

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Business Advance in May

Productive operations recorded further acceleration in May over the preceding month. The index of the physical volume of business was 237.8 compared with the high point of 236.9 in April. Four of the five main components showed advances. The index of manufacturing advanced from 296.7 to 297.9. The new business obtained by the construction industry was at a considerably higher level. Contracts awarded were \$23.5 million against \$16.0 million, the index advancing from 81.9 to 94.1. The increase in building permits was less than normal for the season. The output of electric power was 3,503 million kilowatt hours against 3,268 million, the index advancing eight points to 161. The output was greater than in any other month in the history of the industry. The index of distribution including the volume of traffic carried by the steam railways, retail and wholesale sales and external trade recoded to 157.2.

A number of industries manufacturing goods for civilian purposes recorded decline in May, but further increases in the output of munitions and war supplies more than counterbalanced the recession in other lines. An index of activity in the textile industry rose from 155 to 165.4. The consumption of raw cotton was practically maintained. Advances were shown in the wool and rayon divisions. The factors indicating the trend in the forestry group showed an advance. The output of newsprint was 251,046 tons against 229,573, the index advancing from 89 to nearly 95. Timber scaled in British Columbia in the latest month was 234 million feet against 164 million in the preceding month, the index advancing from 80.6 to 98.1.

The primary iron and steel industry recorded a greater output. The index for the iron and steel group was 609.5 against 603. Decline was shown in the flour milling industry in the latest month for which statistics are available. The release of cigarettes was 907.1 million against 986.7 million in April, the index receding from 203.4 to 158.1. The output of cigars was nearly 17 million against 16.8 million in the preceding month, the increase being less than seasonal expectations. Declines were shown in the operations of the meat-packing and dairy industries after seasonal adjustment. The index of livestock marketings, however, rose from 86.6 to 88.9. The index of grain marketings at country elevators was 290 against 257 in April. The increase in the index of cold storage holdings was from 171.6 to 178.3.

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

	1943	
	April	May
Physical Volume of Business .....	236.9	237.8
Industrial Production .....	274.4	276.7
Mineral Production .....	281.2	285.0
Gold Receipts .....	117.6	102.7
Coal Production .....	146.1	132.9
Manufacturing .....	296.7	297.9
Flour Production* .....	198.6	189.5
Rolled Oats Production* .....	95.0	72.5
Inspected Slaughterings .....	159.7	154.9
Cattle .....	109.9	106.2
Sheep .....	131.6	106.9
Hogs .....	199.7	195.0
Creamery Butter .....	148.8	121.2
Factory Cheese .....	209.1	146.0
Tobacco .....	201.3	157.8
Cigar Releases .....	175.7	151.1
Cigarette Releases .....	203.4	168.1
Boots and Shoes Production* .....	135.3	130.6
Textiles .....	155.0	165.4
Cotton Consumption .....	155.9	154.5
Forestry .....	116.0	118.5
Newsprint .....	89.2	94.9
Iron and Steel .....	603.0	609.5
Pig Iron Production .....	250.2	238.4
Steel Production .....	236.1	266.9

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

	April 1943	May
Construction .....	83.7	91.3
Contracts Awarded .....	81.9	94.1
Building Permits .....	91.1	80.3
Cost of Construction .....	129.8	129.8
Electric Power .....	153.0	161.2
Distribution .....	159.2	157.2
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings .....	224.9	252.7
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators .....	256.7	290.4
Wheat .....	301.2	345.5
Oats .....	613.9	900.8
Live Stock Marketings .....	86.6	88.9
Cattle .....	88.1	91.2
Calves .....	82.3	85.9
Hogs .....	94.3	95.7
Shoep .....	64.7	58.3
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month .....	171.6	178.3
Eggs .....	216.9	189.4
Butter .....	245.8	249.2
Cheese .....	110.7	150.6
Beef .....	119.3	116.1
Pork .....	129.6	128.5
Mutton .....	61.3	63.3
Poultry .....	57.5	53.0
Lard .....	61.2	72.5
Veal .....	107.1	138.1

\* Preceding Month.

Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on June 24 totalled 402,915,697 bushels, including 389,249,963 in Canadian positions and 13,665,734 in United States positions. On the corresponding date last year the stocks totalled 407,015,379 bushels.

Farmers' Marketings of Wheat

During the week ending June 24 farmers in western Canada delivered 8,961,302 bushels of wheat as compared with 9,743,186 in the previous week. From the commencement of the crop year to June 24 marketings totalled 236,536,646 bushels compared with 198,670,020 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Condition of the Tobacco Crop

Unfavourable weather conditions during the seedbed and planting periods, an acute shortage of labour and the higher prices being paid for competitive crops have combined to reduce the 1943 tobacco crop, according to a preliminary survey which indicates a reduction of approximately 10 per cent from the 75,320 acres planted in 1942. Reductions are common to all types of tobacco and are general in the three producing provinces.

