

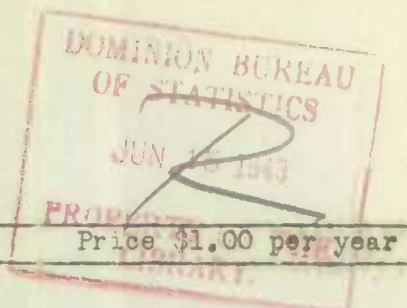
WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Betterment in Business During April

Economic conditions recorded further betterment in April over the preceding month. Six major factors recorded gains, the greatest increase being shown by bank deposits. Moderate advances were shown in common stock prices, speculative trading and in wholesale prices. Dominion bonds were steady at a slightly higher level than in the preceding month.

Business activity showed further acceleration over the high level of March. Flour production was at a higher position in the latest month for which statistics are available. Dairy factories were more active than in March, the increase in the output of cheese and butter having been greater than normal for the season. The dairy index rose from 157 to 172.6, the output of factory cheese having advanced from 2.7 million pounds to 5.4 million. The cotton textile industry was less active in April, the consumption of raw cotton dropping from 18.2 million pounds to 15.9 million.

The available information regarding operations in the forestry industry indicated recession in the month under review. Newsprint production was 229,573 tons against 246,855. Employment in shipbuilding and miscellaneous iron and steel mills rose to a higher level in the latest month for which statistics are available. The new business obtained by the construction industry recorded an increase less than normal for the season.

According to a preliminary computation based upon available factors, the index of the physical volume of business which had been 231.7 on the base of 1935-39 in March, rose to a slightly higher level in April.

Business Indicators for April, 1943 Compared with April, 1942 and March, 1943.....

	April 1943	April 1942	March 1943
Physical Volume of Business.....1935-39-100	(x)	198.1	231.7
Cost of Living.....1935-39-100	117.6	115.9	117.2
Factory Cheese Production.....pounds	5,442,488	12,510,585	2,693,909
Creamery Butter Production.....pounds	22,870,286	16,886,312	15,594,614
Contracts Awarded.....\$	16,047,300	22,512,100	11,110,600
Carloadings.....no.	280,052P	272,934	286,279
Raw Cotton Consumption.....pounds	15,899,807	17,863,817	18,186,405
Newsprint production.....tons	229,573	277,741	246,855
Sales on stock yards.....			
Cattle.....no.	56,668	56,654	63,828
Calves.....no.	36,867	47,992	33,201
Hogs.....no.	70,665	72,838	80,570
Sheep.....no.	7,443	3,682	8,163
Bank Clearings.....\$000	2,285,113	2,047,808	2,198,398

(x) The index of the physical volume of business according to preliminary calculations showed an increase over the preceding month.

Preliminary

Grain Situation in Argentina

The correspondent of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in Buenos Aires reports that weather conditions during April were quite favourable for work on the land and benefited the recently seeded forage crops. As a result of the rains and the absence of very low temperatures the natural grass pastures have reacted very well. The maize crop was badly affected by the intense drought during the growing season so extensive areas have been abandoned and yields are much below normal. The preparation of land for the sowing of wheat is proceeding normally.

Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at May 13 totalled 408,287,672 bushels compared with 414,497,253 in the previous week and 424,311,694 in the corresponding week a year ago. The amount in United States positions totalled 11,358,804 compared with 9,949,042 bushels in the previous week and 18,502,023 the corresponding week a year ago.

Feed Grain Situation

Despite labour and other difficulties the Canadian farmer is preparing to meet the challenge of the times. The annual survey of farmers' intentions indicates that on April 30 the men of the soil had mapped out a programme which, if carried through, will exceed the 1943 objectives recommended at the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference held in Ottawa last December.

At that time it was suggested that wheat acreage be further reduced and more essential war crops seeded on the land taken out of wheat. It was recommended that oats and barley acreage be increased by approximately 12 per cent over the 1942 level, and the acreage in forage crops extended by 17 per cent in alfalfa and 8 per cent in hay and clover. The April 30 survey points to an increase of 13 per cent in oats acreage and 16 per cent in barley acreage.

