

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS

AUG 28 1944

PROPERTY OF THE
LIBRARY

Vol. XII - No. 34

Ottawa, Saturday, August 26, 1944

Price \$1.00 per year

Business Operations in July

Business operations recorded a minor recession in July from the level of the preceding month in continuance of the trend during recent months. The historical maximum of the index of the physical volume of business was reached in December last when the standing was 248.8. During the first six months of the present year, a downward trend was in evidence, the index in June having recoded to 238.8.

A majority of the factors indicating the trend of mineral production recorded advance in the latest month for which statistics are available. The output of coal was nearly maintained after the usual adjustment. Gold receipts at the Mint, however, recoded from 255,402 fine ounces in June to 215,093 in the month under review.

The flour milling industry recorded an increase in operations in the latest month for which statistics are available. The index of the operations in the meat-packing industry recoded about 11 points to 187.3. Cattle slaughterings recorded an increase after seasonal adjustment while considerable decline was shown in hogs. The output of the dairy industry was at a lower level, the index receding from 131 to 122. Declines were shown in the production of both factory cheese and creamery butter.

The raw cotton used by the textile industry reached a low point in July at 11.6 million pounds against 12.6 million in the preceding month. A majority of the factors indicating the trend of forestry production were at a lower position. The exports of planks and boards rose from 150.4 million feet to 158.6 million. The iron and steel industry released working forces in the latest month for which statistics are available. The new business obtained by the construction industry showed recession from the high level of June, the total of contracts awarded having been \$32.2 million against \$37.3 million. The distribution of commodities through retail and wholesale outlets recorded further expansion in the latest month for which statistics are available, due allowance having been made for seasonal and price changes.

Prominent Economic Factors in July compared with the Preceding Month

		1944	
		July	June
Newsprint Production	Tons	244,406	246,864
Planks & Boards Exported	000 Ft.	158,635	150,417
Shingles Exported	Squares	129,426	126,306
Gold Mint Receipts	Fine oz.	215,093	255,402
Silver Shipments	Fine oz.	612,725	652,445
Factory Cheese Production	Lb.	28,056,902	30,884,616
Creamery Butter Output	Lb.	41,464,961	45,531,104
Cattle Slaughterings	No.	157,099	161,238
Hog Slaughterings	No.	529,575	682,884
Raw Cotton Consumption	Lb.	11,554,656	12,629,203
Construction Contracts Awarded	\$	32,228,100	37,315,400
Carloadings	No.	307,981	315,000
Domestic Exports	\$000	278,713	345,987
<u>Prices</u>			
Wholesale Industrial Materials	1926-100	100.1	100.2
Cost of Living	1935-39=100	119.0	119.0
Bank Debits	\$000	4,733,462	5,219,352

Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on August 17 totalled 295,629,746 bushels as compared with 389,632,704 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks this year included 274,834,502 bushels in Canadian positions and 20,795,244 in United States positions.

Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the three Prairie Provinces during the week ending August 17 totalled 1,678,791 bushels as compared with 722,471 in the previous week. The following quantities of coarse grains were marketed during the latest week, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 1,055,458 (380,383) bushels; barley, 695,329 (133,263); rye, 89,265 (27,275); flaxseed, 38,776 (27,042).

Crop Conditions in the Prairie Provinces

More favourable harvesting weather was experienced in most areas of the Prairie Provinces during the past week and good progress has been made in the cutting of the crop. Harvesting is now general in almost all areas and with the exception of south-western Saskatchewan and southern Alberta relatively good yields are reported where combining and threshing has been completed. A few deliveries of the new crop have been made, grading No. 1 and 2 Northern.

In southern Manitoba approximately 75 per cent of the crop has been cut and 10 per cent threshed. In the central and northern districts from 25 to 50 per cent of the crop has been cut but threshing is just commencing. Floods south and east of Winnipeg have caused undetermined damage, principally to row crops. The weather in Saskatchewan has been more unsettled but cutting is now general in all parts of the province. It is estimated that 28 per cent of the wheat, 30 per cent of the oats, 50 per cent of the barley and 70 per cent of the rye has now been cut. Combining and threshing is under way in the south and central areas with average wheat yields of 22 bushels per acre reported. Sawfly damage continues to be reported from the south-central, west-central, south-western and central areas. Only light frosts have occurred in the northern areas.

