

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Business Operations in June

While the index of the physical volume of business recorded a minor gain in June over the revised standing in the preceding month, the recent level of productive operations is below the maximum reached in April. The index was 232.4 in June compared with 231.8 in May and 236.9 in April, the historical maximum. Despite the minor gain in June over the preceding month, there is evidence that the marked advance in progress since the outbreak of hostilities has been checked. Three of the five main components recorded gains in June over the preceding month. The index of mineral production rose sharply from 285.0 to 295.5. Gold receipts at the Mint were 298,416 fine ounces against 307,450 in May. Coal production was 1,346,851 tons against 1,300,619, the increase being slightly greater than seasonal expectations.

The index of manufacturing production receded about one point to 285.6. Declines were recorded in the operations of the flour milling industry and the release of tobacco showed a marked contraction. Gain was shown for the meat-packing industry while increases in the output of dairy production were less than normal for the season. Factors indicating the trend in the textile industry showed decline, the index receding about six points to 159.6. Considerable gain was shown in the operations of the forestry industry. The index of operations in the iron and steel group were nearly maintained at the revised level of May but were at a considerably lower point than in April. The adjusted index of new business obtained by the construction industry receded from 91 to 73.6. A minor gain was shown in the index of the output of electric power. An index of distribution based upon railway traffic, retail and wholesale trade and exports and imports rose from 157.2 to 160.5.

Grain and livestock marketings were at a higher level in June than in the preceding month but the index of cold storage holdings was 132.2 on July 1, against 178.3 at the beginning of June.

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

	1943	
	June	May
Physical Volume of Business .....	232.4	231.8
Industrial Production .....	267.2	267.8
Mineral Production .....	295.5	285.0
Gold Receipts .....	96.3	102.7
Coal Production .....	135.3	132.9
Manufacturing .....	285.6	286.5
Flour Production* .....	168.6	189.5
Rolled Oats Production* .....	57.2	72.5
Inspected Slaughterings .....	162.5	154.9
Cattle .....	108.1	106.2
Sheep .....	66.7	105.9
Hogs .....	209.3	195.0
Creamery Butter .....	119.0	121.2
Factory Cheese .....	133.8	146.0
Tobacco .....	126.1	157.8
Cigar Releases .....	133.3	151.1
Cigarette Releases .....	125.5	158.1
Boots and Shoes Production* .....	129.8	130.6
Textiles .....	159.6	165.4
Cotton Consumption .....	148.4	154.5
Forestry .....	132.2	118.5
Newsprint .....	101.3	94.9
Iron and Steel .....	573.3	573.5
Pig Iron Production .....	241.4	238.4
Steel Production .....	256.5	266.9
Construction .....	73.6	91.3
Contracts Awarded .....	72.7	94.1
Building Permits .....	77.0	80.3
Cost of Construction .....	129.6	129.8

Continued on Next Page



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

	1943	
	June	May
Electric Power .....	161.8	161.2
Distribution .....	160.5	157.2
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings .....	258.3	252.7
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators .....	293.0	290.4
Wheat .....	378.4	345.5
Oats .....	740.1	900.8
Live Stock Marketings .....	107.6	88.9
Cattle .....	110.7	91.2
Calves .....	86.2	85.9
Hogs .....	124.0	95.7
Sheep .....	54.8	58.3
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month .....	132.2	178.3
Eggs .....	185.8	189.4
Butter .....	127.6	249.2
Cheese .....	146.8	150.6
Beef .....	121.0	116.1
Pork .....	128.7	128.5
Mutton .....	81.3	63.3
Poultry .....	43.5	53.0
Lard .....	91.5	72.5
Veal .....	163.0	138.1

\*Preceding month

Bank Debits to Individual Accounts in June

With each of the five economic areas contributing to the increase, the amount of cheques cashed in the clearing house centres in June recorded a gain of 15.5 per cent over the same month of last year. The total was \$4,350 million compared with \$3,767 million, the advance in business operations and in wholesale prices accounting for the acceleration in banking transactions. During the first half of 1943 debits aggregated \$25,467 million compared with \$21,592 million in the same period of last year, an increase of 17.9 per cent.

