	45.9	34.5	.8	.2	18.5	.1	-
Sudbury .....	64.5	1.5	31.8	2.1	-	.1	-
Fort William .....	70.2	10.3	18.3	1.0	-	.2	-
Winnipeg .....	59.9	15.4	23.1	1.0	.3	.3	-
Regina .....	87.4	.8	9.3	2.0	-	.5	-
Saskatoon .....	96.4	.9	2.6	-	-	.1	-
Edmonton .....	53.0	.5	.9	.2	45.3	.1	-
Calgary .....	5.4	.3	2.5	-	91.5	.3	-
Vancouver .....	17.4	5.1	35.7	10.6	1.2	.1	29.9
Victoria .....	20.3	3.8	61.7	7.7	.4	.4	5.7

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO PRINCIPAL TYPE OF FUEL USED FOR HEATING FOR CITIES OF 30,000 POPULATION AND OVER

HOUSING CENSUS, 1941

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Quebec .....	52.3	.9	38.5	7.4	.6	.3	-
Sherbrooke .....	27.7	3.2	62.1	5.9	.8	.3	-
Three Rivers .....	24.3	1.3	70.3	2.0	1.7	.4	-
Montreal .....	76.6	2.6	13.1	6.4	1.2	.1	-
Outremont .....	83.9	2.4	.6	13.0	.1	-	-
Verdun .....	87.6	3.8	3.7	4.5	.3	.1	-
Hull .....	26.7	1.7	67.8	2.4	-	1.4	-
Ottawa .....	74.3	11.1	8.5	5.6	.3	.2	-
Kingston .....	82.1	2.0	9.7	5.6	-	.6	-
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Hamilton .....	53.1	42.1	1.1	1.6	2.1	0	-
St. Catharines .....	82.5	4.1	1.1	3.7	6.0	2.6	-
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Regina .....	87.4	.8	9.3	2.0	-	.5	-
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Edmonton .....	53.0	.5	.9	.2	45.3	.1	-
Calgary .....	5.4	.3	2.5	-	91.5	.3	-
Vancouver .....	17.4	5.1	35.7	10.6	1.2	.1	29.9
Victoria .....	20.3	3.8	61.7	7.7	.4	.4	5.7

## February Employment Situation

Industrial employment was at a lower level at the beginning of February, according to reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 13,470 employers whose staffs aggregated 1,815,975 as compared with 1,840,501 on January 1. Reflecting this reduction of 24,526 persons, or 1.3 per cent, the unadjusted index number of employment on the base 1926=100 declined from 183.7 on January 1 to 181.2, when it was 9.6 per cent higher than the February 1942 figure of 165.4. Since the contraction was contra-seasonal the adjusted index number also fell from its previous maximum of 190.9 at January 1 to 188.2.

An important increase was recorded in the payroll distribution at February 1, rising to \$54,346,903 from \$51,386,339 paid on or about January 1. This was a gain of 5.8 per cent. The per capita average, which had declined from \$30.06 at December 1 to \$27.92 at January 1, rose to \$29.93 at the latest date, when it was affected to some extent by industrial disputes, and also by unfavourable weather. It was nevertheless decidedly higher than the February 1942 average of \$27.65. In the 12 months since that time, the index of aggregate payrolls has increased by 17.7 per cent, accompanying the gain of 9.6 per cent in the index of employment.

Considerable improvement was indicated in manufacturing at the beginning of February, resulting in the establishment of a new all-time maximum index. The largest advances were in iron and steel plants; there were also important gains in leather, textile and non-ferrous metal factories, together with smaller increases in a number of other industries. On the other hand, the food, tobacco, lumber and chemical industries released employees. In some cases, the changes were seasonal in character.

The non-manufacturing divisions on the whole were seasonally quieter at the date under review. There were moderate losses in employment in mining, communications and services, together with larger declines in logging, transportation, construction and trade; in the last-named, over 21,000 persons were laid off by the co-operating establishments, following the intense activity over the holiday season. The shrinkage in trade was unusually pronounced.

