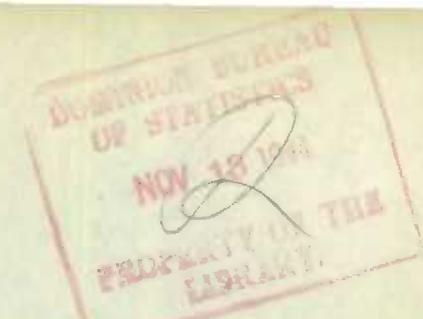


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Economic Conditions during First Nine Months of 1944

Economic operations were at a higher level during the first nine months of the present war than in any similar period. Productive operations averaged $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent above the high level of the same period of 1943, the index of the physical volume of business having averaged 239.2 against 233.3. Wholesale prices were at a higher position than in any year since 1925, the index averaging 102.6 in the first nine months of the present year.

The deposit liabilities of the banks rose to a new high position in history, averaging $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent greater in the first eight months of the present year than in the same period of 1943. New records were established in notice and demand deposits while Dominion Government balances fluctuated considerably, due to heavy payments on Victory Loans and subsequent disbursements. The sum of the four classes of deposits averaged \$4,554 million against \$3,877 million. Dominion bond prices continued relatively steady at an exceedingly high level. The index of bond yields on the base of 1935-39 averaged 97.2 in the first nine months of the present year against 97.6 in the same period of 1943.

An index of common stock prices averaged 83.0 in the first nine months of the present year, a recession of one point from the standing in the same period of last year. The level of common stock prices during the last two years has been above that obtaining from mid-year 1940 to the end of 1942. The standing of the last twenty months was below that of 1938 and 1939. Speculative trading as measured by the number of shares traded on the stock exchanges was at a somewhat lower position in the period under review than in most years of the inter-war period.

Owing to the shortage of man-power, mineral production in the first nine months of the present year showed reduction from the same period of 1943, the index averaging 236.1 against 242.9, a decline of 2.8 per cent. The reduction in the output of coal was 6.4 per cent, while gold receipts at the Mint dropped 21.5 per cent.

While manufacturing production has shown a tapering off in recent months, the average for the first nine months was still somewhat above that for the same period of 1943 resulting in a new high point in history. The index averaged 294.8, an increase of about five points or 1.8 per cent.

The construction industry obtained a much larger volume of new business than in the first nine months of 1943. Contracts awarded amounted to nearly 46 per cent greater than in the same period of last year while building permits rose 58 per cent. The consumption of firm power was 26,494 million kilowatt hours against 26,287 million, representing a gain of nearly one per cent.

A considerable advance was shown in the volume of internal and external trade. Wholesale sales in the first eight months were 10.2 per cent greater, while retail sales rose 6.2 per cent. Exports during the first nine months amounted to \$2,577 million, one-fifth greater than in the same period of last year. Imports on the other hand showed a rise of only 4.2 per cent. The active balance of trade consequently rose sharply from \$860 million to \$1,247 million.

The general index of employment was slightly greater in the first nine months, the index on the base of 1926 standing at 182.6. Gains were shown in manufacturing, logging, highway construction and trade while mining and general construction were at a somewhat lower position. Circulating media in the hands of the public consisting of notes and coins rose 21 per cent to \$886 million. The cash and cheque payments were 18 per cent greater at \$55,412 million.

The national income tentatively estimated at \$8,724 million during the whole of 1943 has risen to a somewhat higher level during the elapsed portion of the present year. During the first nine months, the standing was \$6,828 million, a gain of 6.3 per cent over the total of \$6,423 million recorded for the same period of last year. The standing in September this year was \$802 million compared with \$750 million in the preceding month. Important gains were shown in income originating in agriculture and in Government during September over the preceding month as well as over September, 1943.

Production of Coal and Coke in September

Canadian mines produced a total of 1,396,169 tons of coal in September as compared with 1,377,228 in the preceding month and 1,460,853 in the corresponding month of last year. Output during the first nine months of the current year totalled 12,330,350 tons compared with 13,187,574 in the similar period of 1943, a decrease of 6.5 per cent.