The indicated acreage for wheat in 1943 is 79 per cent of the 1942 figure, a reduction of 4.5 million acres. Oats are scheduled to take up 1.7 million acres of this wheat acreage reduction, barley and flaxseed just over one million acres each, and the balance is expected to go into forage and other crops, including mixed grains and soybean. Weather conditions during May and early June will be an important factor in the carrying out of these acreage plans and will be equally important during the balance of the growing season in determining whether the increased acreage will bring about the desired increase in supplies.

So heavy is the current and prospective demand for live stock and live stock and poultry products, the immense harvest in North America in 1942 which seemed to have provided ample feed for a long time ahead, now looks less impressive as the growing animal population eats its way into the stock piles. It is true that the total supply of wheat and other grains is still large in Canada and the United States, but at the present rate of disappearance good crops will be needed in 1943 to ensure a margin of safety for the food production programme in mind for 1944.

Not many months ago the United States appeared to be overburdened with wheat. Farmers shared the experience of Canadian farmers when they had to pile their grain on the ground for the lack of storage space. The surplus was described as "colossal" but the picture has quickly changed. Millions of bushels of wheat have been sold for animal feed during the past six months and the United States Government has entered the Canadian market for additional supplies with an initial purchase of 7,250,000 bushels of Canadian wheat. More is likely to be purchased, but the volume will depend largely on the availability of transportation equipment.

For many months past, box cars loaded with Canadian oats and barley have been rolling over the border, much of it direct from points in western Canada to consuming areas in the United States. Despite all this drawing on Canadian supplies, however, and the efforts of United States farmers to meet the goals set for war crops, the latest survey of the United States feed situation, based on crop prospects for 1943, suggests that the supply of feed grains per grain-consuming animal in 1943-44 will be 10 to 15 per cent below the supply in 1942-43. This calculation takes into account the wheat and rye supply that might be diverted to animal feeding.

Farmers' Marketings of Grain

Wheat delivered from farms in western Canada during the week ending May 13 totalled 2,999,870 bushels compared with 3,829,865 in the previous week. Since August 1 last year there have been 194,067,041 bushels delivered, an increase over the 182,359,219 bushels delivered during the same period a year ago.

Deliveries of other grains were as follows, previous week's totals in brackets: Durum 81,977 (76,408) bushels; oats 2,395,234 (3,370,127); barley 1,240,819 (1,846,591); rye 321,013 (493,866); flaxseed 42,977 (76,121).

Carloadings on Canadian Railways

Carloadings for the week ended May 15 amounted to 66,199 compared with 66,637 the previous week and 65,257 in the corresponding week last year.

In the eastern division loadings dropped from 44,441 cars in 1942 to 42,853 while in the western division loadings increased from 20,816 to 23,346. All groups except lumber, pulpwood and other forest products showed increases.

Shipments of Grain to the United States

Shipments of Canadian grain to the United States during the period from August 1 last to May 13 were as follows: wheat, 42,396,668 bushels, oats 37,318,379, barley, 16,212,159, rye, 1,129,786, flaxseed, 3,843,919.

Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds

The prepared stock and poultry feeds industry is an important factor in the agricultural development of the Dominion, insofar as it relates to animal husbandry and poultry raising. In addition to the feed grown by farmers themselves, when crop conditions are favourable, large quantities of scientifically blended feeds are produced annually by manufacturers of prepared stock and poultry feeds. For the year 1941 the output of this industry was valued at \$19,769,235.

In addition to the prepared stock and poultry feeds produced in this industry large quantities are also produced in flour and feed mills, and slaughtering and meat packing establishments. The production of prepared stock and poultry feeds by all industries in 1941 totalled 496,778 tons. Of this amount, 304,532 tons were reported by the prepared stock and poultry feeds industry and 192,246 by other industries and retail stores mixing feeds. Compared with the previous year there was an increase of 83,521 tons in the total production.

Unemployment Insurance

More applications for benefit payments under the Unemployment Insurance Act were received in March than in any previous month. The Applications in recent months numbered 3,337 in December, 4,637 in January, 4,822 in February and 5,046 in March. Over the past year the monthly figures on claims lodged show a striking seasonal variation, with the low point in October and the high point in March. The proportion of claimants considered entitled to benefit who actually began receiving benefit cheques was 90 per cent in March as compared with 73 per cent in February and 53 per cent in January. This would indicate a lengthening in the duration of cases of unemployment during this period. In March the average amount paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$1.89, in February \$1.88 and in January \$1.88.

