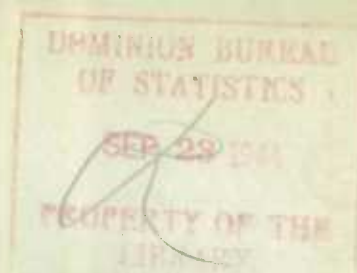


# WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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## Business Conditions in August

The volume of business operations during August recorded resistance to the downward trend in evidence since the end of the first quarter of the present year. The index of the physical volume of business recorded recession for four consecutive months ended July. According to a preliminary computation based on 45 out of 66 factors used in this connection, the standing in August was not greatly altered from that of the preceding month. While the final index for August will not be available for some time, no important change is anticipated from the level of July.

A majority of the factors indicating the trend of mineral production recoded in the latest month for which statistics are available. Gold receipts at the Mint were 231,918 fine ounces in August against 215,093 in the preceding month. Silver shipments to the Mint and to external points, on the other hand, recorded a considerable decline.

The flour milling industry was less active in the latest month. The index of the output of dairy products recorded a minor gain to 123.3, creamery butter having been produced in greater volume after seasonal adjustment. The output of factory cheese was 25.8 million pounds compared with 28.1 million. The index of cotton consumption by textile mills rose from 111.5 to 121.4. Gains were shown in the output of newsprint and in exports of woodpulp while the outward shipment of boards, planks and shingles was at a lower position. Employment in the secondary iron and steel industry recorded betterment.

The new business obtained by the construction industry receded from \$32.2 million to \$24.2 million, the adjusted index dropping from 109.7 to 81.9. Commodity distribution through wholesale outlets recorded an increase in the latest month while retail sales were at a somewhat lower level. Domestic exports were \$257 million compared with \$279 million in July and \$293 million in the same month last year. The outward flow of commodities is normally somewhat less in August than in the preceding month.

## Business Indicators for August compared with July and August 1943

		August 1944	July 1944	August 1943
Physical Volume of Business ....	1935-39=100 (x)	232.2	241.0	
Cost of Living .....	1935-39=100	118.9	119.0	118.2
Factory Cheese Production .....	pounds	25,762,734	28,056,902	25,541,485
Creamery Butter Production .....	pounds	37,060,623	41,464,961	38,969,774
Newsprint Production .....	tons	262,695	244,406	259,612
Contracts Awarded .....	\$	24,151,400	32,228,100	23,865,300
Exports, domestic .....	\$000	257,021	278,713	292,861
Raw Cotton Consumption .....	lb.	12,887,596	11,554,656	13,959,740
Gold Receipts at Mint .....	fine oz.	231,918	215,093	255,878
Inspected Slaughtering -				
Cattle and Calves .....	no.	176,936	157,099	141,682
Sheep and Lambs .....	no.	96,298	46,334	78,886
Hogs .....	no.	451,826	529,575	436,350
Woodpulp Exports .....	cwt.	2,685,039	2,165,242	2,871,909
Shingles Exported .....	squares	128,722	129,426	126,620
Canned Salmon Exports .....	cwt.	10,894	40,462	29,799
Bank Debits .....	\$000	4,531,791	4,733,462	4,020,267

(x) The index of the physical volume of business according to preliminary calculations was without important change from the preceding month.

## Production of Gold in July

Gold production in Canada in July totalled 235,618 fine ounces compared with 239,916 in the preceding month and 292,663 in the corresponding month of last year. The value of this year's July output was \$9,071,293. During the first seven months of the current year, production amounted to 1,758,415 fine ounces compared with 2,265,363 in the corresponding period of 1943.

Production of gold in August was as follows by areas, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in brackets: Nova Scotia, 574 (261) fine ounces; Quebec, 56,136 (70,469); Ontario, 140,456 (168,189); Manitoba and Saskatchewan combined, 17,684 (23,303); British Columbia, 14,535 (18,531); Yukon, 4,526 (5,460); Northwest Territories, 1,707 (6,450).

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#### Production of Silver in July

The production of silver in Canada in July amounted to 1,071,550 ounces compared with 1,160,245 in the preceding month and 1,348,784 in the corresponding month of last year. Output during the first seven months of the current year totalled 8,336,876 ounces compared with 10,951,029 in the similar period of 1943, a decline of 23.9 per cent.