Coke production in September was recorded at 327,000 tons compared with 328,000 in the preceding month and 326,000 in September, 1943. During the first nine months of this year, production totalled 3,018,000 tons compared with 2,518,000 in the comparable period of 1943.

Imports of coal in September amounted to 3,392,837 tons compared with 3,619,827 in the corresponding month of last year, while during the first nine months of this year the total was 21,674,695 tons compared with 20,432,551 tons a year ago.

Coal exported during September amounted to 96,759 tons compared with 115,001 in September of last year, the total for the nine months of the current year aggregating 798,710 tons compared with 800,284 in the comparable period of 1943.

Index Number of Retail Sales in September

Retail purchasing in Canada as measured by the composite index for twelve retail trades dealing principally in food, clothing and household requirements averaged 14 per cent higher in September of this year than last and 15 per cent higher than in the preceding month. The general index of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 180.0 for September compared with 157.2 for August and 157.9 for September, 1943. Sales for the first nine months of 1944 averaged eight per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1943.

A comparison of sales by kinds of business groups in September with those of September 1943 show the following percentage increases: boot and shoe stores, 18; candy stores, 23.9; men's clothing stores, 13.1; women's clothing stores, 14.3; department stores, 15.1; drug stores, 12.1; furniture stores, 15.4; grocery and meat stores, 15.1; hardware stores, 18.2; restaurants, 1.6; variety stores 12.1. Sales of radio and electrical stores recorded a decline of 1.1 per cent.

Mica Mining Industry in 1943

Canadian production of mica in 1943 totalled 8,050,692 pounds valued at \$553,856 compared with 6,019,671 pounds worth \$383,567 in 1942. The value of the 1943 production established an all-time high record and the quantity was only exceeded in the years 1924 and 1929. Of the total output in 1943, Ontario accounted for 4,254,019 pounds, Quebec 3,086,673 pounds and British Columbia 710,000.

Food Chains in 1943

A moderate decline in the total sales of food chains from the all-time high level attained in 1942, a slight decrease in the number of outlets used, and a shift in chain sales to medium-sized stores were the principal features of the food chain trade in 1943, according to a survey compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Total sales made in the 1,394 units of the 69 food chains in 1943 amounted to \$185,974,600 which compares with sales of \$193,488,500 made in the 1,431 outlets of 70 food chains in 1942. Although the drop in the number of stores operated conforms with the trend to the utilization of fewer outlets which has been apparent since 1934, the decrease of 3.9 per cent in sales constitutes the first contraction in dollar volume which has occurred since that year.

In spite of the closure of 276 outlets during 1942, total sales of the food chains were 9.1 per cent greater than in 1941. This increase in the dollar volume of business was principally the result of an upward movement in prices, the Bureau's retail food price index for chain stores rising to 124.9 in 1942, almost nine per cent above the figure of 114.9 for 1941.

The decrease in sales during 1943 of 3.9 per cent from the level of the preceding year, however, was due to a somewhat larger decline in the physical volume of sales because the same index rose to 127.6 in 1943, about two per cent above the average for 1942. This, of course, was principally a reflection of rationing controls and short supplies of merchandise which became increasingly severe during the latter period.

Employment Situation at Beginning of September

There was a further rise in general industrial employment in the Dominion at the beginning of September, when the percentage increase approximated the average at September 1 in the experience of the years from 1921 to 1943. It was, however, considerably smaller than at that date in any preceding year of the war, with the exception of 1943. The 14,837 establishments furnishing information to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported the employment of 1,882,790 men and women as compared with 1,870,741 on August 1. The gain of 12,049 workers, or 0.6 per cent brought the index, on the base 1926 = 100, to 185.5 as compared with the revised figure of 184.3 for August 1 and 186.2 for September 1, 1943.