There were 5,996 persons in Canada receiving benefit in March compared with 4,079 in February. The following were those receiving benefit by districts in March, with February figures in brackets: Maritimes 523(342), Quebec 2,553(1,413), Ontario 578(427) Manitoba 820(842), Saskatchewan, 398(342), Alberta, 504(452), British Columbia, 620(310) The above figures are not strictly provincial but correspond to the districts assigned to the various insurance offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Religions of British Columbia

Final Population figures of the 1941 Census by religious denominations for the Province of British Columbia are as follows, 1931 figures within brackets: Adventist, 2,803(1,786), Anglican, 245,531(205,047), Baptist 29,780(23,395), Bretheran and United Bretheran, 1,660(1,721), Confucian and Buddhist, 29,137(32,622), Christian, 710(875), Church of Christ Disciples, 650(358), Christian Science, 5,843(5,418), Evangelical Association, 1,737(85), Greek Orthodox, 5,198(3,274), International Bible Students, 836(1,596), Jewish, 3,235(2,666), Lutheran, 41,772(36,635), Mennonite, 5,105(1,085), Mormon, 1,281(655), Pentecostal, 5,235(2,277), Presbyterian, 94,300(84,183), Protestant, 768(2,653), Roman Catholic, including Greek Catholic, 113,282(90,852), Salvation Army, 3,880(2,801) United Church of Canada, 200,817(164,750), Other Sects, 17,718(15,608), No religion, 4,369(7,855).

British Columbia by Conjugal Condition

The final population figures by conjugal condition of British Columbia according to the 1941 Census are as follows, 1931 figures in brackets: single 380,269 (353,870); married, 381,959 (303,385); widowed, 43,214 (30,316); Divorced 3,265 (1,652); separated 9,091 (data not available for 1931).

Population of British Columbia by Birthplace

The total population of British Columbia in 1941 was 817,861 as against 694,263 in 1931. Those born in Canada numbered 513,132 compared with 374,734 ten years before. The birthplaces of the residents of British Columbia in 1941 were as follows, with the 1931 figures in brackets: British Columbia, 315,665 (233,195); England and unspecified British birthplaces, 118,335 (121,359); Ontario, 54,160 (54,486); Saskatchewan 46,407 (18,484); Scotland 43,761 (46,569); Alberta 38,331 (20,231); United States 35,903 (34,706); Manitoba 30,498 (18,965); Scandinavia 17,616 (19,411); China 15,150 (24,009); Ireland 11,937 (12,816); Quebec 9,627 (9,226); Nova Scotia 9,232 (9,632); Japan 8,787 (11,477); Russia, 8,831 (5,989).

Petroleum Refining Industry

In 1941, 1,681,058,493 gallons of imported crude oil and 352,839,574 gallons of crude oil and absorption gasoline from Canadian wells, or a total of 2,033,898,067 gallons was put through Canadian refineries, this amounting to about 67 per cent of the rate capacity. Of the total crude input, about 47 per cent was imported from the United States and nearly 35 per cent from other countries, while about 17 per cent came from Canadian wells. The total cost at the refineries of all crude oil and naphtha charged to stills during the year was \$113,574,954.

Refinery production of gasoline in 1941 amounted to 857,924,454 gallons, and in addition the refineries used for blending about 47,301,143 gallons of imported casinghead gasoline which is not included in the Canadian production figures. The gallonage of gasoline made in 1941 was the highest on record, being 10 per cent over 1940, which in turn was five per cent over 1939. The refinery selling value of the gasoline made during the year was \$90,130,773.

Production of fuel and gas oil, excluding any made and used for cracking processes, totalled 834,848,910 gallons, of which 771,897,171 gallons were made for sale and 62,951,739 for use as fuel in the producing plant. Output of tractor and engine distillates was 40,810,126 gallons.

Retail Merchandise Trade in Saskatchewan

Retail sales in Saskatchewan totalled \$178,746,900 through 9,536 stores in 1941, according to preliminary compilations for the census of merchandising and service establishments. The previous census relating to trading establishments was for the year 1930 when Saskatchewan sales totalled \$189,181,100, so that sales in 1941 were still six per cent below the volume of business transacted in that year.

