

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



Vol. XII - No. 10

Ottawa, Saturday, March 11, 1944

Price \$1.00 per year

World Cost of Living Movements

The second half of 1943 witnessed a continuance of small gains and occasional declines in world cost of living series. Mexico and Iceland were exceptional in showing more than fractional gains, but these were small compared to earlier advances. The index for Argentina recorded a notable decline of more than 5 per cent.

The United States Bureau of Labor index after rising steadily since early in 1941 declined slightly between June and December of 1943, although it recorded a gain of more than 3 per cent for the year. A drop of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in foods in the last six months was greatly influenced by a reduction in maximum meat prices in July. All other groups showed gains in this period, the largest being a 5 per cent increase in clothing.

The cost of living index for Iceland, which had risen from the outbreak of war to a December, 1942 peak 164 per cent above August, 1939, recorded sharp declines early in 1943; these were partially offset by gains amounting to more than 5 per cent in the second half.

In Mexico living costs continued an advance which began in the latter part of 1941 and continued through 1943. However, the June-November rise of 8 per cent was small compared with a 35 per cent increase for the year. The index for Argentina also showed a sharp rise in the first half of 1943, but official reduction of rents in June and new price controls for important foods including sugar, milk and bread were followed by a 9 per cent drop in the July index; food prices continued to rise in the second half of 1943, but the December index was still $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent below June, 1943 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent below December, 1942.

Living costs in the United Kingdom, as recorded by the Ministry of Labour, have changed very little since early in 1941. During 1943 foods rose moderately above 1942 levels, and clothing prices declined, with the December, 1943 general index registering only fractional percentage changes from June, 1943 and December, 1942.

The rise in Australian living costs was checked in the latter half of 1943. A gain in the first half was chiefly due to increased clothing prices but subsequent slight declines in this group and lower food prices combined to reduce the December index to within 0.1 per cent of its December, 1942 level. The South African series, which has recorded a wartime rise approximately paralleling that for Australia, showed a larger 1943 gain of 4.5 per cent. The New Zealand wartime index in the September quarter was 0.4 per cent below its base period, December, 1942.

Canadian Cost of Living Index for February

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index number on the base 1935-1939=100 declined from 119.0 for January 3 to 118.9 for February 1, 1944, for a wartime increase of 18 per cent. The decline from January was due to foods, with fuel and light, clothing and miscellaneous items all recording small advances. The food index fell from 131.5 for January to 130.9 for February, as increases for fresh vegetables only partially offset further declines in egg prices. Changes in other food prices were very slight.

Higher coal prices in eastern Canada advanced the fuel and lighting index from 112.7 to 113.0. Small changes in women's wear and piece goods increased the clothing index from 121.1 to 121.3, while the miscellaneous group advanced from 108.9 to 109.1, due to a rise in health maintenance section and to an increase in the periodicals index. Rentals remained at 111.9 and homefurnishings and services at 118.4.

Indexes of Wholesale Prices in February

The Canadian farm product price index on the base 1926=100 advanced 0.4 points between the weeks of January 28 and February 25, more than recovering small losses sustained in January. Animal products recorded an increase of 0.5 to 124.2, influenced by higher quotations for fresh milk at Vancouver, and also for poultry and livestock. These outweighed further small decreases for eggs. Increased storage charges on potatoes, effective February 7, as well as small advances in hay and onions were responsible for a net increase of 0.2 to 92.5 for field products.

Strength in manufacturing materials and food prices supported a gain of 0.2 points to 99.5 in the composite index for 30 industrial materials between January 28 and February 25. The manufacturing materials sub-group index advance of 0.3 to 83.4 reflected a higher quotation for rosin, while the sub-group index for five foods moved up 0.2 to 100.3, due to firmer prices for steers and hogs. The stable series of 12 itmes continued unchanged at an index level of 120.1.

Production of Butter and Cheese in February

Canada's production of creamery butter in February amounted to 10,893,000 pounds as compared with 11,902,000 in the corresponding month last year, a reduction of 8.5 per cent. Decreases were recorded in all provinces, except Saskatchewan where an increase of 9.6 per cent was shown. During the first two months of this year production amounted to 21,764,000 pounds compared with 25,051,000 in the similar period of 1943, a decline of 13 per cent.

