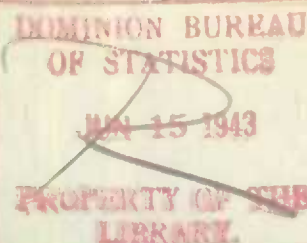


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Productive Advance in March

Productive operations showed an appreciable increase in March over the high level of the preceding month. The index of the physical volume of business rose from 227.3 to 231.7. An advance was shown in mineral production, the index moving up from 236.1 to 250.6. Decline was shown in the gold receipts at the Mint, while coal production recorded a considerable gain.

The index of manufacturing production rose from 290.8 to 294.1. The index of inspected slaughterings was 154.5 against 142.3, gains having been shown in each of the three main classes of livestock. The production of creamery butter and of factory cheese showed considerable gain in March even after seasonal adjustment. The index of cigarette releases advanced from 220.7 to 227.0. Cotton consumption by the textile industry was at a considerably higher level. An index of forestry production showed advance, an increase having been shown in newsprint after seasonal adjustment.

The iron and steel industry was more active, the index of pig iron production rising from 229.6 to 254.8. The index of electric power output showed a gain of nearly 5 points to 146.5.

Economic Activity in March compared with the Preceding Month
1935-1939=100

	1943	
	February	March
Physical Volume of Business	227.3	231.7
Industrial Production	267.8	269.1
Mineral Production	236.1	250.6
Gold Receipts	98.6	83.2
Coal Production	124.9	141.3
Manufacturing	290.8	294.1
Flour Production*	192.3	207.4
Rolled Oats Production*	71.8	75.2
Inspected Slaughterings	142.3	154.5
Cattle	103.3	110.0
Sheep	116.8	127.3
Hogs	173.9	190.4
Creamery Butter	142.3	147.3
Factory Cheese	120.9	171.6
Tobacco	221.9	225.5
Cigar Releases	232.8	208.1
Cigarette Releases	220.7	227.0
Boots and Shoes Production*	179.7	144.5
Textiles	149.2	154.2
Cotton Consumption	154.7	175.3
Forestry	120.7	124.4
Newsprint	101.7	103.0
Iron and Steel	579.1	590.6
Pig Iron Production	229.6	254.8
Steel Production	239.1	236.7
Construction	140.7	90.8
Contracts Awarded	161.4	91.0
Building Permits	49.6	89.9
Cost of Construction	129.0	129.1
Electric Power	141.8	146.5
Distribution	143.3	154.3
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings	110.3	108.8
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators	113.3	108.4
Wheat	144.3	135.9
Oats	290.9	220.4
Barley	416.4	550.2
Rye	435.5	298.3
Live Stock Marketings	97.2	110.7
Cattle	105.5	117.9

Economic Activity in March compared with the Preceding Month
1935-1939=100

	1943	
	February	March
Calves	64.5	96.2
Hogs	90.4	109.6
Sheep	78.1	64.6
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month	114.3	124.2
Eggs	317.0	338.6
Butter	64.5	111.7
Cheese	136.7	102.6
Beef	93.3	95.6
Pork	139.1	119.7
Mutton	39.8	46.2
Poultry	81.8	70.7
Lard	76.2	63.8
Veal	46.6	83.8

* Preceding Month

Economic Conditions in Canada
During First Quarter of 1943

Economic activity reached a new high point in the first quarter of the present year. The national income at \$2,112 million was 24.3 per cent greater than in the same period of last year when the standing was nearly \$1,700 million. The stimulus of war production was the main influence in increasing the national income over the last twelve months.

During the fiscal year ended March, the national income according to the tentative computation was \$7,878 million compared with \$6,793 million in the preceding fiscal year. The standing in March was more than \$725 million compared with \$700 million in the second month of the year. One year ago, the income in March was \$583 million against \$556 million in the preceding month.

The main factors indicating the trend of economic conditions recorded advances during the first quarter over the same period of last year. The index of the physical volume of business rose 19.2 per cent, the standing on the base of 1935-39 during the last quarter having been 228.3. The index is one of the comprehensive measures of the production and handling of commodities. The main components are mining, manufacturing, electric power, construction and distribution, the latter being represented by railway traffic, internal and external trade.

The index of mineral production was nearly four per cent below the same period of last year. Gold receipts at the Mint were 963,000 ounces against 1,165,000. The decline in coal production was more than eight per cent, the output in the first quarter of the present year having been 4,767,000 tons.

As the manufacturing industry participated fully in war production a marked gain was shown over the first quarter of last year. The index advanced from 220.5 to 268.0, a gain of 30.6 per cent. The flour milling industry was more active, the output of wheat flour in the first two months showing a gain of nearly 26 per cent. The meat packing industry was less active in the first quarter. Creamery butter production showed a gain of nearly 28 per cent, the output having been 40.6 million pounds in the first quarter of the present year. Considerable decline was shown in the production of factory cheese.

