

Industrial Employment in Canada in 1943

The expansion in industrial employment indicated during 1943 was generally on a limited scale in comparison with that reported in earlier stages of the war, a development which was to be expected in view of the tremendous growth since the outbreak of hostilities, not only in the field of production, but also in the strength of the armed forces. In spite of the severe drains upon the reserves of manpower in the fourth year of war, industrial activity, on the whole, reached a new all-time maximum in the Dominion during 1943, when there was an increase of six per cent in the index of employment as compared with 1942; this was accompanied by an increase of 12.9 per cent in the index of payrolls. The number in recorded employment rose, between 1939 and 1943, by well over 700,000 workers, or 61.6 per cent, but of the number added to the working forces, some 600,000 were absorbed into industry in the years 1940, 1941 and 1942.

The continued slackening in the rate of increase largely resulted from increasingly acute shortages of labour and materials, affecting particularly the production of commodities for civilian consumption; in the field of war production, the situation was also influenced to some degree by such shortages, but to a greater extent responded to changes in production requirements in a programme closely associated with those of the United Kingdom and the United States, and partly dependent upon developments in the actual theatres of war.

Another indication of the increasingly difficult labour situation resulting from wartime demand upon the available manpower, lay in the fact that in 1943, the increase shown over 1942 took place very largely among women workers, the depletion of the reservoir of male wage-earners being manifested in a virtual stabilization of the number of men in recorded employment at October 1, 1943, as compared with the corresponding date in 1942.

It may thus be assumed that the first four years of the war served practically to exhaust the Dominion's supply of employable adult males, who were absorbed in varying proportions by the armed forces and industry. The labour stringency becoming increasingly acute in 1943 had accordingly to be met by the diversion of workers from non-essential to essential industries, by the entry of large numbers of women and older persons and of adolescents, into gainful employment, and finally, by the employment of considerable proportions of part-time workers in establishments where such staffs could be utilized.

During 1943, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics tabulated a total of 165,072 returns on employment in the eight leading industries, including manufacturing, logging, mining, transportation, communications, construction, services and trade. The average was 13,756 per month, while the staffs of the co-operating establishments averaged 1,848,534, ranging from 1,789,183 at May 1 to 1,916,588 at the beginning of December. In 1942, the 13,081 employers whose statistics were received reported a monthly average of 1,738,848, varying from 1,651,067 at March 1 to 1,867,597 at December 1. Based on the 1926 average as 100, the index was 184.1, exceeding by six per cent the previous maximum of 173.7 in 1942.

Several important factors combined during 1943 to produce a relatively greater advance in the payrolls than in the personnel. The weekly salaries and wages distributed in the eight leading industries in one week in each month averaged \$56,903,978, indicating the distribution of some \$2,959,006,850 by the larger employers in the eight leading industries. The amounts reported represented an average earned income of \$30.78 per week for the typical individual in recorded employment as compared with \$28.56 in 1942.

Industrially, the situation in 1943 was rather varied; there were further advances in manufacturing, in which, however, the trend was not so uniformly upward as in immediately preceding years. Among the durable goods industries, the index of employment showed a gain of 18.1 per cent, while that in the manufacture of non-durable goods increased only fractionally. In logging, mining, construction and trade, there was a falling-off in employment, largely as a result of labour shortages. Communications, transportation and services on the other hand, showed further expansion, which in the case of transportation, was greater than that indicated in 1942 over 1941. Without exception, employment in the various industrial groups was in larger volume in 1943 than in the years prior to the outbreak of war.

Production of Raw Furs in Canada

The value of raw furs produced in Canada, comprising pelts taken by trappers and those sold from fur farms, established a new record of \$27,694,164 during the twelve months ended June 30, 1945. This valuation represents an increase of \$2,834,295 or 11 per cent over the previous high recorded in 1941-42. Generally higher prices combined with a larger number of pelts in some cases were responsible for the higher valuation in 1942-43.

Pelts of mink contributed the largest amount to the total value of raw furs in 1942-43 with a valuation of approximately \$5,800,000. Muskrat pelts were a close second at \$5,600,000 and silver fox third at \$4,600,000. Beaver pelts, with a valuation of \$3,000,000, were another important source of revenue of trappers and fur farmers. Silver fox rose in price from an average of \$22.96 in 1941-42 to \$24.72, red fox from \$8.81 to \$12.51, white fox from \$25.74 to \$28.53, ermine from \$1.20 to \$1.58, muskrat from \$2.06 to \$2.76 and squirrel from 31 cents to 34 cents.