Manufacturing establishments reported moderately heightened activity at September 1 when they recorded a gain of 6,249 employees. This increase was the smallest at the beginning of September in any year since 1936. There was a further reduction in the production of durable manufactured goods, notably of iron and steel products, while the non-durable goods division showed heightened activity of a seasonal character. Within the latter, there were important gains in vegetable food preserving, in which the expansion was above-average for the time of year.

The trends in the non-manufacturing industries were mixed, that in communications, construction and maintenance and trade being moderately upward, while the movement in logging, mining and transportation was retrogressive. The declines in logging and mining were contra-seasonal.

The firms co-operating in the current survey at September 1 reported the disbursement of weekly salaries and wages totalling \$59,671,139 as compared with \$59,167,005 at the beginning of August. This increase of 0.9 per cent exceeded that of 0.6 per cent in the personnel, with the result that the per capita weekly earnings slightly advanced, rising from \$31.63 at August 1 to \$31.69 at the beginning of September. At September 1, 1943, the indicated average was \$31.69, that at September 1, 1942, was \$29.29, while the September 1, 1941, figure had been \$26.04.

Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on November 2 totalled 349,307,866 bushels compared with 359,493,363 on the corresponding date of last year. This year's total included 323,296,552 bushels in Canadian positions and 26,011,314 in United States positions.

Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Deliveries of wheat from the farms in the three Prairie Provinces during the week ending November 2 amounted to 15,787,653 bushels compared with 17,112,490 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year which commenced August 1, 1944, deliveries from western farms totalled 142,323,919 bushels compared with 57,626,699 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 November 2, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,929,889 (2,649,681) bushels; barley, 1,809,767 (3,679,345); rye, 109,159 (138,181); flaxseed, 249,610 (760,642).

Births, Deaths and Marriages in September

Births registered in cities, towns and villages having a population of 10,000 and

over numbered 10,422 in September, deaths 4,481 and marriages 5,323 as compared with 10,860 births, 4,419 deaths and 5,264 marriages in September last year, showing increases of one per cent in both deaths and marriages and a decrease of four per cent in births.

Geographical Distribution of Manufacturing Industries

The manufacturing industries of Canada established a new record of production in 1942 with an output valued at \$7,553,795,000, representing an increase of 24.3 per cent over the preceding year. An estimate of the value of production in 1943, based on reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics up to July 1 this year, was placed at \$8,393,163,000, recording a further increase over 1942 of 11 per cent. The gross value of products manufactured in 1939 was \$3,474,783,000.

The Province of Ontario accounted for more than 50 per cent of the Dominion total of manufactured products in 1942, the provincial figure standing at \$3,817,396,000 compared with \$3,121,757,000 in 1941. Quebec followed with a production value of \$2,333,303,000 compared with \$1,841,089,000, British Columbia \$558,138,000 compared with \$412,958,000, Manitoba \$259,554,000 compared with \$211,535,000, Alberta \$178,103,000 compared with \$142,651,000, Nova Scotia \$155,931,000 compared with \$133,873,000, New Brunswick \$123,839,000 compared with \$111,434,000, Saskatchewan \$120,257,000 compared with \$96,021,000, Prince Edward Island \$6,855,000 compared with \$4,649,000, and Yukon and Northwest Territories \$418,000 compared with \$341,000.

The number of persons employed in the manufacturing industries of Canada in 1942 was 1,152,000 compared with 961,000 in 1941 and 658,000 in 1939. The estimated total for 1943 was 1,262,000. The manufacturing industries of Ontario provided employment for 542,958 persons compared with 468,230 in 1941, while those of Quebec employed 399,017 persons compared with 327,591. In British Columbia 89,570 persons were employed in manufacturing plants compared with 62,447, in Manitoba 37,519 compared with 32,262, Nova Scotia 31,318 compared with 24,577, New Brunswick 22,182 compared with 19,600, Alberta 18,397 compared with 16,761, Saskatchewan 9,801 compared with 8,546, Prince Edward Island 1,261 compared with 1,105 and Yukon and Northwest Territories 68 compared with 59.