Cheddar cheese production in February amounted to 1,880,000 pounds compared with 1,573,000 in February last year, an increase of 19.5 per cent. All cheese-producing provinces shared in the increase except New Brunswick and Ontario. For the first two months of this year production reached a total of 4,698,000 pounds compared with 3,684,000 last year, an advance of 27.5 per cent.

Total milk production in January was estimated at 930,092,000 pounds, which was only one per cent below the same month of last year.

Visible Supply of Canadian Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 2 totalled 338,875,765 bushels, including 317,615,069 in Canadian positions and 21,260,696 in United States positions. On the corresponding date last year the visible supply amounted to 447,128,773 bushels.

Marketings of Wheat in Western Canada

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 2 amounted to 5,779,323 bushels as compared with 5,475,658 in the corresponding week last year. During the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1943, deliveries totalled 173,014,797 bushels compared with 168,567,637 in the similar period of the previous crop year.

Production of Wool in Canada

Canada's production of wool reached a higher point in 1943, amounting to 18,965,000 pounds as compared with 17,596,000 in 1942, an increase of 1,369,000 pounds. A minor decrease in the average weight of wool per fleece was more than offset by a substantial increase in the number of sheep shorn. A high percentage of the 1943 clip was sold at somewhat higher prices than in the previous year resulting in a substantial increase in the cash income from the sale of wool, the total being \$3,485,000 compared with \$2,977,000.

The apparent consumption of wool in Canada, unadjusted for stock changes, has been at a high level during the past three years, being almost double the pre-war average. Apparent consumption in 1943 totalled 121,013,000 pounds compared with 131,640,000 in 1942, 106,385,000 in 1941 and 63,112,000 in 1939. Imports of wool in 1943 amounted to 104,364,000 pounds compared with 114,428,000 in 1942, 93,070,000 in 1941 and 51,953,000 in 1939. Exports were comparatively small, amounting to 2,316,000 pounds compared with 384,000 in 1942.

Tobacco Manufacturing Industry in 1942

The gross value of output of the Canadian tobacco manufacturing industry in 1942 aggregated \$159,455,196 as compared with \$126,950,037 in 1941. Excise duties and taxes included in these amounts were \$100,065,164 and \$73,227,987, respectively. Cigarettes formed the main item of production with an output of 11,966,459 thousand valued at \$115,125,426. Smoking tobacco was next in importance with an output of 26,242,628 pounds valued at \$31,848,968. This was followed by cigars with a production of 206,486 thousand valued at \$7,906,429, chewing tobacco 2,921,111 pounds valued at \$3,105,440 and snuff 909,741 pounds valued at \$1,459,390.

The tobacco industry also contributed materially to the agricultural economy of Canada. Of the total cost of materials used, amounting to \$28,716,426, \$18,869,834 was spent for domestic raw leaf tobacco. All told, the tobacco industry consumed 63,727,197 pounds of raw leaf tobacco of which 62,206,318 was of domestic origin. For the production of cigars, 714,031 pounds of imported and 3,257,644 pounds of domestic tobacco were used; for the production of cigarettes, 545,923 pounds imported and 32,524,394 pounds of domestic tobacco were required, while for the production of smoking and chewing tobacco and snuff, 260,925 pounds of imported and 26,424,280 pounds of domestic tobacco were used.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in January

Births registered in cities, towns and villages having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 10,701 in January, deaths 5,790 and marriages 3,321 as compared with 10,603 births, 5,203 deaths and 4,078 marriages in January last year, showing increases of one per cent in births, 11 per cent in deaths and a decrease of 19 per cent in marriages.

Farm Wages in Canada

A further increase in the rates of wages paid to farm workers was shown in the January 15, 1944 survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Rates of wages for day help, with board, averaged \$2.45 in January this year as compared with \$2.02 in January last year, while the average wage for help hired by the month was \$49.44 compared with \$40.85. The daily wage rate, without board, was \$3.32 compared with \$2.79 in January, 1943, and the monthly rate \$72.49 compared with \$61.76. In comparison with January a year ago, rates of wages were higher in all provinces, both for help hired by the day and by the month.