Sales by groups of stores were as follows, figures for 1930 being in brackets: food group, \$24,663,300 (\$25,877,700); country general stores \$29,053,500 (\$36,298,300); general merchandise, \$22,689,800 (\$21,514,100); automotive \$34,826,800 (\$27,048,700); apparel \$10,100,400 (\$10,231,900); building materials \$15,897,300 (\$22,612,200); furniture \$2,454,300 (\$4,087,300); restaurants \$6,337,800 (\$5,551,900); other retail stores \$32,207,900 (\$35,507,600).

Railway Finances in February

Gross revenue of Canadian railways for February reached a new high record for the month when they totalled \$53,024,504, which was 20.4 per cent above that for February, 1942, when revenues amounted to \$44,044,269, the previous high record.

Operating expenses increased to \$41,720,842 from \$35,281,385 and the operating income to \$7,238,843 from \$6,045,912. Freight traffic measured in revenue ton miles was 10.5 per cent heavier than a year ago and on a daily basis was 21 per cent heavier than in January this year. Passenger traffic was 43.3 per cent heavier than in 1942; the number of employees increased from 138,255 a year ago to 155,851 and the total pay roll increased from \$21,064,757 to \$23,997,850.

Gross revenues of the Canadian lines of the C.V.R. amounted to \$26,612,100 as against \$21,733,700 in February last year while C.P.R. gross revenues increased to \$20,517,832 from \$18,348,324.

Central Electric Stations in 1941

The consumption of electric energy in Canada in 1941 was 30,964,104,000 kw. hrs. compared with 27,977,809,000 in 1940. Quebec was the largest consumer with 13,444,151,000 kw. hrs., Ontario second with 11,598,190,000, British Columbia third with 2,469,425,000 and Manitoba fourth with 1,926,011,000. The smallest user was Prince Edward Island, with 11,869,000 kw. hrs. and the second smallest user was Saskatchewan with 196,378,000.

The output of central electric stations has increased continuously during the last ten years, with the exception of 1938, but the loss was more than regained the following year. The firm power produced for use in Canada increased 23 per cent in 1941 over 1940 and 17 per cent in 1942 over the preceding year. The transfer of secondary power to firm power has been a feature in the increases of output, since war industries have been taxing the capacities of the plants to supply firm or primary power. Pulp and paper industries used 22 per cent of the secondary power produced in 1931.

It is estimated that the maximum installation capacity of the recorded waterpowers of Canada is 51,350,000 horsepower.

Domestic Electric Service

Approximately 8½ per cent of the electricity consumed in Canada in 1941 was by domestic customers. The number of these domestic customers was 1,755,917 or 15.28 per 100 of the population. As might be expected the provinces with relatively high percentages of rural populations, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Alberta show the lowest number of customers per hundred of population. Manitoba's low unit cost and high average consumption are influenced by flat rate water heaters in Winnipeg which induce high consumption per customer. Also where hydro-electric power is plentiful the rates are generally low and the average consumption high. Domestic customers in Ontario used almost 60 per cent of the total power used by all domestic customers in Canada but the population of that province was 30 per cent of the total for the Dominion.

Building Permits in April

Building permits in April as reported from 174 of the 204 municipalities in Canada amounted to \$7,342,378 as compared with revised values for March from 199 municipalities at \$5,025,102. The April value a year ago was \$9,050,784.

The total value of permits issued by 58 municipalities during the first four months of 1943 was \$13,644,458 compared with \$22,748,207 a year ago. The percentage of new residential construction during April was 43.8.

Occupied Farms in 1941

The number of occupied farms in Canada in 1941 totalled 732,715. Farms operated by owners numbered 549,972; part owner, part tenant 84,760; paying rent in cash 37,703; paying rent in share 40,985; paying rent in cash and share 4,528; rent free 1,544.

The number of farms operated by owners in 1941 show a decrease of 5.8 per cent compared with 1931. The number of farms operated by managers and by tenants show increases of 85.6 and 25.3 per cent respectively over 1931; those operated by part owners and part tenants record an increase of 24.7 per cent compared with 1931.