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#### Lead Production in July

Lead production in Canada during July totalled 24,523,164 pounds compared with 19,744,120 in June and 36,100,126 in the corresponding month of 1943. During the first seven months of 1944, the putput aggregated 176,757,874 pounds compared with 277,402,209 in the like period of the preceding year.

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#### July Production of Zinc

Production of zinc in Canada in July was recorded at 40,877,099 pounds compared with 39,759,143 in the preceding month and 52,585,837 in the corresponding month of last year. Output during the first seven months of the present year totalled 307,936,504 pounds compared with 365,082,522 in the same period of 1943, a decline of 15.7 per cent.

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#### Output of Leading Mineral Products

The output of Canada's leading minerals during the seven months ending July was as follows, figures for the corresponding period of 1943 being in brackets: asbestos, 236,447 (278,456) tons; cement, 3,760,782 (3,940,956) barrels; clay products, \$3,437,175 (\$3,374,387); coal, 9,553,953 (10,285,144) tons; copper, 332,304,806 (342,319,959) pounds; Feldspar, 13,635 (12,267) tons; gold, 1,758,415 (2,265,363) fine ounces; gypsum 320,522 (195,645) tons; lead, 176,757,874 (277,402,209) pounds; lime 514,238 (510,007) tons; natural gas, 28,972,556,000 (26,567,594,000) cubic feet; nickel, 162,184,531 (174,056,382) pounds; petroleum, 5,847,920 (5,885,356) barrels; commercial salt, 138,935 (191,744) tons; silver, 8,336,876 (10,951,029) fine ounces; zinc, 307,936,504 (365,082,522) pounds.

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#### Canada's Domestic Merchandise Exports in August

Canada's exports of domestic merchandise during the month of August were valued at \$257,021,000 compared with \$278,713,000 in the preceding month and \$292,861,000 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first eight months of the current year the aggregate was \$2,282,000,000 compared with \$1,874,000,000 in the similar period of 1943, an increase of 22 per cent.

Exports of domestic merchandise to the United Kingdom in August were valued at \$90,202,000 compared with \$111,829,000 in August of last year, while the total for the eight months of this year was \$847,869,000 compared with \$686,163,000 in the corresponding period of 1943. August exports to the United States amounted to \$85,945,000 compared with \$91,208,000, the eight-month total standing at \$822,498,000 compared with \$703,873,000.

Commodity exports to British India rose to \$16,813,000 in August from \$7,280,000 in August of last year, advancing the total for the first eight months of this year to \$106,810,000 from \$85,749,000 in the comparable period of last year. Shipments to Italy in August advanced to \$20,841,000 from nil, and in the eight months to \$113,500,000 from nil.

Merchandise exports to Russia in August were valued at \$6,961,000 compared with \$4,540,000 in August of last year, while the total for the eight months of this year was \$64,794,000 compared with \$31,638,000 in the like period of 1943. During August, exports to Egypt were valued at \$9,928,000 compared with \$28,785,000 in August, 1943, the total for the eight months of this year having been \$90,218,000 compared with \$120,811,000.

Domestic merchandise exports to other leading countries in August were as follows, totals for August 1943 being in brackets: British South Africa, \$1,281,000 (\$2,450,000); Jamaica, \$1,456,000 (\$383,000); Trinidad and Tobago, \$1,682,000 (\$568,000); Newfoundland, \$4,361,000 (\$4,520,000); Australia, \$1,500,000 (\$4,982,000); New Zealand, \$1,274,000 (\$5,729,000); Switzerland, \$2,324,000 (\$1,078,000).

The following were among the principal commodities exported in August, totals for August of last year being in brackets: wheat, \$21,243,000 (\$19,025,000); wheat flour, \$4,961,000 (\$5,901,000); fishery products, \$5,515,000 (\$5,691,000); cheese, \$5,949,000 (\$4,275,000); eggs, \$2,123,000 (\$1,564,000); meats, \$13,284,000 (\$10,602,000); wool, \$1,835,000 (\$768,000); planks and boards, \$8,382,000 (\$7,379,000); pulpwood, \$2,247,000 (\$2,025,000); wood pulp, \$9,812,000 (\$8,795,000); newsprint paper, \$13,429,000 (\$13,334,000); motor vehicles and parts, \$27,881,000 (\$52,132,000); chemicals, \$7,318,000 (\$7,256,000).