Debits by economic areas were as follows in June, figures for the corresponding month last year being in brackets: Maritime Provinces, \$98,179,394 (\$87,616,565); Quebec, \$1,286,990,836 (\$975,966,389); Ontario, \$1,928,419,628 (\$1,888,557,500); Prairie Provinces, \$779,304,575 (\$585,630,904); British Columbia, \$256,714,101 (\$227,270,933).

July Cost of Living Index

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index on the base 1935-39=100 advanced from 118.5 on June 1 to 118.8 on July 2. This index which has been specified as the basis for calculating cost of living bonus adjustments has increased 17.9 per cent between August 1939 and July, 1943. Since February the index has risen steadily, with the total increase amounting to 1.9 points. It now stands exactly on a par with the December 1942 index, and is 0.9 points above the July 1942 index, upon which the last cost of living bonus was authorized.

Foods continued to be mainly responsible for the further advance. The food index rose from 130.9 in June to 131.8 for July; the total increase in the food index since February has amounted to 5.1 points. Prices for eggs, lamb and potatoes showed the largest advances in July and there were fractional increases in other meats. Butter and oranges were moderately lower. Two other group indexes advanced in July, fuel and lighting from 113.0 to 113.4, and clothing from 120.4 to 120.5. Other groups remained unchanged, rents at 111.5, home furnishings and services at 117.8, and miscellaneous items at 108.2.



### Wholesale Prices in July

Wholesale price indexes of farm products and industrial materials during July were almost exactly on a par relative to corresponding price levels in 1926. The wholesale index of farm products advanced 3.4 points to 97.2 in the first three weeks of July, while industrial materials rose only 0.4 points to 97.8. Both the field and animal products sections of farm products made appreciable gains during this period. The field product index mounted 4.2 points to 83.3 and animal products advanced 1.9 points to 120.4. Wheat and rye provided the principal strength in the field crops section while hay declined. Among animal products, eggs recorded sharp seasonal gains which came earlier than usual, and steers and calves were firm. Prices for lambs were lower at Montreal but gained slightly at Toronto and Winnipeg.

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### Index Numbers of Security Prices

Industrial and utility common stock prices made further substantial gains in the first half of July before reacting slightly to leave considerable net gains for the month. This movement was reflected in the investors' index of common stock prices on the base 1935-39=100 which moved up from 85.8 at the beginning of July to 91.8 on the 15th, and then dropped back to 90.9 on the 29th.

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### Indexes of Retail Sales in June

The pattern of retail trading in June was similar to that for May, comparative figures for last year and this showing average increases of two per cent for May and three per cent for June. Declines in sales below last year as reported by department stores, furniture stores, hardware stores and stores specializing in the sale of radio and electrical equipment were slightly more than offset by gains in other trades. Unadjusted composite indexes of sales, based upon returns from twelve lines of business and on the base 1935-39=100 stand at 158.5 for June, 162.8 for May and 154.5 for June last year.

The increases over last year recorded in May and June were lower than gains reported in earlier months of the year, cumulative figures for the first half of 1943 showing an average increase of 4.5 per cent over the first half of 1942. On making adjustments for number of business days and for normal seasonal movements, the underlying level of trade for June was maintained at about the May level. The seasonally adjusted index for June stands at 155.3 compared with 154.5 for May and an average figure of 160.9 for the first six months of the current year.

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### Employment Situation at June 1

Industrial employment at the beginning of June showed a general advance. Although this exceeded the contra-seasonal decline which had been indicated at the first of May, it was substantially less than the expansion normally recorded at June 1 in other years since 1920. The 13,689 firms co-operating in the latest survey reported a combined working force of 1,818,240 men and women as compared with 1,789,183 at May 1. This increase of 29,057 workers, or 1.6 per cent, was accompanied by a rise of 2.7 per cent in the weekly payrolls disbursed.

The firms furnishing statistics at the beginning of June disbursed the sum of \$56,203,507 in salaries and wages for services rendered in the week proceeding. This sum was 2.7 per cent higher than that of \$54,722,413 reported in the eight leading industries at the beginning of May when the total had been lowered by the loss of working time over the Easter holidays. The per capita average rose from \$30.59 at May 1 to \$30.91 at the beginning of June and \$28.20 at June 1, 1942.