Growth was slow in the seedbeds and in the fields during the early planting period with the result that crop development is practically two weeks later than normal. Planting operations have been retarded from 10 days to two weeks due to the heavy and almost continuous rains. Little damage from disease and insect pests is in evidence so far.



### Crop Conditions in Canada

Warmer weather has stimulated growth of crops in all parts of Canada during the past week but there is still a need for sunshine and heat in most sections of the country. Seeding is not yet completed in the Maritime Provinces but good progress was made the past week and recent fine weather has also improved the crop prospects. Potato planting is proceeding apace. Growth of pastures is improving but clover stands are below average in Prince Edward Island and timothy fields are thin. The hay crop looks promising on the whole.

Some seeding remains to be done in Quebec. Weather has been very variable during the past two weeks but in the last seven days all crops made progress during a spell of fine, warm weather. Haying is now under way. The condition of meadows and pastures is excellent and a good milk flow seems assured. Weed growth has been heavy as the result of rains and insects seem to be more prevalent than usual. In Ontario the outlook for fall wheat appears a little brighter and early sown grains made good progress in the past two weeks, but late sown crops are just emerging. Live stock are doing well on good pastures. Labour presents an acute problem but some help is coming from the west. Haying is now in full swing and the crop is heavy.

Crops made fairly rapid growth over the greater part of the three Prairie Provinces during the past week as the result of generally warmer weather but sunshine and heat in larger doses are still needed to hasten development of all crops, especially the late sown grains. Early wheat and barley are in the shot blade and the height of wheat varies from an average of nine inches in Saskatchewan to about 16 inches in sections of Manitoba. All crops are well rooted and respond well to heat and sunshine where the moisture supply is favourable, but in the dry sections of south-eastern Alberta the drought continues. In some instances farmers have turned their cattle into grain fields because of the lack of grass on the range. Insect damage is noted in places but on the whole is not serious. Some injury to flax was caused by a wind storm in Saskatchewan on June 23 but the flax crop on the whole appears to be doing fairly well on a much larger acreage. Sunflower and rape seed crops in Manitoba are doing fairly well but corn is backward.

The weather in British Columbia has been more settled since June 24 and temperatures have been higher. The first cutting of hay and alfalfa is now in full swing and fall wheat looks very promising and appears to be filling well. Recent rains have greatly improved spring sown grains although some fields are patchy. Pastures show improvement. Strawberry production is now at the peak and the raspberries are now beginning to move to market. Commercial supplies are expected about July 1.

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### Wholesale Prices in May

Increases of 0.8 points in animal products, 0.5 in vegetable products and 0.3 in wood, wood products and paper were sufficient to advance the general level of wholesale prices, on the base 1926=100, 0.3 points to 99.2 in May. The increase in animal products to 106.5 reflected firmer prices for halibut, furs, sheepskins, livestock, fresh meats, fowl and eggs. These outweighed a decline in milk products due to a drop in the price of butter.

Vegetable products moved to 90.4 on strength in oranges, rye, onions, potatoes, hay and rosin. The wood, wood products and paper index advanced from 107.3 to 107.6. Other component group indexes were unchanged at 91.9 for fibres, textiles and textile products, 115.1 for iron and its products; 79.7 for non-ferrous metals; 100.6 for non-metallic minerals and 100.5 for chemicals and allied products.

A composite index for 30 industrial material prices gained 0.1 to 96.8 in May on firmer quotations for the foods section. Higher prices for wheat, steers and hogs offset a minor recession in oats and the index for five foods rose 0.1 to 94.4 during the month. Both the stable series of 12 commodity prices and the manufacturing series of 13 items were unchanged at 116.0 and 82.6, respectively.

Advances in both field and animal products moved the composite Canadian farm product prices index 0.5 points higher to 92.8 in May. Field products showed a gain of 0.6 points to 77.4 reflecting firmer rye quotations coupled with higher prices for potatoes, onions and hay. Upward movements for livestock, sheepskins, fowl and eggs were responsible for a gain of 0.5 to 118.7 in animal products.

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## Official Language and Mother Tongue

According to the 1941 Census 1,474,009 persons in Canada could speak both official languages. About 70 per cent of these resided in urban areas and 30 per cent in rural areas. This number represented 12.8 per cent of the total population of Canada at the date of the census as compared with 12.7 per cent at the 1931 census. Among those who spoke one of the official languages, 7,735,486 spoke English only and 2,181,746 French only. There were also 115,414 persons in Canada at the 1941 census who could speak neither English nor French as compared with 275,165 in 1931.

