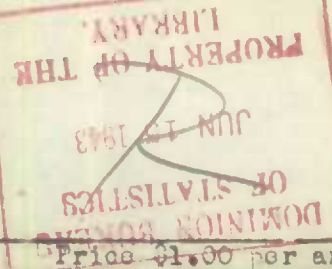


WEEKLY BULLETIN

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The National Income

Economic conditions recorded marked betterment in the first four months of 1943 over the same period of the preceding year. Owing to the gain in economic activity and the slightly higher level of commodity prices, the monthly estimate of national income rose to a new high position in April. The national income has shown an upward trend without important interruption since 1938. The estimate for April was nearly \$736 million, equivalent to an annual rate of about \$2,832 million for the year. During the first four months a tentative computation of the national income was \$2,350 million against \$2,298 million in the same period of last year, a gain of 24 per cent. The totals for the months of January, February and March of this year were \$687 million, \$700 million and \$727 million, respectively. The totals for the first three months of last year in the same order were \$560 million, \$556 million and \$583 million.

The continued advance in productive operations was due mainly to the stimulus of war demands. The index of the physical volume of business advanced from 193 in the first four months of 1942 to 230, a gain of 19.3 per cent. The change in wholesale prices has been of a relatively moderate character since November, 1941, but an upward trend has been shown from the outbreak of hostilities. The index of wholesale prices was 98.0 in the first four months of the present year against 94.8, a gain of 3.4 per cent over the same period of last year. The gain in the cost of living was of even lesser proportions. The index was 117.2 against 115.7, an increase of only 1.3 per cent.

Considerable fluctuation has been shown in the deposit liabilities of the chartered banks, but an important upward trend has been recorded since August, 1939. A new high point was reached at the beginning of April, the gain over the average for the first three months of 1942 having been slightly more than 13 per cent.

Cost of Living in May

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index on the base 1935-1939-100 advanced from 117.6 on April 1 to 118.1 on May 1. The May increase was affected by group indexes for foods, rents, and miscellaneous items. The food index, which mounted from 128.7 to 129.9, contributed the major part of the advance. Although eggs recorded further slight declines, meats were generally higher and potatoes and onions also increased in price. The rent index gained fractionally from 111.3 to 111.5. The miscellaneous items index increased from 107.7 to 108.0, due to an advance in the periodicals sub-group. Other indexes remained unchanged, fuel and light at 112.7, clothing at 120.2, and home-furnishings and services at 117.3.

Wholesale Prices in May

Advances for foods and manufacturing materials were sufficient to move the composite weekly index for 30 industrial material prices 0.2 points higher to 96.9 between April 30 and May 23. For five foods there was an index advance of 0.2 points to 94.6 in this interval, due to increases for oats and steers which outweighed declines for wheat and hogs. The manufacturing materials series stiffened 0.1 to 82.7 on an advance in rosin, while the stable group of 12 items held steady at 116.0.

Exceeding the previous 13-year peak of 92.5 in July 1937, Canadian farm products prices moved to a new peak of 94.5 for the week of May 7, while the month's closing figure of 94.4 indicated a gain of 1.9 over the final April level. On higher prices for rye, potatoes, onions and prairie hay, field products advanced 2.7 points to 79.7 during May, while an increase of 0.6 points to 119.1 for animal products reflected stronger quotations for certain livestock items and sheepskins which outweighed a moderate seasonal reaction for eggs.

Civil Aviation in December

Revenue passengers carried by civil air carriers in December numbered 15,690, an increase of more than two thousand over December, 1941. Revenue freight at 835,235 pounds was a more than 27,000 increase. Mail at 674,942 pounds was by far the heaviest in any month.

Few Civil Aviation Accidents

Only three persons lost their lives in 1942 in accidents of licensed Canadian aircraft companies. There were nine fatalities in 1941. No accidents occurred with the unlicensed and international operators making monthly reports last year. There were five pilots killed in private, training and other civil aviation.

The average speed of all aircraft included in statistics increased from 130 miles per hour in 1941 to 137 in 1942. The average horsepower increased over 14 per cent, which accounts for greater consumption of gasoline per aircraft hour, although on a horsepower basis it was reduced by 2.7 per cent. Passenger travel increased from 193,097 in 1941 to 214,691. Air mail increased 55 per cent to 5,258,071 pounds.