The increase in the number in recorded employment raised the index from 178.2 at May 1 to 181.1 at the beginning of June; these two, with that at April 1 were slightly lower than in the earlier months of 1943. From the opening of the present year to June 1, there was a decline of 1.4 per cent. Employment between those two dates in the period 1921-1939 showed an average advance of 6.8 per cent, while in the first three years of the war the general increase at June 1 as compared with January 1 was 7.1 per cent.



This slowing-down in industrial activity results to some extent from the transfer of men from industry to the armed forces, attended by increasing difficulty in securing replacements; it also reflects the effect of changes in the volume and kind of production brought about by the present stage of the war, and likewise arises in part from growing shortages of materials and labour in the field of civilian production and services.

The trend of employment in manufacturing was favourable at June 1, but the increase of 6,558 in the reported staffs was somewhat less than the contra-seasonal decline of 7,600 workers which had been noted at May 1. The gain was decidedly below-average and was the smallest indicated at June 1 in any year since 1936. The advance at June 1 took place largely in plants producing durable goods, the improvement recorded in the light manufacturing industries as a whole being relatively slight. In a few cases, employment in manufacturing establishments was reduced as a result of industrial disputes.

The non-manufacturing industries as a whole accounted for most of the expansion at the beginning of June. Logging afforded considerably more employment, partly as a result of river-driving operations. Services, transportation, communications and construction and maintenance reported heightened activity of a seasonal character. The increases in the last two divisions were largest, but were of less-than-normal proportions; those in services and transportation approximated the average. On the other hand, further curtailment was indicated in mining, and there was a falling-off in employment in retail trade.

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#### Unemployment at 1941 Census

There were 98,483 male wage-earners in Canada unemployed on the census date, June 2, 1941, according to preliminary census figures. This number represented approximately five per cent of all male wage-earners and 65 per cent of the total not at work on that date. Unemployed female wage-earners numbered 25,682 on the census date or just under four per cent of all females in wage and salaried employment, and 60 per cent of total females not at work on June 2, 1941.

These figures may be compared with data from the 1931 census when unemployment on the first of June was much greater than on the census date in 1941. On June 1, 1931, 395,662 male wage-earners, or about four times as many as at the 1941 census were unemployed. The percentage of total male wage-earners unemployed at the date of the 1931 census was almost 20 per cent as compared with five per cent on June 2, 1941, while for female wage-earners the percentages unemployed were roughly eight per cent in 1931 and four per cent in 1941.

Wage-earners not at work on June 2, 1941, for causes other than unemployment included 33,858 males and 9,708 females not at work owing to illness, 3,522 males and 261 females due to accident, 6,523 males and 3,463 females owing to holidays, 945 males and 187 females due to strike or lookout, and the balance due to other causes.

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#### Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on July 29 totalled 401,881,216 bushels, including 386,589,094 bushels in Canadian positions and 15,292,122 in United States positions. On July 22 stocks totalled 401,099,334 bushels and on July 30, 1942, the total was 410,633,920 bushels.

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#### Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Farmers in western Canada marketed 5,387,019 bushels of wheat during the week ending July 29 as compared with 4,634,220 in the previous week. During the elapsed portion of the crop year marketings totalled 261,096,292 bushels compared with 227,854,572 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were marketed in western Canada during the week ending July 29, figures for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 2,141,046 (2,349,971) bushels; barley, 1,536,785 (1,626,956); rye, 233,819 (313,903); flaxseed, 37,373 (30,371).

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### Production of Wheat Flour in June

Production of wheat flour in Canadian mills in June fell off sharply from the May total but was somewhat higher than in the corresponding month last year. The June output amounted to 1,855,461 barrels compared with 2,099,996 in May and 1,335,177 in June, 1942. During the eleven months of the crop year 21,604,584 barrels were produced compared with 18,063,160 in the like period of the previous crop year.

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### Crop Conditions in Western Canada

Harvesting operations have commenced in western Canada. Cutting of oats and barley is under way in Manitoba and the harvest is expected to be general in a week or ten days. Only a little early barley has been cut in Saskatchewan while none of the spring sown grains appears to have been cut in Alberta.