At the 1941 census 6,488,190 persons reported English and 3,354,753 gave French as mother tongue. Other languages reported as mother tongue by 50,000 or more persons were: German 322,228; Ukrainian 313,273; Yiddish 129,806; Polish 128,711; Italian 80,260; Norwegian 60,084; Netherland 53,215; and Russian 52,341. By mother tongue in the census is meant the language learned in childhood and still understood by the person.

Persons reporting German as mother tongue were very largely found in the Prairie Provinces and Ontario. Over 70 per cent resided in the Prairie Provinces, and 20 per cent in Ontario. About 80 per cent of the population with Ukrainian mother tongue were located in the Prairie Provinces and about 15 per cent in Ontario. Four-fifths of the population whose mother tongue was Yiddish were found in Ontario and Quebec, about equally divided between these two provinces, and another 13 per cent in Manitoba. Just over half of the people with Polish mother tongue resided in the Prairie Provinces, and 35 per cent in Ontario.

Persons reporting Italian as mother tongue were concentrated in Ontario, with 53 per cent of the total, and in Quebec, accounting for 27 per cent. About 70 per cent of the people with Norwegian mother tongue resided in the Prairie Provinces, while 17 per cent were found in British Columbia. Over three-quarters of the population reporting the Netherland mother tongue were located in the Prairie Provinces and another 15 per cent in Ontario. Over half of the people whose mother tongue was given as Russian were living in the Prairie Provinces at the 1941 Census, another quarter in British Columbia and 16 per cent in Ontario.

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## Births, Deaths and Marriages in the Third Quarter of 1942

The number of live births registered in Canada during the third quarter of 1942 was 68,859 according to preliminary totals, giving an equivalent annual rate of 23.5 per 1,000 population. In the same period of 1942, 64,895 live births were recorded, the rate being 22.4. Stillbirths amounted to 1,738 or 25.2 per 1,000 live births as against 1,659 and a rate of 25.6. Deaths totalled 25,723 with a rate of 8.8 per 1,000 population compared with 26,415 and a rate of 9.1. There were 37,397 marriages giving a rate of 12.7 as compared with 37,891 or a rate of 13.1 in the third quarter of 1941.

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## Canadian Manufacturing Industries

The output of the manufacturing industries in 1941 attained a new high level of production, the total value being \$6,976,308,124, representing an increase of \$1,547,134,808 or 34.2 per cent as compared with the previous year. The food, textile and chemical industries were the first to feel the effects of the stimulated demands created by the war. With the progress of the war and its ever increasing demands for vehicles, aircraft and armaments of all kinds, the other groups, especially iron and non-ferrous metals, also experienced a tremendous expansion in production. For manufacturing as a whole there was an increase of 34.2 per cent in the gross value of production, 26.1 per cent in the number of persons employed, 37.4 per cent in the salaries and wages paid, and 34.1 per cent in the value added by manufacture.

The greatest expansion in production in 1941, as measured by the number of persons employed, was reported by the chemicals and allied products group with an increase of 95.1 per cent. This was followed by the iron and its products group with an increase of 54.4 per cent, miscellaneous industries 38.0 per cent, non-ferrous metal products 35.2 per cent, non-metallic mineral products 13.4 per cent, textiles and textile products 12.9 per cent, wood and paper products 11.9 per cent, animal products 11.5 per cent, and vegetable products 9.8 per cent.

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### Bank Debits to Individual Accounts in May

Expanded by heavy payments on the Fourth Victory Loan, bank debits rose to \$5,424 million in May compared with \$3,791 million in the same month last year. The cheques cashed reached a new maximum in Canada's banking history, the increase over May last year having been \$1,633 million or more than 43 per cent. Marked advances were shown in each of the five economic areas, increases being recorded in each of the 33 clearing centres. Debits in the first five months of this year aggregated \$21,118 million against \$17,825 million in the like period of 1942, an increase of 18.5 per cent.

### Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales

New and used motor vehicles financed in May totalled 4,575 units with a financed value of \$1,679,775, being 31 per cent lower in number and 30 per cent lower in dollar volume than the 6,626 vehicles financed for \$2,405,165 in May, 1942. There were 83 new vehicles financed in May this year for an amount of \$96,106. Cumulative results for the first five months showed 288 new motor vehicles financed as compared with 5,883 in the same period of 1942. Used vehicles financed numbered 14,662 units this year compared with 24,585 in the similar period of last year.