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## Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store on April 1 totalled 429,820,237 bushels, including 420,863,123 in Canadian positions and 8,957,114 in United States positions. On the comparable date last year stocks amounted to 462,020,832 bushels.

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## Farmers' Marketings of Wheat

Deliveries of wheat from farms in western Canada during the week ending April 1 amounted to 2,049,572 bushels as compared with 1,966,960 in the previous week. During the elapsed portion of the crop year farmers' marketings totalled 177,024,456 bushels compared with 175,213,697 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

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## Production of Flour in February

The production of flour in Canada during February amounted to 1,990,732 barrels compared with 1,584,978 in the corresponding month last year. Mills operated at 93.4 per cent of capacity in February compared with 73.5 a year ago. During the seven months ended February production of flour aggregated 13,398,743 barrels compared with 11,478,780 in the like period of the previous crop year.

Grains ground in Canadian mills during the month of February were as follows, comparative figures for the same month last year being in brackets: wheat, 8,864,552 (7,081,029) bushels; oats, 1,231,979 (879,502); corn, 253,213 (182,264); barley, 420,233 (239,120); buckwheat, 1,428 (900); and Mixed Grain, 2,941,629 (2,172,896).

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## Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada amounted to 424,595 at the end of February compared with 586,675 on the corresponding date last year. Calf and kip skins totalled 669,027 compared with 735,396, goat and kid skins 40,392 compared with 204,552, horse hides 26,963 compared with 26,141, sheep and lamb skins 90,120 (dozen) compared with 81,375 (dozen).

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### Cattle, Sheep and Poultry on Farms

A further sharp increase in the number of cattle on farms was reported at December 1, 1942, according to a survey made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 1942 figure of 8,833,700 head represents an increase of 7.1 per cent over the numbers on hand at the same date in 1941. All provinces except Nova Scotia shared in the increase but the most significant changes occurred in the three Prairie Provinces. The major part of the increase in total cattle numbers was in young stock and beef cattle rather than milk cows.

The number of sheep on farms on December 1, 1942, totalled 2,482,700, an increase of 10.1 per cent over the corresponding date of 1941. Increases occurred in all provinces except New Brunswick and Ontario and were particularly marked in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. As a large proportion of the sheep on farms were breeding stock, it can be expected that further increases will be forthcoming in 1943.

A further sharp increase was shown in the number of hens and chickens on farms at December 1, 1942, the total of 49,781,300 representing an increase of 14.5 per cent over the 1941 figure. All provinces shared in the increase which was particularly marked in Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba. The December 1, 1942, turkey population at 3,040,500 represents an increase of 37.1 per cent over the comparable figure for 1941.

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### Production of Leather Footwear in February

The output of footwear, exclusive of rubber goods, amounted to 2,825,933 pairs in February, an increase of 8.1 per cent over the preceding month and 7.6 per cent over the production in February, 1942. During the first two months of 1943 output totalled 5,438,191 pairs compared with 5,090,031 in the like period of 1942. Increased production over February last year was recorded as follows: footwear for men, 13.8 per cent; for women, 3.5 per cent; for boys and youths, 19.2 per cent; for misses and children, 3.7 per cent; and for babies and infants, 7.9 per cent.

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### Indexes of Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales averaged 16 per cent higher in February than in the corresponding month last year, the unadjusted index number on the base 1935-1939=100 advancing to 110.5 from 94.9. All regions of the country reported gains ranging from four per cent for northern Ontario to 26 per cent for the southern part of Saskatchewan and northern Alberta. Sales for Ontario as a whole increased by nine per cent, British Columbia 10 per cent, Quebec 15 per cent, the Maritime Provinces 16 per cent, Manitoba and Alberta 24 per cent and Saskatchewan 25 per cent.

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### Indexes of Wholesale Sales in February

Dollar sales of wholesale merchants in Canada averaged seven per cent higher in February this year than in the corresponding month last year, the unadjusted index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 standing at 145.9 as compared with 136.1. Sales in Quebec increased 11 per cent, the Prairie Provinces and the Maritimes 7 per cent, Ontario 6 per cent, and British Columbia 5 per cent.