Output of Leading Mineral Products

The output of certain of Canada's leading mineral products during the first quarter of 1943 was as follows, figures for the corresponding period of 1942 being in brackets: cement, 1,009,234(982,708) barrels; clay products, \$1,136,077(\$1,093,371); coal, 4,825,509 (5,241,510) tons; feldspar, 4,740(4,724) tons; gold, 1,009,593(1,220,497) fine ounces; gypsum, 85,514(190,946) tons; lime, 227,021(213,165) tons; natural gas, 14,985,610,000 (14,330,812,000) cubic feet; petroleum, 2,501,867(2,644,684) barrels; commercial salt, 71,486(61,692) tons; silver, 4,999,805(4,621,891) fine ounces.

Diamond Drilling in 1942

With the speeding up of the huge armament programs of the Allied Nations, manufacturers of diamond tools are working to capacity. Not the least encouraging aspect of the present position is that the Allied Nations are able to call on the combined resources of the three most important producers of industrial diamonds in the world -- the Union of South Africa, the Congo, and Brazil. The enemy countries, in comparison, are in an extremely bad position regarding industrial diamonds.

Firms reported as actively engaged in the contract diamond drilling of Canadian mining properties in 1942 totalled 28. Operations were conducted in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. The total income received by the entire industry from contract drilling operations completed during the year under review amounted to \$3,147,532 compared with \$3,122,487 in 1941. The average number of employees in 1942 totalled 1,019 as against 1,455 in the preceding year. Salaries and wages paid in 1942 amounted to \$1,597,040. The total footage drilled throughout the Dominion during 1942 aggregated 2,960,364 of which 52 per cent was conducted in Ontario, 33 per cent in Quebec and 9 per cent in British Columbia.

Employment at the Beginning of April

Industrial employment at the beginning of April showed general curtailment, in conformity with the trend in 18 of the previous 22 years of the record. The decline, which was below-average in extent, took place very largely in logging and construction, from which some 12,700 and 4,900 persons, respectively, were released by the cooperating firms. Mining also was quieter. Heightened activity was indicated in the remaining industrial groups; the greatest expansion was in manufacturing, transportation and trade, with smaller gains in services. The general increases, however, were moderate in all cases, that of 3,874 workers in manufacturing being the smallest seasonal advance indicated since the outbreak of war. The durable goods industries reported the addition of some 4,000 workers, but there was a slight falling-off in other classes.

Vegetable Production in Quebec

The acreage devoted to vegetable production in Quebec in 1941, as recorded by the Census, was 30,260 acres compared with 30,121 in 1940. The value of the crop in 1940 was \$3,083,509. By far the most important crop from a monetary point of view was tomatoes at \$829,079. Other leading crops were as follows: sweet corn, \$299,962; beans, \$193,427; peas in pod, \$185,941; dry onions, \$173,196; topped carrots, \$185,255; cucumbers, \$130,206; late cabbage, \$126,086; head lettuce, \$95,828; early cabbage, \$83,928; leaf lettuce, \$65,715; late cauliflower, \$51,789; green onions, \$59,339; topped beets, \$47,926; bunched beets, \$40,871.

Crop Conditions in the Prairie Provinces

Sunshine and heat are the general need of grain crops in the Prairie Provinces although in Alberta and some districts in Saskatchewan more rain would be welcome. Very little seeding of any crop remains to be done in Manitoba while in Saskatchewan about 10 per cent of the coarse grain and 15 per cent of the flaxseed crops have still to be planted. Alberta is trailing the other two provinces and shows only 95 per cent of the wheat and 75 per cent of the other grain crops seeded to date.

Heavy rains fell in Manitoba and parts of Alberta while showers were fairly general in Saskatchewan during the past week. The moisture situation in Manitoba is now ample for immediate crop needs and is excessive in the heavy soil areas, but in the other two provinces, and especially in Alberta, there are many districts still in need of rain to improve pastures and ensure germination of late sown grains.

Crops are well rooted in all three provinces and wheat and coarse grain crops are largely showing above ground but are now in need of warmth to offset the backwardness. Wheat shows considerable variation but in parts of Manitoba and in southern Alberta is six inches high.

Pasture conditions on the whole are satisfactory except in Alberta where they are spotty and in need of rain in some areas. Live stock appear to be in generally satisfactory condition.

Grocery Trade in April

Statements received from 72 of the larger wholesale grocery stores in Canada showed a six per cent increase in the April sales compared with 1942, but sales declined by seven per cent from the March level. The declines were in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. Cumulative indexes for the first four months of 1943 were four per cent higher than a year ago.

Stocks in the hands of grocers on April 30 had a 14 per cent lower value than the inventories of a year ago but were practically unchanged from the merchandise value at the end of March. Normally stocks at the beginning of April are 33 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in the ensuing month and the stock position at the beginning of April had fallen considerably below the normal situation at this time of the year.