Harvesting operations are well advanced in southern Alberta and will be general this week in the central and northern districts. Fair progress has been made with the harvest in the Peace River district although rains have delayed operations in some areas. Yields reported from the southern part of the province are low, but in the central and northern districts better than average crops are indicated. Sawfly damage has been extensive in some areas but only light frosts have been reported.

Hail occurred at scattered points in Saskatchewan and Alberta during the past week. Pasture conditions are fair to good in all provinces and livestock are generally in good condition.

Cash Income from the Sale of Farm Products

Cash income from the sale of farm products rose sharply in the first six months of 1944 as compared with the same period of 1943. The 1944 estimate of \$716,394,000 represents an increase of \$166,183,000 or 30 per cent over 1943. The 1944 figure for the first six months is only \$6,000,000 less than the estimate for the full year 1939. The increase over 1943 was common to all provinces except Prince Edward Island and was particularly marked in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Income from the sale of wheat was almost \$100,000,000 higher in 1944 than in the previous year and over half of this increase occurred in Saskatchewan. Increased deliveries of wheat, combined with higher prices to producers, brought about this increase in income. The decline in Prince Edward Island was due to the relatively poor crops harvested in 1943 and particularly to the decline in the supply of potatoes for market.

Income from the sale of all classes of live stock and live stock products was higher in 1944 than in 1943. While prices did not change materially during the year, marketings of live stock were substantially higher. Hog marketings were at record levels throughout the first half of this year and marketings of cattle, calves, sheep and lambs were also higher than in the previous year. Milk production was somewhat higher during the first half of 1944 and additional subsidies to producers raised returns over the levels of 1943. Sales of poultry and eggs were also higher in the first half of 1944 as compared with the previous year.

Normally about 40 per cent of the annual cash income to farmers is received during the first six months of the year. Improved crop prospects should result in a maintenance of farm income from this source during the current year. While relatively heavy marketings of live stock are anticipated during the last six months of 1944 it is unlikely that they will be as high relative to the same period of 1943 as was the case in the first six months of the year.

Income from the sale of principal items during the first half of 1944 was as follows, totals for the same period of 1943 being in brackets: wheat, \$164,416,000 (\$69,440,000); oats, \$25,825,000 (\$27,085,000); barley, \$14,764,000 (\$19,587,000); rye, \$2,988,000 (\$2,630,000); flax, \$2,110,000 (\$1,930,000); other field crops, \$36,391,000 (\$36,341,000); cattle and calves, \$90,316,000 (\$76,972,000); sheep and lambs, \$3,081,000 (\$2,375,000); hogs, \$152,239,000 (\$111,711,000); dairy products, \$128,237,000 (\$110,263,000); poultry and eggs, \$50,531,000 (\$46,591,000); other livestock products, \$12,290,000 (\$12,382,000).

Income received by farmers in the form of subsidies and bonus payments are not included in these calculations except in those cases where the payments have been made in the form of higher prices to producers, such as the subsidies paid on dairy products, eggs, fruits and vegetables. Payments distributed to wheat producers based on participation certificates of previous years are not included in these calculations.

Canadian Construction Industry in 1943

A preliminary survey of the operations of the Canadian construction industry reveals that the value of work performed by general, trade and subcontractors during 1943 amounted to \$434,060,000, a decrease of \$43,192,000 from the 1942 preliminary figure. In 1942 the preliminary valuation represented slightly more than 84 per cent of the final tabulation. The number of individual reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for inclusion in the 1943 advance statement was 11,055, a decrease of 1,249 from 1942.

New construction was undertaken in 1943 to the value of \$345,042,000 compared with \$385,803,000 in 1942, while additions, alterations and repairs totalled \$89,018,000 compared with \$91,449,000. The cost of materials used was \$219,728,000 in 1943 compared with \$249,483,000 in 1942. The average number of wage-earners reported in 1943 totalled 84,602 compared with 100,111 in 1942, and wages paid for the respective years were \$148,317,962 and \$153,547,750. Salaried employees in 1943 were reported at 17,700 and earnings \$31,533,200 in comparison with 19,043 and salaries of \$31,298,848 in 1942.

