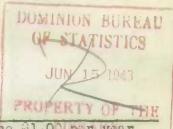
WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Betterment in Froductive Operations during April

Froductive operations recorded a further increase in Arril over the preceding month. The standing of the index of the physical volume of business was 236.9 in Arril against 231.7 in the proceeding month. The index has shown an uninterrupted advance since May of last year, the result being a new high point in history.

Four of the five main components recorded increases in the month under review. A marked gain was shown in mineral production, increases being recorded in gold receipts at the Mint and in coal production. The index of manufacturing rose from 294 to 297. The forestry index recorded from 124.4 to 116.0, but important increases were shown in the operations of the meat packing industry and in the output of dairy factories. Tobacco releases were at a somewhat lower position, eigarettes made available having been 987 million against 1,039 million. As the decline was contraseasonal, the index showed considerable decline.

While minor recessions were recorded in the output of pig iron and steel, the index for the entire group rose from 591 to 603. The new business obtained by the construction industry was at a lower level, while gains were recorded in the output of electric power and in commodity distribution.

Economic Activity in April compared with the Preceding Month 1935-1930=100

	1943	
	March	April
Fhysical Volume of Business	231.7	236.9
Industrial Froduction	269.1	274.4
Mineral Production	250.6	231.2
Gold Receipts	83.2	117.6
Coal Froduction	141.3	146.1
Manufacturing	294.1	296.7
Flour Froduction *	207.4	198.6
Rolled Oats Froduction*	75.2	95.0
Inspected Slaughterings	154.5	159.7
Cattle	110.0	109.9
Sheep	127.3	131.6
Hogs	190.4	199.7
Creamory Butter	147.3	149.8
Factory Cheese	171.6	209.1
Tobacco	225.5	201.3
Cigar Roleases	208.1	175.7
Cigarette Releases	227.0	203.4
Boots and Shoes Troduction *	144.5	135.3
Textiles	154.2	155.2
Cotton Consumption	175.3	155.9
Forestry	124.4	116.0
Newsprint	103.0	89.2
Iron and Stoel	590.6	603.0
Fig Iron Production	254.8	250.2
Steel Production	236.7	236.1
Construction	90.8	83.7
Contracts Awarded	91.0	81.9
Building Fermits	89.9	91.1
Cost of Construction	129.1	129.8
Electric Power	146.5	153.0
Distribution	154.3	159.2
Marketings -	20200	
Grain and Live Stock Marketings	108.8	224.9
	108.4	256.7
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators		
Wheat	135.9	301.2
Oats	220.4	613.9
Barley	550.2	
Ryo	298.3	945.2

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

	1943	
	March	Apri
Live Stock Marketings	110.7	86.6
Cattle	117.9	88.1
Calves	96.2	82.3
Hogs	109.6	94.3
Sheep	64.6	64.7
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month	124.2	171.6
Eggs	338.6	216.9
Butter	111.7	245.8
Cheese	102.8	110.7
Boof	95.6	119.3
Pork	119.7	129.6
Mutton	46.2	61.3
Poultry	70.7	57.5
Lard	63.8	61.0
Voal	83.8	107.1

* Freceding Month

Bank Debits to Individual Accounts

The amount of cheques cashed in the thirty-three clearing centres was \$4,071 million in April compared with \$3,733 in the same month last year. The gain of nine per cent was partially due to heavy payments in the latter part of the month on the Fourth Victory Loan. Business operations were at a considerably higher level and a minor increase was shown in commodity prices. Debits during the first feur months of this year aggregated \$15,694,067,000 compared with \$14,033,701,000 in the like period of 1942.

Debits in April were as follows by economic areas, figures for the corresponding month last year being in brackets: Maritime Provinces, \$91,702,149 (\$85,577,591); Quebec, \$1,156,009,129 (\$1,001,570,227); Ontario, \$1,839,881,389 (\$1,894,818,607); Prairie Provinces, \$745,827,426 (\$537,074,731); British Columbia, \$237,292,416 (\$214,179,821).

Country General Store Sales in April

Country general store sales averaged 15 per cent higher in April than in the corresponding month last year. All regions of the country except the eastern part of Ontario reported gains. As a consequence the index number on the base 1935-1939= 100 rose to 140.8 from 123.0 a year ago. During the elapsed portion of 1943 sales averaged 12.8 per cent higher than in the same period of 1942.

World Wheat Situation

While it is much too soon to start "counting the chickens", the news from Continental Europe, exclusive of Russia, points to the best wheat crop prospects since the war began. Fall-sown wheat came through the winter with a minimum of damage, an early spring season favoured the planting of spring crops and moisture conditions were such as to ensure good germination. The weather has since turned cool and dry and there are complaints of backwardness from some countries, but the crop situation on the whole continues promising although the most hazardous period still lies ahead.