Sales of 893 chain store units operated by 26 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged four per cent lower in April than a year ago. And the average sales per store at \$14,779 were one per cent lower than for the same month of 1942. Sales decreased by two per cent in Quebec, and 7 per cent in Ontario, and were unchanged in British Columbia while an increase of 4 per cent was recorded in the Prairie Provinces. Sales of 894 independent groceries or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 17 per cent over the same month last year. The increase was shared by all regions of the country.

Retail Sales in April

Retail sales in April averaged 11 per cent higher than in March and were up eight per cent over April last year. The eight per cent gain over April a year ago was somewhat higher than the average increase during the first quarter of the year which averaged six per cent higher than for the corresponding months of 1942 but the 11 per cent increase in April over March was somewhat less than the usual seasonal movement for this period of the year, having regard to the fact that Easter business was transacted entirely in April this year.

Sales for men's specialty shops were unchanged compared with a year ago; radio and electrical shops declined 14 per cent while hardware store sales were down five per cent. All other lines of business for which separate details were available registered increases. Shoe store sales averaged eight per cent higher and women's specialty shops transacted 17 per cent more business. All regions of the country shared in the increased dollar volume.

April Wholesale Sales

Three hundred of the larger wholesale trading establishments showed the April dollar volume of sales increased six per cent over April last year which is smaller than the gain in March but conforms closely with the trend of trading in January and February. Sales for the first four months averaged eight per cent higher than in the same period of 1942. Dollar sales in the fruit and vegetable trade were 35 per cent higher; sales went up 52 per cent in the western provinces while Ontario and the Maritimes did 20 and 28 per cent more business respectively. No allowances have been made for any increase in prices; the figures are based on dollar volume. Sales of tobacco and confectionery wholesalers were up 17 per cent.

Census of Retail Service Establishments in 1941

Preliminary results of the census of merchandising and service establishments taken in 1941 are contained in a report issued this week by the Bureau. This report covers those types of service establishments included in the scope of the census and consists chiefly of types of business establishments generally located in the retail marketing areas of urban centres, and whose primary activity is the sale of service rather than the distribution of merchandise.

There were 45,175 establishments included in the service section of the census and these had total annual receipts of \$223,952,300 in 1941. Payroll to full time and part time employees but exclusive of proprietors earnings amounted to \$51,452,300 while inventories carried by these service establishments at the end of the year were valued at \$9,401,400.

Most of the service establishments included in these figures may be divided into six broad groups; 1. Amusement or recreation service establishments such as motion picture theatres or bowling alleys; 2. Business services such as sign painting shops or collection agencies; 3. Personal service establishments, as for example, barber shops, laundries or dyeing and cleaning establishments; 4. Photographers; 5. Funeral directors 6. Repair shops of different kinds.

The Census of Service Establishments does not include the activities of doctors, lawyers, dentists or other professions. It does not include the fields of finance, education, real estate or transportation. Nor does it include public utilities or trade services such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing or tinsmithing, fields which are covered by other branches of the Bureau of Statistics.

Summary of 1942 Storage Reports

"Refrigeration is one of the important factors in Canada's war effort. Yesterday many people thought of cold storage warehouses as a luxury for food profiteers -- today refrigeration is a front line fighter in our battle for freedom." This is a quotation from a speech made to the Canadian Warehousemen's Association in 1942, and is repeated in the introduction of a summary of storage reports for 1942 issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics this week and prepared by the Agricultural Branch.

This important summary gives final data on stocks of food commodities in dairy factories, and in cold storage and other wholesale warehouses, including meat packing plants throughout Canada. No fewer than 1,107 establishments were visited during 1942 by a Bureau Inspector. Most of these inspections were in dairy factories but many were also made in cold storage, meat-packing plants and abbatoirs, wholesale warehouses of grocers, butchers, fruit and produce firms, and in condenseries and jam manufacturing plants. Visits were also made to Government officials and special investigations conducted.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended May 29 dropped to 62,003 cars from 67,256 for the previous week. The 24th of May, although not a legal holiday for the first time in years, was probably a factor in this decrease. A year ago loadings amounted to 63,386 cars.

In the eastern division the total decreased from 42,350 cars in 1942 to 40,435 and in the western division it increased from 21,036 to 21,518 cars. Western coal loadings increased from 993 to 1,789 cars, live stock from 877 to 1,294 cars and merchandise from 3,120 to 3,465 cars.

Coal Production in April

Production of coal in April amounted to 1,380,983 tons compared with 1,523,885 in April last year and with a five-year average for the month of 1,165,162. Nova Scotia reported an output of 534,222 tons compared with 676,550 a year ago. Alberta's production was 568,132 compared with 527,627 while British Columbia's output at 164,308 tons was 17 per cent less.