Forest Production in 1941

The area of productive forest land in Canada is estimated to be about 770,000 square miles, but only about 430,000 square miles are accessible. In 1941 the total forest production involved the cutting of 3,353,571,000 cubic feet of standing timber. In addition to this depletion for use must be added the volume of merchantable material annually destroyed by fire, which in 1941 amounted to 1,046,000,000 cubic feet; insects

and tree diseases destroy about 700,000,000 cubic feet every year. About two-thirds of the forest depletion in 1941 was used and one-third was wasted.

Bakery Products in 1941

Before the present war, the bread industry ranked tenth in the value of products made. With the tremendous expansion in war production, however, the relative importance of the industry declined. In 1941 the value of products produced increased to \$92,116,000 from \$81,757,000 in the previous year. Of this amount \$57,934,000 was derived from bread and \$27,790,000 from pies, cakes, cookies and pastries. Of the 3,034 establishments engaged chiefly in the baking industry, 1,180 are located in Ontario and 992 in Quebec.

Processed Cheese in 1942

The production of processed cheese in 1942 amounted to 26,822,200 pounds compared with 21,030,140 in 1941. There were 20,258,387 pounds of cheddar cheese used in the preparation of the product compared with 15,545,422 the year before, while the total value of the processed cheese amounted to \$8,077,689 compared with \$5,226,260 in the preceding year.

Electric Storage Batteries

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts were valued at \$1,959,432 during the first quarter of 1943 compared with \$2,113,584 in the final quarter of 1942 and with \$1,908,843 in the first quarter of 1942. Sales included 272,231 batteries, for the ignition of internal combustion engines; 1,316 for motor cycle starting; 12,994 cells for farm lighting plants.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in March

Births registered in Canadian cities, towns and villages having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 11,333 in March, deaths 5,163 and marriages 4,315 as compared with 10,596 births, 4,995 deaths and 3,830 marriages in March last year, showing increases of seven per cent in births, three per cent in deaths and 13 per cent in marriages.

Patients in Mental Institutions

There were 49,245 mental patients on the books of mental institutions at the end of 1941. Most of these, about 87 per cent, were in provincial institutions. The number of patients represents a 3.1 per cent increase over the number under care on the same date in 1940. Males showed an increase of 0.2 per cent and females 0.1 per cent. The number of males in residence in mental institutions at the end of 1941 was 25,021 and females 20,114. This information is taken from the Tenth Annual Report of Mental Institutions in Canada issued today.

Retail Merchandise in Manitoba

Retail sales in Manitoba in 1941 exceeded \$200,000,000 according to preliminary compilations of the Census of 1941. There were 5,891 retail merchandising establishments in the province.

Reports Issued This Week

1. Retail Merchandise Trade in Manitoba, 1941 (25 cents).
2. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries,
First Quarter, 1943 (10 cents).
3. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways in
Canada, February, 1943 (10 cents).
4. The Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).

Reports Issued This Week - concluded.

5. Census of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 51 (10 cents).
 6. Central Electric Stations in Canada, 1941 (25 cents).
 7. Carloadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 8. Retail Merchandise Trade in Saskatchewan, 1941 (25 cents).
 9. Canadian Coarse Grains, Quarterly Review (25 cents).
 10. Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages, March (10 cents).
 11. Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds Industry, 1941 (15 cents).
 12. Petroleum Products Industry, 1941 (50 cents).
 13. Language and Mother Tongue - Saskatchewan, 1941 (10 cents).
 14. Carloadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 15. Building Permits Issued in Canada, April (10 cents).
 16. Tenth Annual Report of Mental Institutions, 1941 (25 cents).
 17. Canadian Grain Statistics (\$2.00 a year).
 18. Statistical Report on Operation of Unemployment Insurance Act,
February and March (15 cents).
 19. Census Bulletin No. A-6, British Columbia, Birthplace (10 cents).
 20. Census Bulletin No. A-2, British Columbia, Conjugal Condition (10 cents).
 21. Estimate of Forest Production, 1941 (25 cents).
 22. Bread and Other Bakery Products, 1941 (25 cents).
 23. Processed Cheese, 1942 (10 cents).
 24. Census Bulletin No. A-5, British Columbia, Religion (10 cents).
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