In the five years before the outbreak of war (1935-39), the average wheat crop produced on the European continent, ex-Russia, was approximately 1.6 billion bushels, but the best available estimates of production during the first three years of the war show that crops fell short of this average by about 300 million bushels each year. Reserve stocks accumulated before the war have been dissipated in the course of meeting the annual deficiency of production in the war years and, as a result, the crops in 1943 have a special significance for the Nazis and the occupied countries.

Bread rationing has been very stringent in Europe over the past year and wheat flour has been but one of many elements in the baker's formula. Potato flour, barley meal and other ingredients have been made to supplement the wheat flour supply and quality standards have deteriorated as a consequence. Some of the occupied countries, and particularly Belgium, Norway and Greece, have suffered considerable hardship but

some relief has been afforded the Greek people by the gift of 500,000 bushels of Canadian wheat monthly, the shipments of which commenced last August.

The position in Russia is difficult to measure. Large tracts of good wheat land were recovered in the winter offensive but the immediate benefits may not be very significant. Retention of the reconquered territory will add to food supplies in the long run but it is very probable that Russia will need a lot of food, including wheat or wheat flour from North America in 1943. Military developments this summer are still a factor to be reckoned with and at the moment these are unpredictable.

Crop news from the United Kingdom is of a generally encouraging nature from the standpoint of the British people. Wheat acreage has been substantially increased and unofficial estimates place the area seeded to wheat for the 1943 harvest at 3.2 million acres compared with a pre-war acreage of about 1.7 million acres. It is true that much of the increase this year appears to be in spring-sown grain and the yields from this are seldom as good as the yields from wheat sown in the fall. The 1942 wheat crop was very large, but the United Kingdom continues to draw heavily on outside sources for wheat and flour supplies despite stringent measures adopted to curtail the use of valuable cargo space.

The wheat crisis which loomed up in India some months ago has been dispelled by the harvesting of a crop officially estimated at 409 million bushels compared with 376 million bushels produced a year ago. Heavy importations from Australia were contemplated, but it is doubtful now whother any significant amounts will be brought into the country this year. A sudden change in weather conditions in the closing stages of the growing season worked miracles in the crop yield.

Visible Supply of Wheat

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Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on May 27 totalled 403,347,258 bushels, including 390,802,125 in Canadian positions and 12,545,133 in United States positions. A week ago stocks totalled 404,236,644 bushels, while the total on May 28 last year was 419,006,297 bushels.

Farmers' Marketings of Wheat

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed a total of 4,465,094 bushels of wheat during the week ending May 27 as compared with 4,355,517 in the previous week. During the elapsed portion of the crop year marketings aggregated 206,072,112 bushels as compared with 188,341,550 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Production of Wheat Flour in April

Flour production in Canadian mills amounted to 2,057,353 barrels in April as compared with 1,960,900 in the corresponding month last year. Total output for the nine months of the current crop year aggregated 17,649,127 barrels as compared with 15,246,534 in the like period of the previous crop year. The percentage of output to capacity in April this year was 93.0.

Grains ground in Canadian mills in April wore as follows in bushels, figures for April last year being in brackets: wheat, 9,098,609 (8,688,054); oats, 1,170,489 (810,675); corn, 168,886 (204,871); barley, 443,285 (255,997); buckwheat, 1,154 (1,071); and mixed grain, 2,688,887 (2,134,770).

Estimate of the Tobacco Crop

According to the third estimate, the total commercial production of Canadian raw leaf tobacco in 1942 was 34,052,850 pounds, a decrease of 6.9 per cent from the 91,160,-600 pounds produced in 1941. The decrease was largely in the Ontario flue-cured crop of 62,637,000 pounds which represents 74 per cent of the entire Canadian crop. The total area planted in 1942 was 75,320 acres as compared with 70,560 acres planted in 1941. Indications are that the 1943 plants will be considerably smaller. The gross farm value of the 1942 crop is estimated at \$20,254,800 as compared with \$13,614,200 paid for the 1941 crop, an increase of \$1,640,600 or 8.8 per cent. Practically the entire crop has been sold at prices averaging 3.5 cents per pound higher than in the previous year.

Fruit Crop Prospects

Cool, backward weather has prevailed throughout the spring in all the fruit producing areas. Development of the trees and plants is at present two to three weeks behind that of last year at the same time. The present outlook for fruit crops throughout the Dominion is average to below average. Among the tree fruits, apples, pear, plum, prune and cherry crops are all expected to be about average in size, while the peach and apricot crops will be considerably smaller than those harvested last season. Strawberry production is expected to be somewhat below average, while the raspberry harvest will not be as large as that of a year ago. It is still too early to indicate the probable size of the loganberry and grape crops but the plantations came through the winter with little damage and the present growth is satisfactory.