The total number of skins taken declined from 19,561,024 in 1941-42 to 7,355,304 in 1942-43. The major portion of this decline occurred in the case of rabbits which dropped from 9,000,000 to 1,100,000 and squirrels which declined from 5,800,000 to 2,200,000. There was also a minor decline in the case of muskrat which dropped from 2,400,000 to 2,000,000, but numbers of mink, silver fox, and red fox showed increases.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in April

Sales of 3,430 new and used motor vehicles were financed by Canadian finance companies during April to the extent of \$1,440,353. Decreases below April of last year, when 3,933 units were financed for \$1,347,791, amounted to 13 per cent in number and seven per cent in dollar volume. The April total this year included 154 new vehicles with a financed value of \$195,512. There were 571 new vehicles financed in the first four months of 1944 as compared with 205 in the same four months of last year. Used vehicles financed in the January to April period were 10,223 compared with 9,936 in 1943.

Used vehicle financing in April declined 16 per cent in number and five per cent in dollar volume, 3,276 vehicles being financed for \$1,244,941 as compared with 3,888 transactions involving \$1,303,908 in April, 1943. All regions of the country, with the exception of British Columbia, recorded declines in April this year below last. British Columbia reported an increase of 10 per cent. Declines occurring elsewhere were as follows: Maritime Provinces, 56 per cent; Quebec, 9; Ontario, 12; Manitoba and Saskatchewan combined, 39; and Alberta, 23 per cent.

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Births registered in Canadian cities, towns and villages having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 11,697 in March, deaths 5,198 and marriages 2,796 as compared with 11,333 births, 5,227 deaths and 4,315 marriages in March of last year, showing an increase of three per cent in births and decreases of one per cent in deaths and 35 per cent in marriages.

Production of Concentrated Milk in April

The production of concentrated milk, whole milk and by-products combined, amounted to 24,658,408 pounds in April as compared with 24,132,912 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first four months of this year the production of all items aggregated 66,092,075 pounds as compared with 65,053,942 in the similar period of 1943.

Argentine Grain Situation

"According to the official monthly report of the Ministry of Agriculture on conditions in the cereal producing regions of the country, the rains which fell in the month of April permitted normal progress to be made with the work of preparing the land for planting wheat and linseed, except in the zones where the precipitation was excessive and caused flooding of the grain fields and pasture lands with the resultant damage to the crops and live stock," writes the correspondent of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Buenos Aires under date of May 3.

"The fields of maize, already suffering from the lack of rains in previous months, showed increased deterioration because of the fact that the April rains, coming during the period of ripening, could bring no benefit to the plants already in their last stages of development. Picking of the maize crop is becoming general in the various producing zones. Coarse grains for winter forage crops are still being planted.

"Live stock is in good flesh and sanitary condition. The overflowing of creeks and rivers in the south-west of Buenos Aires following the heavy rains, submerged pastures and caused the drowning of animals in an appreciable proportion."

Stocks of Canadian Wheat in Store

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 18 totalled 290,590,421 bushels, including 271,539,985 in Canadian positions and 19,050,436 in United States positions. On the corresponding date of last year the visible supply amounted to 404,236,644 bushels.

Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Farmers in the three Prairie Provinces marketed 2,514,692 bushels of wheat during the week ending May 18 as compared with 2,770,612 in the previous week. Deliveries during the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1943, totalled 229,166,799 bushels compared with 201,607,018 in the similar period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending May 18, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 2,578,744 (2,947,602) bushels; barley, 859,404 (990,264); rye, 46,272 (50,028); flaxseed, 27,636 (18,000) bushels.

Claims for Unemployment Insurance Benefit

Local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission received 6,463 applications for benefit payments during April. This was a considerable decrease from the 10,667 registered in March and reflects, in part at least, the normal seasonal increase in employment during the spring as well as increased employment in certain war industries. During the same two months of last year a similar decrease in the number of claims filed occurred, 5,046 being registered in March and 3,953 in April.

During the last working week in April, 12,053 persons signed the live unemployment register compared with 16,406 during the last week in March. Those signing the live unemployment register include current claimants and those currently receiving benefit. Not included are the insured unemployed who have not registered claims and those who have exhausted their benefit rights.

A total of 13,264 persons were paid benefit during April as against 16,679 in March and 5,434 during April of last year. Those to whom benefit was paid received a total of \$357,206 for 180,730 unemployed days during April compared with \$755,966 for 388,544 days in March and \$142,723 for 75,876 days in April, 1943.

The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 13.6 days in April, 23.3 days in March and 14 days in April last year. The average amount paid per beneficiary was \$26.93 in April, \$45.32 in March and \$26.26 in April, 1943. The average paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$1.98 in April, \$1.95 in March and \$1.88 in April last year.

Revenue Freight Loadings in February

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during February increased to 12,229,609 tons from 10,988,069 in the corresponding month of last year. Loadings increased to 8,011,260 tons from 7,109,676 in February of last year, imports to 1,742,539 tons from 1,702,765, and in transit freight from foreign connections destined to foreign points to 2,475,810 tons from 2,175,628.