### Loading Mineral Products

Output of Canada's leading mineral products during the four months ended April was as follows, figures for the like period of 1942 being in brackets: cement, 1,468,809 (1,602,615) barrels; clay products \$1,582,418 (\$1,549,858); coal 6,206,492 (6,765,395) tons; feldspar 6,136 (6,305) tons; gold 1,332,670 (1,641,292) fine ounces; gypsum 109,961 (267,296) tons; lime 313,469 (287,015) tons; natural gas 18,645,594,000 (18,006,472,000) cubic feet; petroleum 3,338,939 (3,491,258) barrels; commercial salt 97,535 (85,689) tons; silver 8,671,406 (6,235,361) fine ounces.

### Production of Crude Petroleum in April

The Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in April totalled 837,072 barrels compared with 861,079 in the previous month and 846,574 in the corresponding month last year. Alberta's output in April this year was recorded at 803,583 barrels. All-Canada production during the four months ended April totalled 3,338,939 barrels as compared with 3,491,258 in the like period of 1942.

### April Production of Natural Gas

Natural gas production during April amounted to 3,659,984,000 cubic feet as compared with 5,020,213,000 in March and 3,675,660,000 in the corresponding month last year. Output during the first four months ending April aggregated 18,645,594,000 cubic as compared with 18,006,472,000 in the like period last year.

### Sales of Gasoline in March

According to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from the gasoline tax departments of the Provincial Governments sales of gasoline in Canada during March amounted to 68,195,000 gallons as compared with 45,853,000 in February and 71,592,000 in the corresponding month last year. During the first three months of this year sales totalled 160,184,000 gallons compared with 182,399,000 in the first quarter of 1942.

### Department Store Sales in May

The dollar volume of department store sales was two per cent lower in May than in the corresponding month last year and declined 12 per cent from the April level. Unadjusted indexes on the base 1935-39=100 stood at 139.4 in May this year, 157.8 in April and 142.2 in May last year. During the first five months of this year sales averaged two per cent above the corresponding period of last year.



### Building Permits in May

The total value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was \$7,891,858 in May as compared with \$7,528,081 in the previous month and \$9,255,740 in the corresponding month last year. New construction of all types accounted for 74.9 per cent of the value in May, while the percentage of new residential construction was 52.8. The value of permits issued during the five months ended May was \$26,412,726 compared with \$38,366,458 in the like period of 1942.

### Country General Store Sales in May

Country general store sales averaged 14 per cent higher in May this year than in the corresponding month last year, according to reports received from these general merchandise stores located in the smaller towns and rural areas. All regions of the country reported gains ranging from five per cent for the northern part of Ontario to 27 per cent for the southern part of Saskatchewan. Sales for Ontario increased by eight per cent, Quebec and British Columbia by 13 per cent, Alberta 16, the Maritime Provinces 17, Saskatchewan 18 and Manitoba 20 per cent. Sales during the five months ended May averaged 13.1 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of last year.

### Sugar Refining Industry

The Canadian sugar refining industry produced 801,119,215 pounds of sugar during 1942 as compared with 1,226,753,068 in 1941, a reduction of no less than 425,633,853 pounds. The 1942 output included 612,052,345 pounds made from cane and 189,066,870 pounds from beets. The production of cane sugar was 398,821,452 pounds lower than in 1941, and that of beet sugar was 26,812,401 pounds lower. Granulated sugar comprised over 85 per cent of the total sugar produced.

### Reports Issued Today

1. The Sugar Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
2. Area, Production and Value of Vegetables, 1940; and Area, 1941, New Brunswick (10 cents).
3. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, May (10 cents).
4. Tobacco Crop Report (10 cents).
5. Building Permits, May (10 cents).
6. Births, Deaths and Marriages, Third Quarter, 1942 (25 cents).
7. Population of 'Greater' Cities by Sex, Age, Racial Origin, Religion, Etc., 1941 (10 cents).
8. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
9. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
10. Advance Report of the Manufacturing Industries, 1941 (25 cents).
11. Canada's Leading Mineral Products, April (10 cents).
12. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, May (10 cents).
13. Non-Ferrous Smelting and Refining Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
14. Sales - Finance Companies, 1941 (25 cents).
15. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, May (10 cents).
16. Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report (10 cents).
17. Department Store Sales, May (10 cents).
18. Canada - Language and Mother Tongue - 1941 (10 cents).
19. Automobile Parts Industry, 1941 (25 cents).
20. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, April; and Gasoline Sales, March (10 cents).
21. School Attendance and Years of Schooling - Canada - 1941 (10 cents).
22. Production of Concentrated Milk, May (10 cents).