Indexes of Wholesale Sales in January

Wholesale trade in Canada recorded a 12 per cent increase during the first month of 1944 as compared with January, 1943. The increase conforms with the pattern of wholesale trading witnessed in the latter months of 1943. The January unadjusted index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stands at 156.7 compared with 164.3 for December and 139.9 for January, 1943. The increase was shared by all regions of the country.

The automotive equipment trade came first in point of view of increased trading with a gain of 36 per cent. Substantial gains were reported by the fruits and vegetables trade and the footwear trade, sales having increased by 26 and 22 per cent, respectively. Clothing wholesalers registered a 16 per cent gain in sales, tobacco and confectionery 15 per cent, wholesale drug sales 14 per cent. Smaller gains were recorded by the dry goods, grocery, and hardware trades, increases ranging from two to 14 per cent.

Canadian Artificial and Real Silk Industry

Fabrics, yarns, threads and all other items manufactured in the artificial and real silk industry were produced to the value of \$48,056,000 in 1942, an increase of \$6,506,000 or 15.7 per cent as compared with the previous year. The valuation in 1939 was \$25,441,000. This industry is centred in Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick.

Fabrics woven from artificial silk yarn, and from artificial silk mixed with other fabrics, represented the greater part of the production of the industry. Fabric woven entirely from continuous filament artificial silk yarn totalled 51,177,690 yards valued at \$23,673,000 in 1942 and 50,086,500 yards with a value of \$22,377,000 in 1941. The use of spun rayon is increasing rapidly and fabrics spun from this type of artificial silk yarn were reported to the extent of 6,403,346 yards worth \$2,596,000 as against only 3,517,122 yards valued at \$1,608,000 in 1941.

The vital need for woven fabric of real silk was reflected in the increase in the production of this item, despite the shortage of raw silk and silk yarn as materials for the textile industries. Production of silk fabric in 1942 was 1,711,176 yards worth \$1,499,000 as compared with 1,140,901 yards valued at \$874,000 in 1941.

New Zealand's Production of Foodstuffs

A report from the Acting Canadian Trade Commissioner in New Zealand says: "Of the three farming groups, the only one recording an increase in 1942 was that comprising cereals, the advance in which, amounting to 10.9 per cent, was mainly due to increased production of wheat, oats and barley. In the pastoral group a steady increase in wool production has been offset by reduced slaughterings of animals in 1941-42. A fall in butterfat production reversed the upward trend in the dairy group. The values for 1941-42 for both the pastoral and dairying, etc. groups, although lower than for the previous season, are nevertheless the second highest totals yet recorded.

"Increased demands for the food for the forces in the southwest Pacific and for export to Britain have set a problem for New Zealand, one expected result of which was increased output of all foodstuffs. Latest reports, however, indicate that primary production since the peak reached in 1942 has not been maintained. There have been serious declines in the outputs of dairy products, pork, mutton and lamb and wheat. The principal factors affecting the situation are the shortages of manpower and fertilizer."

Why Bananas are Scarce Here

The Canadian Trade Commissioner in Jamaica reports: "Jamaica's domestic exports reached a total value of £3,840,989 in 1942 as compared with £3,779,959 in 1941, £3,037,847 in 1940, £4,629,561 in 1939 and £4,908,494 in 1938. The main reason for the substantial decline below the figure for the last pre-war year is the virtual cessation of shipments of bananas, which normally account for more than 50 per cent of the total annual export trade. Exports of this fruit were only 1,347,324 stems valued at £273,204 in 1942, as compared with 23,811,337 stems (£2,916,956) in 1938. However, as the British Government has been paying planters a substantial subsidy in respect of bananas not shipped from the Island and, since, of course, such payments do not appear in the trade statistics, the total value of exports since this arrangement became effective is actually higher than the statistics indicate; the banana subsidy is, therefore, an 'invisible' item of export.

"In addition, large quantities of rum were sold to buyers in the United Kingdom and retained in the Island for storage. They represent another, and quite considerable, item of this kind."