Further deterioration of crops took place in Saskatchewan and Alberta as the result of high temperatures, hot winds, and insufficient rainfall. The late crops in Manitoba are also showing the effects of moisture deficiency. Destructive hail storms took a toll in Saskatchewan and in some parts of Manitoba and some of the best wheat crops in Saskatchewan were destroyed or heavily damaged.

Drought-stricken south-eastern Alberta took a further beating, but crop conditions in other sections of Alberta are still fairly promising. The situation in Saskatchewan is more varied than ever and in the south-western sections of the province many fields will not produce a commercial crop. Other important areas of Saskatchewan continue to show promise but a good general rain is badly needed.

Premature ripening of crops is expected to reduce the yields of oats and barley in some sections of the west, while flax prospects in parts of Saskatchewan are now reported to be poor. Rust development in flax was checked by the hot-dry weather.

Corn and sunflower seed crops are reported to be showing improvement in Manitoba while the hay harvest is well advanced. Pastures are still fairly good except in the dry areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta where live stock producers are beginning to worry about feed supplies.

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### Maple Crop in 1943

There was a considerable decline in the production of maple syrup and maple sugar in the four producing provinces in Canada, according to an estimate released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 1943 crop is estimated at 2,058,200 gallons of syrup and 2,416,000 pounds of sugar, a total of 2,299,700 gallons expressed as maple syrup. This falls short of the 1942 crop of 3,250,600 gallons by 950,900 gallons or 29 per cent.

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### Stocks of Dairy Products in the Nine Cities

Creamery butter stocks in nine of the principal cities of Canada as at the opening of business on August 1 totalled 39,915,961 pounds, an increase of 15.1 million pounds over the quantity held on the same day last year and 13.7 million pounds more than in the same cities a month ago. These figures represent only what is in the nine cities. Full knowledge of the butter situation is impossible until the all-Canada production and stock figures are compiled.

Dairy butter also increased from 30,686 on July 1 to 147,830 pounds on August 1. Cheese stocks totalled 33,199,746 pounds as compared with 45.5 million pounds on August 1, 1942, and 24.8 million on July 1 this year.

Cold storage eggs were only 690,660 dozen as compared with 11.1 million dozen a year ago. Fresh eggs, however, were 2,581,305 dozen. There is little difference in frozen eggs from last year and last month, there being 14,414,948 pounds on August 1 this year, while last year at the same date there were 14,358,845 pounds, and last month 14,551,950 pounds. Much of frozen egg meat is being held for drying into dried egg powder.

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#### Sales of Farm Implements and Equipment

Dollar sales of farm implements and equipment in 1942 were maintained within narrow limits of the 1941 volume. Domestic sales mainly at wholesale prices to dealers totalled \$51,036,373 in 1942, down two per cent from the \$52,106,069 recorded for 1941, increases of 12 per cent in Manitoba and 10 per cent in British Columbia being slightly more than offset by a decline of 20 per cent in Quebec and by minor decreases in other sections of the country. These figures relate to the sale of new equipment and machinery and are exclusive of the sale of parts, binder twine or motor trucks.

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#### Output of Central Electric Stations in June

Central electric stations produced 3,355,032,000 kilowatt hours during June, an increase of 10.2 per cent over the 3,043,200,000 kilowatt hours produced in June last year. Although this was slightly lower than in the previous month, the adjusted index number on the base 1935-39=100 showed an increase from 161.2 to 161.6. Production during the first six months of this year totalled 19,624,395,000 kilowatt hours compared with 18,612,384,000 in the same period of last year.

Exports to the United States increased from 212,012,000 kilowatt hours in June last year to 223,360,000, the increase being almost entirely in secondary power. The production of secondary power for use in Canada continued to decline, amounting to 239,342,000 kilowatt hours as against 263,430,000 in May and 249,143,000 in June, 1942. Consumption of primary power amounted to 2,892,330,000 kilowatt hours as against 2,582,045,000 in June, 1942.