Disbursements in salaries and wages in manufacturing plants in 1942 aggregated \$1,682,805,000 compared with \$1,264,863,000 in 1941, \$737,811,000 in 1939 and the estimated total for 1943 of \$1,918,589,000. The wages paid to employees of firms located in Ontario amounted to \$840,784,000 in 1942 compared with \$660,722,000 in 1941, and to those in Quebec \$536,329,000 compared with \$393,820,000. Establishments in British Columbia paid out a total of \$148,782,000 in the form of salaries and wages compared with \$89,256,000, in Manitoba \$51,605,000 compared with \$40,894,000, Nova Scotia \$41,274,600 compared with \$27,527,000, New Brunswick \$26,547,000 compared with \$21,718,000, Alberta \$23,993,000 compared with \$20,152,000, Saskatchewan \$12,543,000 compared with \$9,980,000, Prince Edward Island \$842,000 compared with \$681,000, and Yukon and Northwest Territories \$106,000 compared with \$112,000.

The capital invested in the Canadian manufacturing industries in 1942 was \$5,488,786,000 compared with \$4,905,504,000 in 1941, and \$3,647,024,000 in 1939. In Ontario the capital investment totalled \$2,632,519,000 compared with \$2,336,789,000 in 1941, in Quebec \$1,883,354,000 compared with \$1,700,527,000 and in British Columbia \$338,649,000 compared with \$340,609,000. In Manitoba the capital invested amounted to \$175,902,000 compared with \$163,489,000, in Nova Scotia \$152,669,000 compared with \$124,410,000, New Brunswick \$105,057,000 compared with \$97,953,000, Alberta \$101,401,000 compared with \$95,676,000, Saskatchewan \$45,014,000 compared with \$42,159,000, Prince Edward Island \$3,367,000 compared with \$3,106,000, and Yukon and Northwest Territories \$853,000 compared with \$785,000.

Production of Canned Foods in Canada in 1942

The present war gave a great impetus to the Canadian canning industries. To meet the greatly increased demand for canned foods of all kinds, production programs were expanded with the result that the value of canned foods produced during 1942 advanced to \$113,168,000 from the total in the preceding year of \$105,038,000 and that for 1939 of \$69,467,000.

The annual pack of salmon in recent years, with few exceptions exceeded a million cases, and in each of the four years 1926, 1928, 1930 and 1941, was more than two million

cases. The pack in 1942 totalled 1,817,441 cases. The 1942 pack of canned lobster amounted to 63,535 cases, an increase of eight per cent over 1941, while the pack of sardines totalled 407,424 cases compared with 614,222. The pack of other kinds of fish in 1942 included the following: herring, 1,654,027 cases; clams and quahaugs, 53,697 cases; haddock, 37,687 cases; and pilchards, 46,451 cases.

The pack of canned vegetables in 1942 amounted to 21,528,803 dozen cans compared with 23,560,220 in 1941, and included tomatoes, corn, beans, beets, carrots, pumpkin, squash, spinach and asparagus. Canned fruits were produced to the extent of 3,460,103 dozen cans compared with 4,817,305 in 1941, canned soups 9,952,996 dozen compared with 11,065,144, and canned meats 25,451,219 pounds compared with 16,415,193.

The principal commodities used in the canning industries include fish, fruits and vegetables, milk and meats, whilst the industry itself forms an adjunct of considerable importance to other industries, notably the tin can industry, the wooden box industry and the paper and printing industries.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended October 28 at 78,535 cars were only slightly below the peak established in the previous week and were 205 cars above loadings of 78,330 cars for the corresponding week of last year. Loadings in the eastern division increased from 47,240 cars in 1943 to 48,809 cars, but in the western division declined from 31,070 to 29,726 cars.

Loadings of grain in the western division were 2,003 cars lighter than in 1943, while coal, lumber, logs, sand, stone, gravel, etc. also showed substantial decreases. The only decreases in the eastern division were 799 cars in coal and 464 cars in ores. These were more than offset by increases of 899 cars in grain and smaller increases in the majority of other commodities.