Earnings of Wage-Earners in Manufacturing Industries

Average weekly earnings of male wage-earners employed in the manufacturing industries of Canada as a whole amounted to \$31.75 in 1942 compared with \$22.23 in 1939, an increase of \$9.52 or 42.4 per cent. However, due to an increase of 3.2 hours in the working week, average hourly earnings advanced from 46.2 cents in 1939 to 61.9 cents in 1942, an increase of 34 per cent. Average annual earnings of male wage-earners in 1942 totalled \$1,558 as compared with \$1,076 in 1939.

Weekly earnings of female employees in manufacturing averaged \$17.41 compared with \$12.78 in 1939, an increase of \$4.63. The working week averaged 46.9 hours compared with 45.2 in 1939, and the average hourly rate of pay was 37.1 cents compared with 28.3. The average annual wage in 1942 amounted to \$854 as compared with \$619 in 1939.

Average weekly earnings in 1942 in the forty industries employing the greatest number of male wage-earners ranged from \$44.01 for automobiles to \$21.44 for wooden boxes. In only eleven industries were weekly earnings above \$35.00. These industries in descending order of rank were: automobiles, aircraft, bridge and structural steel, automobile supplies, miscellaneous iron and steel products, shipbuilding and repairs, railway rolling-stock, machinery, brass and copper products, agricultural implements and primary iron and steel. In fifteen other industries, earnings ranged from \$30 to \$35 per week, while in the remaining fourteen they were below \$30.

Average weekly earnings of female wage-earners have a narrower range than those of male workers. Weekly earnings in the forty industries employing the greatest number of female wage-earners in 1942 ranged from \$26.28 for the miscellaneous iron and steel industries to \$11.83 for corsets. In only seven industries were weekly earnings above \$20. These were: miscellaneous iron and steel products, aircraft, automobile supplies, brass and copper products, scientific and professional equipment, fur goods, and electrical apparatus and supplies. In nineteen other industries weekly earnings ranged between \$15 and \$20, while in the remaining fourteen they were below \$15.

Manufacturing Industries of British Columbia

Manufacturing production in British Columbia continued to expand at an accelerated rate during 1942, the gross value of output aggregating \$558,138,000 compared with \$412,958,000 in 1941, an increase of 35.2 per cent. The value in 1939 was \$247,949,000. The number of employees was increased to 89,570 in 1942 from 62,447 in 1941, and the disbursements in salaries and wages to \$148,782,000 from \$89,256,000.

Normally, from the point of view of gross value of production, the wood and paper products group ranks first by a wide margin. In 1942, however, the dominant position was taken by the iron and its products group with an output valued at \$180,308,000. Wood and paper came second with \$158,232,000, followed by animal products with \$70,171,000, vegetable products \$52,981,000, and non-ferrous metal products \$46,159,000.

Tremendous expansion of British Columbia's shipbuilding industry has taken place since 1940, and in 1942 it was the leading industry of the province. In 1940 it was in sixth position. The value of production of this industry in 1942 was \$118,244,000 compared with only \$9,944,000 in 1940.

The sawmilling industry ranked second with a gross value of production of \$90,695,000. Fish curing and packing was in third place with products valued at \$37,529,000, followed by pulp and paper with \$27,804,000, slaughtering and meat packing \$17,330,000, petroleum products \$13,091,000, planing mills \$10,732,000, fruit and vegetable preparations \$10,608,000, and sheet metal products \$10,395,000.

The City of Vancouver with a production valued at \$223,295,000 was the chief manufacturing centre, accounting for about 40 per cent of the total for the province. Other principal cities were: North Vancouver, \$64,417,000; New Westminster, \$32,690,000; Victoria, \$24,339,000; Prince Rupert, \$12,493,000; and Port Alberni, \$7,328,000.

Canada's Fur Farms in 1942

Revenues from the sale of live animals and pelts from Canada's fur farms in 1942 amounted to \$7,156,000, an increase over the preceding year of \$1,574,000 or 28 per cent. Sales of live animals accounted for \$417,000 and of pelts \$6,739,000, compared with \$783,000 and \$4,799,000 in 1941, respectively. The sale of silver foxes and pelts provided 51 per cent and mink 41 per cent of the total. Average prices for most of the live animals and pelts were slightly lower than in 1941 but increases were shown for red foxes and raccoon.