Production of Iron and Steel in April

Production of pig iron in Canada in April amounted to 170,364 net tons as compared with 150,466 in the corresponding month of last year. Output during the first four months of this year aggregated 612,417 net tons as compared with 565,154 in the similar period of 1943.

April production of steel ingots and steel castings totalled 260,825 net tons as compared with 264,357 in the same month of last year, while the output for the first four months of this year amounted to 1,008,402 net tons as compared with 987,915 in the like period of last year.

Output of ferro-alloys in April amounted to 12,818 net tons compared with 13,427 in the previous month and 18,698 in April of last year, the total for the four months of this year totalling 57,460 net tons compared with 75,671 in the same period of 1943.

Building Permits Issued in April

The value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in April was \$12,059,045 as compared with \$7,091,253 in the previous month and \$7,538,481 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first four months of this year permits were issued to the value of \$29,439,254 as compared with \$18,535,738 in the same period of last year.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in April

The general index number of wholesale prices, on the base 1926=100, stood at 102.9 in April as compared with 103.0 in March and 99.0 in the corresponding month of last year.

The vegetable products index moved up to 95.4 from 89.8 in April last year, animals and their products to 107.6 from 106.5, wood, wood products and paper to 117.8 from 107.4, iron and its products to 117.1 from 115.7, non-metallic minerals and their products to 102.8 from 99.6.

The chemicals and allied products index declined to 99.9 from 100.4, while the fibres, textiles and textile products index remained unchanged at 91.9 and that for non-ferrous metals and their products at 79.7.

Cheques Cashed in April

The amount of cheques cashed in clearing centres was greater in April than in the same month of any other year. The total was \$4,561,000,000 compared with \$4,071,000,000 in April of last year. The advance was slightly more than 12 per cent. Cheques cashed in the first four months of this year amounted to \$18,055,000,000, an increase of more than \$2,361,000,000 or 15 per cent over the similar period of 1943.

Each of the five economic areas except Quebec recorded a gain in April as compared with the corresponding month of last year. The increase in the Maritime Provinces was 8.6 per cent, the total in April having been \$99,600,000. Gains were shown in Halifax and Moncton, while a minor recession was recorded in Saint John. Debits in Quebec were \$1,148,000,000 against \$1,156,000,000 in the same month of last year. Gains were shown in Quebec and Sherbrooke, while the transactions in Montreal were at a slightly lower level. The net result for the province was a recession of 0.7 per cent.

Nine of the fourteen centres in Ontario recorded gains over the same month of last year. The aggregate for the province rose nearly seven per cent to \$1,967,000,000. Considerable increases were shown in Toronto and Ottawa. A greater percentage increase was recorded in the Prairie Provinces than in any other economic area. The total was \$1,058,000,000 against \$746,000,000 in April last year, a gain of no less than 41.8 per cent. The standing in Winnipeg was \$648,000,000 against \$485,000,000. Gains were shown in the three clearing centres of British Columbia, the total recording a gain of 21.7 per cent to \$288,700,000 in comparison with the first four months of 1943.

The money supply at the beginning of April was \$5,260,000,000 compared with \$4,530,000,000 on the corresponding date of last year. The circulating media in the hands of the public rose about one-quarter during the 12 months.

Gainfully Occupied in Canada in 1941

Preliminary figures for Canada, excluding Yukon and the Northwest Territories show that 3,676,563 males and 833,972 females, 14 years and over, or a total of 4,510,535 persons, including members of the Armed Forces, were gainfully occupied at the 1941 Census. The population of the nine provinces consisted of 5,390,683 males and 5,599,030 females or a total of 11,489,713 persons. The total gainfully occupied, therefore, accounted for 39.26 per cent of the total population, gainfully occupied males representing 62.41 per cent of the total male population and gainfully occupied females 14.89 per cent of the total female population. Nearly 84 per cent of the males and about 20 per cent of the females, 14 years of age and over, were gainfully occupied at the 1941 Census. Figures quoted in the following paragraphs are exclusive of the Armed Forces.

The 10 leading male occupations in Canada accounted for 57.06 per cent of the gainfully occupied male population at the 1941 Census. Ranked according to their relative importance they were: farmers and stockraisers 630,709 or 18.75 per cent, farm labourers 431,102 or 12.82 per cent, labourers (not in agriculture, fishing, logging or mining) 251,889 or 7.49 per cent, office clerks 109,965 or 3.27 per cent, owners and managers (retail trade) 100,756 or 3.00 per cent, carpenters 90,470 or 2.69 per cent, truck drivers 81,304 or 2.42 per cent, salespersons in stores 81,270 or 2.42 per cent, lumbermen 74,000 or 2.20 per cent, and mechanics (not electrical) 67,246 or 2.00 per cent.