The release of cigarettes was 2,872 million against 2,309 million in the first quarter of last year, a gain of 24.4 per cent. The increase in the release of cigars was 8.4 per cent. The consumption of raw cotton by the textile industry was nearly maintained. A considerable decline was recorded in newsprint production, the output having been 702,000 tons against 886,000. Steel ingot production was 724,000 short tons against 768,000, a decline of 5.8 per cent. The output of pig iron also showed some reduction.

The new business obtained by the construction industry was slightly greater as measured by contracts awarded. The total was \$42.1 million against \$41.3 million in the same period of last year. The consumption of firm power rose 6.4 per cent from nearly eight billion kilowatt hours to 8.5 billion. The distribution of commodities by wholesale and retail outlets showed further expansion in the first two months of this year. The index of wholesale sales rose from 134 to 143, a gain of 6.5 per cent, while retail sales showed a lesser advance from 124.1 to 129.6, a gain of 4.4 per cent.

The total revenues of the Dominion Government during the first eleven months of the present fiscal year were \$2,016 million against \$1,255 million, a gain of 60.7 per cent. Ordinary expenditures rose 30.8 per cent, while war expenses, exclusive of \$1 billion war appropriation was 79.2 per cent higher.

March Employment Situation

The trend of employment in the Dominion as a whole was slightly upward at March 1. The 13,532 establishments co-operating in the latest survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics had a combined working force of 1,818,942 men and women as compared with 1,816,505 on February 1. The weekly salaries and wages paid amounted to \$55,835,282, an increase of \$1,421,324 or 2.6 per cent over the aggregate disbursed at the beginning of February.

The increase of 2,437 employees, or 0.1 per cent at March 1 slightly raised the index of employment, on the 1926 base, from 181.2 at February 1 to 181.5 as compared with 165.1 at March 1 last year. The gain was somewhat larger than the average at the beginning of March in the period upon which the seasonal adjustment factors are based; accordingly, the seasonally-corrected figure showed a small advance, rising from 188.2 at February 1 to 189.1 at March 1.

The average weekly earnings of the persons in recorded employment increased from \$29.96 paid on or about February 1 to \$30.70 at March 1, 1943, as compared with \$27.92 at March 1, 1942. In the period since then, the index of employment has risen 9.9 per cent, and the index of aggregate payrolls, by 20.0 per cent. The pay envelope of the typical employee of the co-operating firms has advanced by ten per cent.

Further expansion was reported in employment in factories at March 1; this, like that indicated at February 1, was rather below-normal for the time of year, but nevertheless raised the crude index to a new maximum. The seasonally-adjusted index, however, again showed a decline. A substantial proportion of the latest gain was reported in iron and steel plants. Lumber mills and electric apparatus factories also showed considerably more activity. The largest losses in manufacturing at March 1 took place in chemical and clay, glass and stone works.

Among the non-manufacturing classes, logging, communications, construction and maintenance and trade reported seasonal curtailment, which was generally of less-than-average proportions, except in trade. There was improvement in services, mining and transportation, that in the first two being relatively slight, while transportation showed a gain on a rather larger scale.

Index Numbers of Living Costs

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index on the base 1935-1939=100 advanced from 117.2 on March 1 to 117.6 on April 1. This index which has been specified as the basis for calculating cost-of-living bonus adjustments has increased 16.7 per cent between August 1939 and April 1943. The April rise was due mainly to a further increase for foods, but fractional advances were recorded also for clothing and miscellaneous items. The food index mounted from 127.7 on March 1 to 128.7 on April 1, as meats, potatoes, cheese, and oranges registered increases. Eggs showed the only appreciable decline. The fractional rise in clothing from 120.1 to 120.2 was due to scattered advances in women's wear. Miscellaneous items moved up from 107.5 to 107.7 because of increases in newspaper rates and barbers' prices.

Building Permits Issued in 1942

Building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics during 1942 amounted to \$104,236,278 as compared with \$135,301,519 in 1941, a decrease of 23 per cent. Of the total value, \$78,839,669 was for new construction and \$25,396,609 for additions, alterations and repairs. Residential construction totalled \$53,147,458, commercial \$17,366,021, industrial \$23,848,353, institutional \$6,843,526 and other construction work \$3,030,920. As compared with 1941 there was a decrease of \$16,908,123 in the value of residential permits issued, \$2,143,491 in industrial, \$8,657,191 in commercial and \$5,259,288 in institutional.

Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store on April 29 totalled 417,404,439 bushels, including 409,388,185 in Canadian positions and 8,016,254 in United States positions. Stocks in store a week earlier totalled 417,642,329 bushels, while the total on the corresponding date last year was 436,217,520 bushels.