The number of fur-bearing animals on the farms at the end of 1942 was 204,480, including 83,429 silver, 684 cross, 479 red, 1,445 blue, 14 white and 11,720 new type foxes and 104,686 mink. All other kinds numbered 2,023. There was a general decrease with the exception of new type foxes which increased from 6,511 in 1941 to 11,720. The number of silver foxes decreased by nine per cent and mink by 32 per cent.

In the last two years, owing in part to scarcity of help and lack of meat for animal food, a number of farms have ceased to raise fur bearing animals, so that the number of fur farms in the Dominion dropped from 8,440 in 1941 to 7,835 in 1942. The value of property decreased from \$15,171,845 to \$13,912,335.

Fisheries Production of Ontario in 1943

The value of the production of the fisheries of Ontario reached a new peak in 1943, being recorded at \$5,292,268 as compared with \$4,135,205 in 1942, an increase of \$1,157,063 or 28 per cent. The increase was due to both larger quantities and higher prices, the catch increasing by 16 per cent.

Blue pickerel was the most important variety caught, having increased by 118 per cent in quantity and 147 per cent in value over 1942. Whitefish, on the other hand declined by 23 per cent in quantity and 15 per cent in value. The quantity of fish landed amounted to 305,932 cwt., an increase of 42,152 cwt. or 16 per cent over 1942.

Fisheries of the Prairie Provinces

The total value of production of the fisheries of the three Prairie Provinces in 1943, as marketed, was \$6,514,095, distributed by provinces as follows: Manitoba, \$4,564,551; Saskatchewan, \$1,154,544; and Alberta, \$795,000. Higher prices were the main factor in the increased value, although there was an intensification of fishing in Saskatchewan. As compared with 1942, the catch in Manitoba decreased by 0.2 per cent in quantity but the value increased by 28 per cent. In Saskatchewan, the quantity landed increased by 28 per cent and the value by 97 per cent, and in Alberta the increases were seven per cent and 62 per cent, respectively.

The principal kinds in order of value for the three provinces combined were: whitefish, \$2,282,119; pickerel, \$1,636,793; and saugers, \$1,056,374. The sauger is taken commercially in Manitoba only and was second in order of value for the province in 1943. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, the whitefish is the most valuable of the commercial fishes.

The total quantity of fish of all kinds taken by fishermen of the Prairie Provinces was 529,943 cwt. with a value at the point of landing of \$4,594,002 compared with a catch of 503,005 cwt. and a landed value of \$3,323,347 in 1942.

Production of Leather Footwear in June

The production of leather footwear in Canada in June amounted to 3,037,239 pairs as compared with 3,200,891 in the previous month and 2,824,027 in the corresponding month of last year. For the six months of this year production totalled 18,155,303 pairs as compared with 17,344,805 in the like period of 1943.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways during the week ended August 12 amounted to 67,847 cars compared with 69,828 in the previous week and 71,159 in the corresponding week of last year. Compared with 1943, loadings were down in both divisions. In the eastern division loadings totalled 42,795 cars compared with 46,032, and in the western division 25,052 cars compared with 25,127.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 2. The Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
 3. Preliminary Report on the Construction Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
 4. Commercial Failures in Second Quarter of 1944 (10 cents).
 5. Final Report on Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables on Hand, July 1, 1944 (10 cents).
 6. Cash Income from Sale of Farm Products, January to June, 1942 to 1944 (10 cents).
 7. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
 8. Production of Leather Footwear, June (10 cents).
 9. Fisheries of Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and Yukon, 1943 (10 cents).
 10. Report on the Fur Farms of Canada, 1942 (25 cents).
 11. Manufacturing Industries of the Province of British Columbia, 1942 (25 cents).
 12. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 13. Weekly Earnings and Hours of Work of Male and Female Wage-Earners Employed in the Manufacturing Industries of Canada, 1942 (25 cents).
 14. Gainfully Occupied by Industry, Sex, Age, Conjugal Condition, Etc., New Brunswick, 1941 (10 cents).
-



1010729755