Wholesalers in the fruit and vegetable and footwear trades reported major increases in business in February, the gains over last year amounting to 33 and 32 per cent, respectively. Clothing wholesalers transacted 15 per cent more dollar business, while dry goods trade was up 13 per cent; the tobacco and confectionery trade increased 12 per cent, while a gain of 11 per cent was registered for the drug trade.

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### Indexes of Retail Sales in February

Retail sales in Canada averaged nine per cent higher in February than in the corresponding month last year and were practically on a par with the January level. The general index of sales, unadjusted for seasonal movements and on the base 1935-1939=100, stands at 130.5 for February, 128.7 for January and 120.1 for February a year ago.

A marked increase in retail shoe store business, reflecting the introduction of shoe rationing in the United States, was the outstanding feature of the retail trade statistics for the month of February. Retail shoe store sales averaged 43 per cent higher in February, with increases gaining in magnitude from east to west. Sales in the Maritime Provinces were up 24 per cent, Quebec 25 per cent, Ontario 43 per cent,

Prairie Provinces 67 per cent and British Columbia 89 per cent.

Women's clothing stores also had greatly increased business in February with dollar sales ranging 33 per cent higher than in February last year. In the men's clothing trade sales for the Dominion as a whole averaged 7 per cent heavier. Food store sales, including grocery outlets and also stores selling both groceries and meats, averaged six per cent higher.

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#### Production of Coal and Coke in February

The Canadian production of coal in February amounted to 1,558,832 tons compared with 1,712,014 in the corresponding month last year. The five-year average output for February stands at 1,483,994 tons. Bituminous coal production in February totalled 1,002,489 tons, sub-bituminous 67,499 and lignite, 488,944. Coke output in February amounted to 250,000 tons compared with 232,000 in January and 253,000 in February last year.

Canada imported 903,845 tons of coal in February, an increase of seven per cent over February last year and 69 per cent above the five-year average for the month. Exports of coal amounted to 75,149 tons in February compared with 42,652 in the like month of 1942 and the five-year average of 39,119 tons. Canada's coal supply, computed on the basis of production, plus imports, less exports, was 2,420,025 tons as compared with 2,512,618 in February, 1942.

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#### Traffic on Railways in 1942

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections reached a new high peak in 1942, the total being 134,118,527 tons as compared with 117,186,844 in 1941 and 118,652,969 in 1928, the previous peak. This was an increase of 14.4 per cent over 1941 and 13 per cent over 1928 traffic. During December 1942, loadings of revenue freight totalled 11,258,014 tons compared with 10,078,779 in December, 1941.

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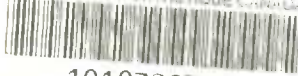
#### Building Permits in February

The value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in February amounted to \$2,271,744 compared with \$3,338,329 in the previous month and \$4,405,775 in the corresponding month last year. During the first two months of this year building permits were issued to the value of \$5,610,073 as compared with \$10,838,462 in the like period of last year.

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#### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Building Permits, February (10 cents).
  2. Price Movements, March (10 cents).
  3. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
  4. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, December (10 cents).
  5. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, February (10 cents).
  6. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, February (10 cents).
  7. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities, April 1 (10 cents).
  8. The Employment Situation, February (10 cents).
  9. The Sporting Goods Industry, 1941 (15 cents).
  10. The White Metal Alloys Industry, 1941 (15 cents).
  11. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, February (10 cents).
  12. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, February (10 cents).
  13. Current Trends in Food Distribution, February (10 cents).
  14. Production of Leather Footwear, February (10 cents).
  15. Coal and Coke Statistics, February (10 cents).
  16. Live Stock Survey, December 1, 1942 (10 cents).
  17. Farm Population, Canada, 1941 (10 cents).
  18. Flour and Feed Milling Industries, 1941 (25 cents).
  19. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  20. Furniture Industry, 1941 (10 cents).
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