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#### Visible Supply of Canadian Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on September 14 totalled 295,067,002 bushels, a reduction of 82,768,617 bushels from last year's corresponding total of 377,835,619 bushels. Stocks this year included 271,122,483 bushels in Canadian positions and 23,944,519 bushels in United States positions.

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#### Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Deliveries of wheat from the farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending September 14 amounted to 15,169,969 bushels compared with 7,472,106 in the preceding week. Marketings during the elapsed portion of the present crop year which commenced August 1 totalled 38,744,870 bushels compared with 25,430,978 in the similar period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains also were delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending September 14, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 2,598,397 (1,505,231) bushels; barley, 5,055,699 (2,758,521); rye, 284,214 (189,839); flaxseed, 382,971 (226,987).

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#### Production of Concentrated Milk in August

Production of concentrated milk in August amounted to 28,292,506 pounds compared with 28,649,543 in the corresponding month of last year, a decline of 1.2 per cent. During the first eight months of the current year, production aggregated 198,446,301 pounds compared with 191,452,099 in the similar period of 1943, an increase of 3.7 per cent.

August production of concentrated whole milk products was recorded at 23,128,605 pounds compared with 24,065,674 in August 1943, a decline of 3.9 per cent. The output of concentrated milk by-products totalled 5,080,668 pounds compared with 4,437,709 in August 1943, an increase of 14.5 per cent.

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#### Canal Traffic in August

Total traffic using Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie Canals in August amounted to 17,199,163 tons compared with 17,619,707 in the corresponding month of last year. Shipments of iron ore down the canals amounted to 12,632,719 tons compared with 13,974,793 in August, 1943, while the total from the opening of navigation to the end of August was 55,137,260 tons compared with 52,150,626 in the similar period of 1943. Eastbound shipments of wheat increased from 18,233,557 bushels in August 1943 to 42,668,322, and other grains increased from 7,357,080 to 12,725,698 bushels. Upbound bituminous coal shipments amounted to 2,580,749 tons and from the opening of navigation it amounted to 10,532,879 tons compared with 8,421,634 in 1943.

Traffic using the Welland Ship Canal in August increased to 1,519,578 tons from the August 1943 total of 1,454,983 tons. Iron ore increased by 63,308 tons, wheat by 42,115 tons, gasoline by 24,376 tons, coke by 22,608 tons and bituminous coal by 10,894 tons. Petroleum and oils decreased by 75,032 tons, other ore by 30,865 tons and pulpwood by 23,720 tons. Traffic on the St. Lawrence Canals in August declined to 904,002 tons from 1,045,824 in August of last year. Bituminous coal decreased by 117,123 tons, petroleum and oils, except gasoline, by 73,522 tons and pulpwood by 30,114 tons. Wheat increased by 22,999 tons and anthracite coal by 21,130 tons.

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### Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres in August

Cheques cashed against individual accounts in August totalled \$4,532,000,000 compared with \$4,020,000,000 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 12.7 per cent. Increases were recorded in each of the five economic areas and greater activity was indicated in 29 out of 33 clearing centres. During the first eight months of the current year, bank debits aggregated \$39,192,000,000 compared with \$33,894,000,000 in the similar period of 1943, an increase of 15.6 per cent.

The amount of cheques cashed in each of the five economic areas in August was as follows, corresponding totals for 1943 being in brackets: Maritime Provinces, \$97,832,983 (\$91,722,853); Quebec, \$1,288,732,153 (\$1,215,733,801); Ontario, \$1,937,322,864 (\$1,746,667,145); Prairie Provinces, \$910,954,252 (\$708,732,404); British Columbia, \$296,949,218 (\$257,410,512).

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### Canadian Gross Reproduction Rate

The Canadian gross reproduction rate, that is, the average number of female children expected from the individual female in the population who lives to reach the age of 50 years, has fallen from 2.003 in the years 1921-22 to 1.416 in 1940-42. This trend is common to all countries.

The decline in fertility was particularly marked during the inter-war period, first, because the initial years saw numerous births resulting from marriages postponed during World War I, and second, because the closing years were affected by postponement of marriages during the post-war depression. From 1936 onwards increase in employment opportunities led to an increase in the marriage rate and eventually to an increase in the numbers of first and second births.