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada at the end of January amounted to 450,299 as compared with 438,363 on the corresponding date last year, calf and kip skins 425,454 compared with 766,143, goat and kid skins 48,807 compared with 24,136, horse hides 33,776 compared with 29,276. There were also 87,808 dozen sheep and lamb skins as compared with 80,200 dozen.

Gainfully Occupied in Manitoba in 1941

The gainfully occupied in Manitoba at the census date in 1941 totalled 290,311, accounting for almost 40 per cent of the total population of the province. The total included 240,399 males and 49,912 females together with those in the Armed Forces. The population of the province consisted of 378,079 males and 351,665 females or a total of 729,744 persons. Nearly 84 per cent of the males and 19 per cent of the females, 14 years of age and over, were gainfully occupied. Figures quoted in the following paragraphs are exclusive of the Armed Forces.

The 10 leading male occupations in Manitoba accounted for 64.40 per cent of the gainfully occupied male population. Ranked according to their relative importance they are: farmers and stock raisers 52,836 or 24.49 per cent, farm labourers 37,668 or 17.46 per cent; labourers (not in agriculture, fishing, logging, or mining) 11,623 or 5.39 per cent, office clerks 7,481 or 3.47 per cent, owners and managers (retail trade) 6,222 or 2.88 per cent, carpenters 5,762 or 2.67 per cent, truck drivers 4,738 or 2.20 per cent, mechanics and repairmen (not electrical appliances) 4,558 or 2.11 per cent, salespersons in stores 4,441 or 2.06 per cent, and hunters, trappers and guides 3,573 or 1.66 per cent.

Females gainfully occupied were concentrated in the 10 leading female occupations to a greater extent than were the gainfully occupied males, representing 71.47 per cent of the total gainfully employed females in the province. The order of the leading female occupations, found mainly in the service groups, is as follows: domestic servants 10,865 or 21.80 per cent, stenographers and typists 5,648 or 11.33 per cent, salespersons in

stores 3,718 or 7.46 per cent, school teachers 3,688 or 7.40 per cent, housekeepers and matrons 2,876 or 5.78 per cent, office clerks 2,874 or 5.77 per cent, waitresses 1,989 or 3.99 per cent, graduate nurses 1,456 or 2.92 per cent, lodging housekeepers 1,299 or 2.61 per cent, and bookkeepers and cashiers 1,200 or 2.41 per cent.

Among young persons in gainful occupations 74.42 per cent of the males 14 to 17 years of age were employed as farm labourers while 64.31 per cent of the females in the same age group were employed as domestic servants. In the older ages farmers and stockraisers accounted for 48.01 per cent of all gainfully occupied males in the age group 65 years and over. Personal service occupations, chiefly housekeepers and matrons, domestic servants, and lodging house keepers accounted for 55.47 per cent of the females in this age group.

Of the gainfully occupied females 40,769 or 81.82 per cent were single. However, in the transportation, professional service, and clerical groups about 90 per cent or over of the total gainfully employed women were single. There were only 4,322 married and 3,223 widowed females gainfully employed at the 1941 Census. Over 50 per cent of the married women and about 44 per cent of the widows were engaged in service occupations, mainly as housekeepers and matrons, domestic servants, and lodging housekeepers.

The census figures showed that 75,279 or 34.90 per cent of the gainfully occupied males were employers and own accounts, 117,559 or 54.50 per cent were employed as wage-earners, and 22,867 or 10.60 worked for no pay. The gainfully occupied male employers and own accounts were mainly farmers and stockraisers while the no-pay workers were chiefly farmers' sons working on their fathers' farms. Only 4,195 or 8.42 per cent of the females were reported as employers and own accounts, while 42,365 or 85.02 per cent were employed as wage-earners, and 3,272 and 6.57 per cent as no-pay workers.

About one-third of the gainfully occupied males of British and Scandinavian racial stock were engaged in agricultural occupations, while nearly three-quarters of the gainfully occupied persons of Netherland origin were similarly occupied. There were 28,141 gainfully occupied Ukrainian males in Manitoba forming the largest European group in the province. Of these 16,168 or 57.45 per cent were in agricultural occupations. Agricultural occupations also accounted for about one-half of each of the other European races, except Jewish and Italian. About 41 per cent of gainfully employed males of Jewish racial origin were in trade occupations, chiefly as merchants and salespersons in stores. Over 50 per cent of the Indians were engaged as hunters, trappers and guides. Nearly 75 per cent of the gainfully occupied males of Asiatic origin were employed in personal service occupations, principally as restaurant owners, cooks, laundrymen, and waiters.