April Imports of Coal

The April imports of coal totalled 1,332,539 tons compared with 1,731,543 a year ago and the five-year April average of 726,980. Importations included 389,647 tons of anthracite, 942,826 of bituminous and 66 tons of lignite. Coal available for consumption during April totalled 2,630,597 tons compared with 3,221,989 a year ago.

Coke Production in April

Production of coke in April from ovens and gas retorts amounted to 267,520 tons compared with 275,838 in March and 270,342 in April last year. The April tonnage included 89,509 tons made in the eastern provinces, 153,024 in Ontario and 24,987 in the western provinces. Stocks of coke in April amounted to 334,790 tons compared with 313,997 a year ago.

Quebec's Immigration Population in 1941

The population of Quebec in 1941 was 3,331,882 of whom 3,107,939 were born in Canada and 223,628 born outside of Canada. The naturalized population was 66,245 making the number of British subjects 3,291,042. The total alien population, that is alien by country of allegiance, numbered 40,821 as against 70,558 at the 1931 Census. The bulk of the alien population were classified as follows, according to their country of birth: United States 11,325; Poland 5,238; Russia 2,907; Italy 2,592; Czechoslovakia 1,860; Hungary 1,784; China 1,716; Finland 1,209; Germany 1,086; Scandinavia 1,080. There were 9,394 from other European nations. The great majority of the alien population of Quebec is located in the urban centres. There are some, of course, in Quebec whose country of origin was not given to Census officials.

Quebec Population by Birthplace

The population of Quebec in 1941 was 3,331,882. Of these 2,997,489 were born in that province. Those born elsewhere included the following; Prince Edward Island, 1,727; Nova Scotia 8,903; New Brunswick 17,055; Ontario 70,237; Manitoba 4,403; Saskatchewan 3,393; Alberta 2,237; British Columbia 1,419; England 54,010; Ireland 8,473; Scotland 22,233. Newfoundland 4,206; United States 50,229; Austria 3,501; Finland 1,577; Germany 2,130; Italy 9,195; Poland 13,692; Roumania 5,704; Russia 16,645; Scandinavia 2,116; China 2,027.

Gold Production in March

Canada's gold production in March was 347,682 fine ounces compared with 327,404 in February and 439,203 in March 1942. The following was the production by provinces, with March 1942 figures in brackets: Ontario 195,701(253,081) ounces; Quebec 95,499(98,944); British Columbia 24,502(50,483); Manitoba and Saskatchewan 25,368(27,504); Yukon 406(49); Northwest Territories 6,206(8,044); Nova Scotia one ounce (1,018).

Creamery Butter Production

Creamery butter production in May increased approximately nine per cent as compared with May 1942, and increased 40 per cent over the previous month. The May production was 32,000,000 pounds. There was an increase in all provinces except Ontario and British Columbia.

Cheese Production

Cheese production in May was approximately 14,300,000 pounds which was a decrease of 42 per cent as compared with May 1942, but was more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ times greater than in the previous month. The May decrease as compared with a year ago occurred in all provinces.

Reports Issued Today

1. Gold Production in Canada, March (10 cents).
 2. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, June 1 (10 cents).
 3. Stocks of Fish in Cold Storage, June 1 (10 cents).
 4. Stocks of Meat and Lard, June 1 (10 cents).
 5. Stocks of Canadian Fruit and Vegetables, June 1 (10 cents).
 6. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 7. Immigration and Citizenship - Quebec, 1941 (10 cents).
 8. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 9. Price Movements, May (10 cents).
 10. Coal and Coke Statistics, April (10 cents).
 11. Indexes of Wholesale Sales, April (10 cents).
 12. Retail Service Establishments, 1941 (25 cents).
 13. Current Trends in Food Distribution, April (10 cents).
 14. Summary of Cold Storage Reports, 1942 (25 cents).
 15. Indexes of Retail Sales, April (10 cents).
 16. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
 17. Employment Situation, April (10 cents).
 18. Civil Aviation, December (10 cents).
 18. Civil Aviation, 1942 (10 cents).
 20. Economic Conditions, First Four Months of 1943 (10 cents).
 21. Diamond Drilling Industry, 1942 (10 cents).
 22. Area Production and Value of Farms, 1940 (10 cents).
 23. Canada's Leading Mineral Products, March (10 cents).
 24. Birthplace of the Population of Quebec, 1941 (10 cents).
 25. Geographical Distribution of the Manufacturing Industries, 1940 (25 cents).
 26. Traffic Report of Railways, February (10 cents).
 27. Monthly Dairy Review, May (10 cents).
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