Farmers' Marketings of Wheat

Farmers' marketings of wheat in western Canada during the week ending April 29 amounted to 4,511,601 bushels as compared with 4,257,687 in the previous week. During the elapsed portion of the crop year 190,150,437 bushels of wheat were marketed as compared with 181,846,361 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Production of Flour in March

Flour production in Canadian mills amounted to 2,193,029 barrels in March compared with 1,806,854 in the corresponding month last year, with the percentage of output to capacity amounting to 91.2 compared with 77.7. Production during the eight months of the crop year totalled 15,591,772 barrels compared with 13,285,634 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

1941-42 Production of Raw Furs

The value of the production of raw furs in Canada during the twelve months ending June 1942 was \$24,532,918, an increase of \$3,409,757 over the preceding season. This figure constitutes a high record for the fur trade as a whole. A general advance in prices was chiefly responsible for the increase. With regard to total pelt value the muskrat was the most important single item with a value of \$4,916,662. Mink was second with \$4,055,157, followed by silver fox at \$3,736,724 and beaver at \$2,387,406.

Silver fox rose from an average price of \$21.58 in 1940-41 to \$22.96 in the period under review; red fox from \$6.75 to \$6.80; white fox from \$18.38 to \$25.72; new type fox from \$25.30 to \$41.54; ermine from 93 cents to \$1.20; muskrat from \$1.79 to \$2.06; and squirrel from 27 cents to 31 cents. The number of pelts recorded for the season was 19,529,740, to which rabbit contributed 9,012,329 and squirrel 5,761,433 or a combined total of 14,773,762.

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins in March

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada at the end of March amounted to 449,184 as compared with 535,198 on the corresponding date last year. Stocks of other types on hand included the following, figures for March last year being in brackets: calf and kip skins, 600,959 (764,687); goat and kid skins, 50,557 (159,018); and sheep and lamb skins, 79,777 dozen (78,922 dozen).

Retail Merchandise Trade in Ontario

According to the census of merchandising and service establishments conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics the value of retail sales in Ontario totalled \$1,368,278,700 in 1941 as compared with \$1,099,990,200 in 1930 when the previous census was taken. Dollar sales in 1941 were 24 per cent higher than in the earlier period.

Retail Merchandise Trade in New Brunswick

Retail sales in New Brunswick were valued at \$99,480,700 in 1941 according to preliminary compilations made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This was an increase of 18 per cent over sales in 1930 when the total was \$84,371,900, the only other year for which complete retail trade statistics are available.

Live Births in Canada in 1941

According to final totals made public by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics there were 255,317 live births recorded in Canada in 1941, giving an equivalent annual rate of 22.2 per thousand population, the highest rate on record since 1932 when it was 22.5. In 1940 there were 244,316 live births registered with a rate per thousand of 21.5. Of the total number of confinements in 1941, 249,609 were single, 5,445 were twin and 63 were triplet confinements.

The birth rates by provinces were as follows, in 1941, comparable figures for 1940 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 21.6 (22.3); Nova Scotia, 24.1 (22.9); New Brunswick, 26.8 (25.9); Quebec, 26.8 (25.7); Ontario, 19.1 (18.2); Manitoba, 20.3 (20.3); Saskatchewan, 20.6 (20.8); Alberta, 21.7 (22.0); British Columbia, 18.4 (17.4).

Bicycle Manufacturing Industry

Production by the manufacturers of bicycles in Canada during 1941 was valued at \$3,560,155, an increase of 33 per cent over the total for 1940. Included in the output for 1941 were 100,338 bicycles with a factory selling value of \$2,449,199, bicycle parts and accessories worth \$238,264, and miscellaneous products such as ice skates, tricycles, children's wagons, etc., valued at \$872,692. In 1940 there were 86,500 bicycles manufactured valued at \$1,763,895.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. The bicycle Manufacturing Industry, 1941 (15 cents).
 2. Retail Merchandise Trade in New Brunswick, 1941 (25 cents).
 3. Canadian Milling Statistics, March (10 cents).
 4. Economic Conditions in Canada, First Quarter, 1943 (10 cents).
 5. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 6. Population of Ontario - Language and Mother Tongue, 1941 (10 cents).
 7. Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities, May 1 (10 cents).
 8. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, January (10 cents).
 9. Production of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
 10. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
 11. Fur Production of Canada, 1941-42 (10 cents).
 12. Price Movements, April (10 cents).
 13. Building Permits, 1942 (25 cents).
 14. Employment Situation, March (10 cents).
 15. Retail Merchandise Trade in Ontario, 1941 (25 cents).
 16. Preliminary Annual Report on Vital Statistics, 1941 (25 cents).
 17. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, March (10 cents).
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