Production of Fertilizers

Production of fertilizers and of fertilizer materials totalled 701,681 short tons during the twelve months ended June 1942 compared with 590,085 short tons in the preceding twelve month period. These totals do not include calcium cyanamide, the figures for which are not available for publication. The 1942 total is made up of 357,786 short tons of mixtures and 343,895 short tons of materials as compared with 302,322 tons of mixtures and 287,763 tons of fertilizer materials produced in the same period in 1940-41.

Sales of fertilizer materials and of mixed fertilizers, including exports but excluding calcium cyanamide, totalled 607,679 short tens compared with 403,294 during the preceding twelve menths. Sales of fertilizer materials at 79,732 short tens rose 6.9 per cent and the sales of mixed fertilizers increased 39 per cent to 347,411 short tens. Only three provinces, namely, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan purchased less materials than in the previous year.

Farm Mortgages in 1941

According to a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics the amount of mortgages and agreements for sale on owner-occupied farms and buildings in Canada in 1941 totalled \$629,228,000 compared with \$671,776,000 in 1931, a decrease of 6.3 per cent. The figure for 1941 includes \$463,295,600 in the form of mortgages and \$165,-933,400 in agreements for sale. Liens held against crops, livestock, farm implements, etc. in 1941 totalled \$23,304,940. The number of farms reporting mortgages or agreements for sale in 1941 was 265,282 compared with 242,350 in 1931.

Retail Sales of Gasoline in January

Returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from the gasoline tax departments of the Frovincial Governments show that 46,138,000 gallons of gasoline were sold at retail during January as compared with 58,409,000 in the corresponding month last year. Totals follow by provinces, with 1942 figures in brackets: Frince Edward Island, 367,000(270,000) gallons; Nova Scotia, 2,875,000(2,346,000); New Brunswick, 1,504,000(1,692,000); Quebec, 7,555,000(9,413,000); Ontario, 18,377,000(26,501,000); Manitoba, 2,819,000(3,901,000); Saskatchewan, 2,964,000(4,075,000); Alberta, 4,502,000(5,375,000); British Columbia, 5,175,000(4,835,000).

Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing in April

Domestic sales of asphalt roofing in Canada in April included 191,369 squares of shingles, siding and roofing and 2,622 tons of felts and sheathing as compared with 178,897 squares of the former and 2,432 tons of the latter in April last year.

Production of Crude Fetroleum in February

The Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in February totalled 779,998 barrels compared with 860,790 in the previous month and 846,026 in the corresponding month last year. The total for the two months ended February was 1,640,788 barrels as compared with 1,721,685 in the like period of 1942.

Age Structure of the Canadian Fogulation

The principal change that has taken place between 1931 and 1941 in the age structure of the population of Canada may be summarized as follows: children and young persons under 20 years of age constituted 37.5 per cent of the population in 1941 as compared with 41.6 per cent in 1931; the population between 20 and 64 years of age represented 55.8 per cent of the total population in 1941 as compared with 52.3 per cent in 1931; the population 65 years and over was 6.7 per cent of the total population in 1941 as compared with 5.5 per cent in 1931. In brief, the figures quoted indicate a trend toward an aging of the population of Canada.

In no province has the number of children under 10 years of age increased by as great a percentage as the total population of the province concerned. Indeed, in only four of the provinces, the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, were there more children under 10 years of age in 1941 than in 1931. In Quebec the decline was slight, while in Ontario and the Frairie Provinces it was more marked, being about six per cent for Ontario and Alberta, 13 per cent for Manitoba and 20 per cent for Saskatchewan. The case of Saskatchewan merits special examination. In the decade 1931-1941 the population of that province declined by 25,793 persons. During the same period the population under 10 years of age decreased by 43,249, while even the population from 10 to 19 years of age fell off by 20,170.

The age group, 20 to 44 years of age, showed increases in numbers over this decade in every province with the exception of Saskatchewan. In Prince Edward Island the population in this age group rose from 27,129 in 1931 to 31,727 in 1941, an increase of 17 per cent; in Nova Scotia, from 164,587 to 208,661, or by 27 per cent; in New Brunswick from 129,506 to 157,778, or by 22 per cent; in Quebec, from 1,014,471 to 1,233,587, or by 22 per cent; in Contario, from 1,283,186 to 1,444,900, or by 13 per cent; in Manitoba, from 256,242 to 274,661, or by seven per cent; in Alberta, from 273,671 to 295,089, or by eight per cent; and in British Columbia from 261,849 to 309,619, or by 13 per cent. In Saskatchewan the population in this age groups decreased from 325,463 to 316,697, or by three per cent. In most provinces the rate of increase in this age group was greater than that shown for all ages.

The same tendency for the population to increase at a faster rate in the age group, 45 to 64 years of age, than for all ages was true for most of the provinces. Summarizing the figures by provinces it may be stated that the percentage increase in the population in this age group between 1931 and 1941 for all provinces combined was 23.4 per cent as compared with a percentage increase of 11.1 per cent for all ages.