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#### Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales averaged 15 per cent higher in June than in the corresponding month last year, according to returns received from approximately 600 of these general merchandise stores located in the smaller towns and rural areas. Sales during the first six months of this year averaged 13.3 per cent higher than in the like period of last year.

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#### Fisheries of Prince Edward Island

The value of production of the fisheries of Prince Edward Island in 1942 was \$1,639,539 compared with \$952,026 in the preceding year. These figures represent the value of the product as marketed. The lobster fishery constitutes the most important branch of the industry, the marketed value at \$837,272 representing 51 per cent of the total for all kinds. Second in importance is the hake fishery with an output valued at \$291,523, or 17.8 per cent of the whole.

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#### Earnings of Railways in May

Canadian railways earned \$64,366,068 in May as against \$53,035,500 in May last year. Operating expenses were increased from \$37,606,343 to \$46,658,267, and the operating income increased from \$11,510,350 to \$12,445,267. During the five months ended May, operating revenues increased to \$296,219,557 from \$243,956,338 in the corresponding period of 1942, and the operating income increased to \$49,604,952 from \$45,684,022.

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#### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended July 24 amounted to 66,841 cars as against 67,282 for the previous week and 66,540 for the corresponding week last year. In the eastern division the total decreased from 44,229 cars in 1942 to 42,498. In the western division the total increased from 22,311 to 24,343 cars.

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### Teachers' Salaries in Eight Provinces

Reflecting enlistment in the armed forces, together with the fact that other branches of employment provided more attractive remuneration, the number of male teachers in eight provinces of Canada, excluding Quebec, declined from 14,700 in 1939 to 12,600 in 1942, a net loss of 2,100. Fully 80 per cent of this loss was from the one-room rural schools, where the teachers are younger and lower-paid. There were 50,100 teachers reported in the eight provinces. There were approximately 17,000 one-room schools in the eight provinces. In other words, one-third of all teachers work in such schools.

Under wartime conditions teachers in the small schools are staying less than two years in their jobs, on the average, before moving on to another school or another kind of work. In the Maritime Provinces they are averaging \$500 or less per year in pay, in Manitoba somewhat over \$600, in Saskatchewan \$700, in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario between \$800 and \$850. Accordingly in the provinces where the salaries are best, half of these teachers receive less than \$70 monthly, and in some provinces half receive no more than \$40 monthly.

During the first three years of war their salaries in the eight provinces increased on the average about \$10 per month, but this was not enough to offset the comparative attractiveness of other employment, and in the year just ended a very considerable number of these small schools have either had to remain closed or to be put in charge of teachers without certificates.

In larger schools, during the first three years of war, salaries nowhere increased as much as \$10 per month, except in Saskatchewan where they had not recovered from the low levels reached in the drought years. There were small increases, however, in all provinces but Prince Edward Island.

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### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
  2. Unemployment, Census, 1941 (10 cents).
  3. Central Electric Stations, June (10 cents).
  4. Indexes of Country General Store Sales, June (10 cents).
  5. Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report (10 cents).
  6. Canadian Milling Statistics, June (10 cents).
  7. The Employment Situation, June (10 cents).
  8. Production of Asphalt Roofing, June (10 cents).
  9. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, June (10 cents).
  10. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  11. Hardware, Tools and Cutlery Industry, 1941 (10 cents).
  12. Teachers' Salaries in Eight Provinces, 1942 (25 cents).
  13. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, May (10 cents).
  14. Area, Production and Value of Vegetables, 1940, and Area, 1941, Manitoba (10 cents).
  15. Fisheries of Prince Edward Island, 1942 (10 cents).
  16. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
  17. The 1943 Maple Crop (10 cents).
  18. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in the Principal Cities, August 1 (10 cents).
  19. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, June (10 cents).
  20. Price Movements, July (10 cents).
  21. Use of Electric Power in Manufacturing and Mining Industries, 1941 (25 cents).
  22. Indexes of Retail Sales, June (10 cents).
  23. Sales of Farm Implements and Equipment, 1942 (10 cents).
  24. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, June (10 cents).
  25. Area, Production and Value of Vegetables, 1940, and Area, 1941 Prince Edward Island (10 cents).
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