Females gainfully occupied in the 10 leading female occupations represented 68.67 per cent of the total gainfully occupied females in Canada. The order of the leading female occupations, found mainly in the service groups, was as follows: domestic servants 148,999 or 17.89 per cent, stenographers and typists 77,882 or 9.35 per cent, school teachers 64,465 or 7.74 per cent, operatives in clothing and textile manufacturing, other than spinners and weavers, 57,366 or 6.89 per cent, salespersons in stores 56,646 or 6.80 per cent, office clerks 49,841 or 5.98 per cent, housekeepers and matrons 46,256 or 5.55 per cent, graduate nurses 26,473 or 3.18 per cent, waitresses 22,944 or 2.75 per cent and lodging house keepers 21,113 or 2.54 per cent.

Among young persons in gainful occupations 56.61 per cent of the males 14 to 17 years of age were employed as farm labourers with smaller percentages in such occupations as office clerks, salespersons in stores, messengers, etc., while 42.38 per cent of the females in the same age group were employed as domestic servants and smaller proportions as operatives in clothing manufacturing, salespersons in stores, stenographers, waitresses, etc. In the older ages farmers and stockraisers accounted for 42.12 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 51.65 per cent of the females in this age group.

Among the gainfully occupied females 665,623 or 79.92 per cent were single. However, in professional service and clerical groups about 90 per cent of the total gainfully occupied women were single. There were 85,633 married and 56,957 widowed females gainfully occupied in the 1941 Census. Nearly 43 per cent of the married women and over 49 per cent of the widows were engaged in personal service occupations, mainly as housekeepers and matrons, domestic servants, and lodging house keepers. In addition, manufacturing occupations accounted for about 21 per cent of the married women in gainful occupations while nearly 18 per cent of the widows were reported as farmers and stockraisers.

The census figures showed that 967,472 or 28.77 per cent of the gainfully occupied males were employers and own accounts, 2,117,346 or 62.96 per cent were employed as wage-earners, and 278,233 or 8.27 per cent worked for no pay. Over 65 per cent of the gainfully occupied male employers and own accounts were farmers and stockraisers, while 91.60 per cent of the no pay workers were farmers' sons working on their fathers' farms. Only 68,736 or 8.25 per cent of the females were reported as employers and own accounts, while 699,441 or 83.98 per cent were employed as wage-earners, and 64,663 or 7.76 per cent as no pay workers. Service occupations, chiefly housekeepers and matrons, domestic servants, nuns (not elsewhere specified), and nurses in training, accounted for 84.36 per cent of females in no pay occupations.

Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on May 18 amounted to 2,883,221 bushels as compared with 3,479,785 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks of wheat increased to 2,188,082 bushels from nil, while corn decreased to 651,728 bushels from 3,456,259.

College and University Enrolment During War Years

The years of war have not prevented young Canadians from proceeding to institutions of higher learning, although there has been a significant change in the field of study chosen. An increase was recorded in the enrolment in science courses, maintenance of the pre-war level in medicine and dentistry, a decrease in arts, agriculture, education and some other faculties. The net result was practically no change in the over-all number of undergraduates enrolled, but a slightly higher proportion of women than in pre-war years.

During 1940, the first full war year, the number of male students enrolled for full-time study was 42,570, practically the same as in 1939, but by 1942 the number had decreased to 40,077. The first year of war saw an increase in the enrolment of women of about 300. In the following two years, due probably to the absorption of women into industry and the services, the increase was somewhat reduced. The number of women enrolled in the colleges and universities on a full-time basis in 1942 was 17,133. Aggregate enrolment in graduate schools of arts and science decreased from 1,440 in 1939 to 1,271 in 1942 -- the lowest point reached since 1931.

War conditions are reflected in the decreased number of non-resident students. Travel restrictions are no doubt responsible for the decreased number of students from outside Canada, notably those from the United States. The number of these students decreased more than 500, while the inter-provincial registration decreased by 1,500. The total non-resident students dropped from 7,000 to 5,000.

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Reports Issued During the Week

1. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, February (10 cents).
2. Population of New Brunswick by Age Groups, 1941 (10 cents).
3. Higher Education in Canada, 1940-42 (35 cents).
4. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, April (10 cents).
5. Annual Review of Employment and Payrolls in Canada, 1943 (\$1.00).
6. Prices and Price Indexes, April (10 cents).
7. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
8. Building Permits, April (10 cents).
9. Production of Iron and Steel, April (10 cents).
10. The Processed Cheese Industry, 1943 (10 cents).
11. The Automobile Parts Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
12. Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts, April (10 cents).
13. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
14. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, April (10 cents).
15. Production of Concentrated Milk, April (10 cents).
16. The Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
17. Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages, March (10 cents).
18. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, April (10 cents).
19. Preliminary Report on Fur Production, Season 1942-43 (10 cents).
20. Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics (25 cents).
21. Gainful Occupations, Canada, 1941 (10 cents).



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