December Production of Crude Petroleum

The Canadian production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in December totalled 779,854 barrels as compared with 789,430 in the previous month and 858,675 in the corresponding month of 1942. Alberta's output in December was recorded at 767,556 barrels. During the calendar year 1943 the Dominion output aggregated 9,927,333 barrels compared with 10,364,796 in 1942. Figures for July, 1943 forward do not include the production obtained in the Northwest Territories, so that totals for 1943 are not strictly comparable with those for 1942.

Production of Natural Gas in December

Production of natural gas in Canada in December was recorded at 4,844,503,000 cubic feet as compared with 4,154,053,000 in the previous month and 5,378,394,000 in the corresponding month last year. The total for the calendar year 1943 was 43,992,190,000 cubic feet as compared with 45,697,359,000 in 1942.

Retail Sales of Gasoline in October

Retail sales of motor, tractor and aviation grades of gasoline in Canada in October, 1943 totalled 88,205,000 gallons, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from tax departments of the Provincial Governments and from Canadian oil companies. In the previous month sales amounted to 95,524,000 gallons and in October, 1942, 97,267,000 gallons. During the first 10 months of 1943 sales aggregated 757,700,000 gallons as compared with 768,333,000 in the similar period of 1942, a reduction of 10,633,000 gallons.

Retail Sales in January

Retail sales in Canada in January were maintained at a slightly higher level than in the corresponding month last year, dollar volume of business recording an increase of 3.3 per cent. The general unadjusted index number of sales on the base 1935-1939=100, stands at 133.2 compared with 128.9.

Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on March 2 amounted to 1,862,463 bushels as compared with 3,518,549 on the corresponding date last year. Corn accounted for most of the decline, stocks of which amounted to 624,299 bushels compared with 3,495,293. Wheat increased to 1,222,252 bushels from nil a year ago.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended February 26 increased to 66,330 cars from 65,623 in the previous week and 65,085 in the corresponding week last year.

This increase over 1943 loadings was all in the western division where the total increased from 21,919 to 25,653 cars. Grain increased 3,923 cars, live stock 425 cars, pulpwood 396, logs and other forest products 331, fresh meats and packing house products 309 and merchandise 229 cars. Coal was down by 1,281 cars, ores, matte and other mine products by 273 and fresh fruits by 222 cars.

In the eastern division, total loadings decreased from 43,166 cars last year to 42,677. Grains, lumber, fresh vegetables, sand, stone, gravel, etc., and merchandise all showing substantial decreases. Pulp and paper, hay and straw and automobiles and parts recorded large increases.

During January, 281,000 cars of revenue freight were loaded as compared with 266,000 in the previous month and 237,000 in the corresponding month last year. The index number of cars loaded, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 154.7 compared with 153.2 in December and 130.5 in January, 1943.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 2. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, January (10 cents)
 3. Gainfully Occupied in Manitoba, 1941 (10 cents).
 4. Price Movements, February (10 cents).
 5. World Price Movements, Second Half of 1943 (25 cents)
 6. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, December; and Petroleum Fuel Sales, October, 1943 (10 cents).
 7. The Petroleum Products Industry, 1942 (50 cents).
 8. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, January (10 cents).
 9. Farm Wages in Canada, January 15, 1944 (10 cents).
 10. Indexes of Wholesale Sales, January (10 cents).
 11. Births, Deaths and Marriages, January (10 cents).
 12. The Artificial and Real Silk, 1942 (25 cents).
 13. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 14. Monthly Dairy Review, February (10 cents).
 15. The Tobacco Industries, Canada, 1942 (25 cents).
 16. Current Trends in Food Distribution, January (10 cents).
 17. Indexes of Retail Sales, January (10 cents).
 18. Wool Production, 1943 (10 cents).
 19. Fur Farms of Quebec, 1942 (10 cents).
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