Dairy Situation in Canada in October

Butter production as reported for October amounted to approximately 24½ million pounds, a decrease of two per cent as compared with the corresponding month of last year. In September the decline was almost seven per cent so that an improvement has taken place which may be credited almost entirely to the diversion of milk from cheese factories to creameries in the eastern provinces. In the Prairie Provinces the decline in butter production continues, and promises to be a factor of considerable importance in connection with the forthcoming supplies. There is no indication that any butter-fat has been diverted from the fluid milk trade, the combined quantity of milk used for factory production being practically the same as that recorded in the corresponding month of the preceding year. The total production of butter for the ten months ended October amounted to approximately 269½ million pounds, a decline of more than five per cent when comparisons are made with the same period of 1943. All provinces contributed to the decline except Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

The domestic disappearance of creamery and dairy butter combined, as recorded for the month of September, amounted to 31.6 million pounds, or 2.64 pounds per capita. For the nine months ended September the per capita disappearance was 22 pounds as compared with 20.8 pounds in the same period of 1943. So far the savings resulting from advancing the expiry date of butter coupons in March, June, August and October have been more or less offset by the increase in the domestic disappearance, due to the fact that consumers are using a greater number of the butter ration coupons.

Cheddar cheese production in October amounted to approximately 19½ million pounds, or six per cent above that of October, 1943; and the January to October production registered a total of 162¾ million pounds, or 9.5 per cent more than produced in the same period of the preceding year. It will be observed that the increase in cheddar cheese production is slowing up due to the closing of factories in many parts of eastern Canada.

Ice cream production amounted to 1.13 million gallons in October as compared with 1.16 million gallons in the same month of the preceding year. The ten-month production was approximately 16½ million gallons compared with 15½ million gallons in the same period of 1943.

Concentrated milk production reached a total of 22.6 million pounds. This represented an increase of nearly 12 per cent in comparison with the same month of last year. Evaporated milk represented 14.3 million pounds, or well over half the total, and compared with the same month of last year showed an increase of 14 per cent. For the ten-month period 245 million pounds of concentrated milk products were produced and the increase over the same period of 1943 was 3.3 per cent. This includes 203.7 million pounds of whole milk products and 40.2 million pounds of milk by-products. The former advanced 1.5 per cent and the latter 13.6 per cent in comparison with the January - October output of the preceding year.

Milk production continues to decline, the September supplies being approximately three per cent below those of the same month last year; and that used for dairy factory products fell $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Fluid sales are still on the increase, although the difference is not as great as it was in previous months.

Conditions were favourable for dairy production in October and there seems to be plenty of feed on hand to meet requirements for the winter months. Recent rains have considerably revived pastures, although deficiencies were reported from the Ottawa Valley and adjacent areas in Ontario, southern Alberta and the southern interior of British Columbia. Dairy cow holdings reported in September were one per cent above those of a year ago, although the percentage being milked is somewhat lower. An encouraging factor in the situation is that farms are well stocked with dairy heifers and since the market for cows is not as great as it was a year ago there is a possibility that more may be retained for milking purposes, provided sufficient farm labour is available to carry out these plans.

Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on November 2 amounted to 501,405 bushels compared with 551,711 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks of wheat declined to 59,843 bushels from 235,252, corn to 243,389 bushels from 259,384, while soybeans advanced to 208,173 bushels from 33,549 bushels.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Monthly Dairy Review of Canada, October (10 cents).
 2. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 3. Geographical Distribution of the Manufacturing Industries, 1942 (50 cents).
 4. Current Trends in Food Distribution, September (10 cents).
 5. Canned Food Production, 1942 (15 cents).
 6. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 7. Gainfully Occupied by Industry, Sex, Age, Etc., Canada, 1941 (10 cents).
 8. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, September (10 cents).
 9. Silver Mining Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
 10. The Employment Situation, September (10 cents).
 11. Food Chains in Canada, 1943 (25 cents).
 12. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, September (10 cents).
 13. Coal and Coke Statistics, September (10 cents).
 14. Economic Conditions During First Nine Months of 1944 (10 cents).
 15. The Mica Mining Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
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