During the war years, not only did marriages take place which had been postponed during the depression, but also full employment and other effects of the war situation probably led to marriages of younger women taking place earlier than they otherwise would have done. The war-time rise in births continued through 1943.

While fertility has been declining in all the provinces of Canada during the last twenty years, the rate of fall has varied greatly from province to province. The decline has been greatest in Quebec and the Prairie Provinces, and least in the Maritime Provinces. It has been generally found that higher fertility rates have tended to fall faster than lower rates, so that differences between regions or social groups tend to become gradually less. As a consequence of differences in economic development and consequent internal migration movements, provincial rates have not followed this pattern very closely, but the difference between the highest and the lowest provincial rate is becoming less.

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### Manufacturing Industries of the Province of Quebec

Under the impetus of war production, the manufacturing industries of the Province of Quebec continued to expand in 1942. Compared with the preceding year there were increases of 21.8 per cent in the number of persons employed, 36.2 per cent in the salaries and wages paid, and 26.7 per cent in the gross value of production. The number of persons employed in 1942 totalled 399,017, and the salaries and wages paid \$536,329,170, while the cost of materials used and the value added by manufacture were \$1,193,445,432 and \$1,059,873,943, respectively. The selling value at the factory of the products made totalled \$2,333,303,012.

Quebec, with about 31 per cent of the Dominion output is the second largest manufacturing province. From the point of view of gross value of products the iron and its products group headed the list in 1942 with an output valued at \$446,133,739, displacing the textile group which normally comes first. Other major groups in the order of their importance are: textiles and textile products \$431,293,769, non-ferrous metal products \$336,491,281, wood and paper products \$322,394,227, vegetable products \$264,830,026, chemicals and allied products \$219,104,671, animal products \$205,404,264, non-metallic mineral products \$87,298,386, and miscellaneous industries \$20,352,649.

The city of Montreal proper with a gross value of production of \$976,767,738 leads by a wide margin, accounting for about 42 per cent of the entire output of the province. Other important cities in 1942 in the order of their importance are: Montreal East, Quebec, Shawinigan Falls, Lachine, Three Rivers, Sherbrooke, St. Laurent, Hull, St. Hyacinthe, Granby and Drummondville.

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### Coal Tar Distillation Industry

The coal tar distillation industry in Canada in 1943 had an output valued at \$6,540,285 compared with \$6,805,791 in 1942, a decrease of 3.9 per cent. Chief products of this industry in 1943 were creosote and other oils, pitch, refined tar, tarred felts and sheathings, pitch coke, protective paints, phenol, cresol and cresylic acid. Materials used for manufacturing in 1943 cost \$4,059,598, including 40,307,935 gallons of crude tar valued at \$3,177,014.

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### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways during the week ending September 9 amounted to 65,928 cars compared with 73,136 in the previous week and 63,365 in the corresponding week of last year. The decline from the previous week's loadings was due mainly to the holiday on Monday, September 4. Loadings in the eastern division increased from 40,530 cars in 1943 to 41,901, and in the western division from 22,835 to 24,027 cars.

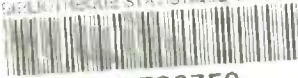
Grain loadings increased from 8,509 cars in the corresponding week of last year to 10,074 cars. Merchandise loadings increased by 614 cars, fresh fruits by 380 cars, fresh vegetables by 287 cars, live stock by 247 cars, lumber by 219 cars and pulpwood by 205 cars, while coal declined by 699 cars and ores, matte, etc., by 489 cars.

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### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
  2. Gainfully Occupied by Industry, Sex, Age, Etc., Manitoba, 1941 (10 cents).
  3. Dairy Production Conditions in Canada, August (10 cents).
  4. Production of Silver, Lead and Zinc, July (10 cents).
  5. Gold Production, July (10 cents).
  6. Manufacturing Industries of the Province of Quebec, 1942 (25 cents).
  7. Consumption of Chemicals in Municipal Waterworks, 1942 & 1943 (25 cents).
  8. Gainfully Occupied by Industry, Sex, Age, Etc., British Columbia, 1941 (10 cents).
  9. The Coal Tar Distillation Industry, 1943 (15 cents).
  10. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, August (10 cents).
  11. Domestic Exports by Principal Countries, August (10 cents).
  12. Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts, August (10 cents).
  13. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  14. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, July (10 cents).
  15. Summary of Canal Traffic, August (10 cents).
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