The tendency of the population in the older age groups to ferm a larger proportion of the population is indicated by a comparison of the relative increase in the population 70 years of age and over and the population of all ages over the past decade. In connection with Old Age Fensions the age group, 70 years and over, may be of some interest. In only one province, Frince Edward Island, has this group increased by a smaller percentage than the total population. The following comparison of the percentage increases in this group and the percentage changes in the total population of the provinces (the latter in brackets) is instructive: Frince Edward Island, 4 per cent (8 per cent); Nova Scotia, 14.4 per cent (12.8 per cent); New Frünswick, 18 per cent (12 per cent); Quebec, 26 per cent (18 per cent); Ontario, 31 per cent (10.4 per cent); Manitoba, 48 per cent (4.2 per cent); Saskatchewan, 47 per cent (-2.7 per cent); Alberta, 81.4 per cent (8.7 per cent); British Columbia 85 per cent (18 per cent).

April Production of Iron and Steel

Canada's April production of pig iron amounted to \$50,486 net tons, including 126,877 tons of basic iron, 10,170 tons of foundry iron and 13,439 tons of malleable iron. During the first four months of this year production aggregated 565,154 tons compared with 634,653 in the like period of 1942.

Production of steel ingots and castings in April totalled 264,357 net tons compared with 264,988 in the corresponding month last year. Output in April this year included 251,460 tons of ingots and 12,897 tons of castings. Output of steel ingots and castings during the four months ended April totalled 987,915 tons compared with 1,032,328 a year.

Production of forro-alloys in April amounted to 17,094 net tons compared with 18,611 in the previous month and 18,128 in April, 1942. During the four months ended April production totalled 69,493 tons compared with 73,751 a year ago.

Output of Central Electric Stations

The output of central electric stations during April amounted to 3,268,197,000 kilowatt hours which was a daily average of 103,940,000 kilowatt hours, a new high record. This was six per cent above the April 1942 output and 1.4 per cent over the March daily average. The index number on the base 1935-1939=100 reached a new high at 163.0 as against 146.5 for March.

Consumption of secondary power decreased from 230,672,000 kilowatt hours in April 1942 to 189,264,000, and consumption of primary power increased from 2,627,713,000 to 2,860,472,000, which on a daily basis was second only to the March consumption. Tho index number adjusted for seasonal variations rose to annew high at 202.2 as against 200.2 for March.

Retail Merchandise Trade in Nova Scotia

Retail sales in Nova Scotia totalled almost \$160,000,000 in 1941 according to preliminary compilations for the census of merchandising and service establishments. There were 6,532 retail stores in the province in 1941 with sales totalled \$158,634,400 an increase of 59 per cent over the \$99,519,900 recorded for 1930, the only other years for which complete retail trade statistics are available.

Production of Leather Footwear in April

Production of leather footwear in April amounted to 2,929,759 pairs as compared with 3,185,049 in the previous month and 2,774,128 in the corresponding month last year. During the first four months of this year production totalled 11,552,999 pairs as compared with 10,785,695 in the corresponding period of 1942.

Reports Issued This Week

- The Cooking and Heating Apparatus Industry, 1941 (25 cents). Birthplace of the Fogulation of Saskatchewan, 1941 (10 cents).
- The Sheet Motal Products Industry, 1941 (25 cents). 4. The Fortilizer Trade in Canada, 1942 (25 cents).
- Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
- Canadian Milling Statistics, April (10 conts). 6.
- Production of Leather Footwear, April (10 cents). G. Language and Mother Tongue - British Columbia (10 cents).
 9. Retail Merchandise Trade in Nova Scotia, 1941 (25 cents).
- 10. Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report (10 cents).
- 11. Tobacco Crop Report (10 cents).
- 12. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
- Railway Revonue Freight Loadings, April (10 cents). Central Electric Stations, April (10 cents). The Printing Trades, 1941 (35 cents). 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16. Production of Iron and Steel, April (10 cents).
- 17. Monthly Roview of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
- 18. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 conts).
 19. Cordage, Rope and Twine Industry, 1941 (25 cents).
 20. Sand and Gravel Industry, 1941 (25 cents).
 21. Canadian Age Groups, 1941 (10 cents).

- Farm Mortgagos, Agreements for Sale and Rebts Covered by Lions, 1941 (10 cents).
- 22. Farm Mortgagos, Agreements for Sale and mests covered by States, 23. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, February; and Gasoline Sales, Towns (10 cents).
- January (10 cents).
 24. Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing, April (10 cents).
- 25. Production of Asphalt Roofing, April (10 cents).
- 26. Canal Statistics, 1942 (25 cents).
 27. Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities in Canada, June 1 (10 cents).
- 28. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, April (10 cents).
 29. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, April (10 cents).



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