

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS
NOV 27 1944
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Vol. XII - No. 47

Ottawa, Saturday, November 25, 1944

Price \$1.00 per year

Business Operations in October

Productive operations in Canada continued the moderate recession in progress for some time, the index which had been 231.0 in September dropping to a somewhat lower level during October. A majority of the factors indicating the trend of mineral production showed recession in the latest month for which statistics are available. The increase in the output of coal was less than normal for the season. The receipts of gold at the Mint receded from 227,962 fine ounces to 222,542.

The output of the flour milling industry was at a lower position in the latest month. According to the movement of slaughterings, the meat packing industry was somewhat more active in October, the index rising from 167 to 169.4. As the output of dairy products showed recession greater than normal for the season in October, the index after adjustment rose to 128 from 119.4. Canned salmon exports receded from the high level of the preceding month. Boot and shoe production showed slight betterment.

The textile industry measured by the amount of raw cotton used, showed greater activity in October. The total used by members of the cotton institute was 13.3 million pounds against 11.6 million.

The forestry industry was more active in October. The gain in the output of newsprint was from 244,000 tons to 258,000, the gain being slightly less than normal for the season. Considerable advances were shown in the export of planks and boards and other lumber products. The outward shipment of planks and boards was 207 million feet against 189 million in September. The majority of the indexes indicating the trend in the secondary iron and steel group recorded increases in the latest month.

The new business obtained by the construction industry recorded a contraseasonal advance. The index of car loadings was 127.4 in October, showing a recession of about one point from the preceding month. Total loadings during the first forty-five weeks were 3,126,000 cars against 2,993,000 in the same period of last year. Considerable gains were shown in the movement of grain, livestock, pulpwood, hay and merchandise L.C.I. over the corresponding period of last year.

Business Indicators for October 1944 compared with September and October 1943

		October 1944	October 1943	September 1944
Physical Volume of Business ...	1935-39=100	(x)	239.5	231.0
Cost of Living	1935-39=100	118.6	119.3	118.8
Factory Cheese Production	pounds	19,601,506	18,486,305	22,841,908
Creamery Butter Production	pounds	24,575,843	25,073,176	30,977,151
Newsprint Production	tons	258,301	259,336	244,209
Contracts Awarded	\$	25,925,400	19,238,500	25,287,600
Exports, domestic	\$ 000	316,962	259,808	264,619
Raw Cotton Consumption	lb.	13,314,851	13,550,334	11,641,566
Gold Receipts at Mint	fine oz.	222,542	286,141	227,962
Inspected Slaughterings -				
Cattle and Calves	No.	184,764	141,742	178,207
Sheep and Lambs	No.	139,557	158,735	122,849
Hogs	No.	609,072	644,668	400,581
Woodpulp Exports	Cwt.	2,960,110	2,390,607	2,192,915
Shingles Exported	Squares	132,874	98,912	120,757
Canned Salmon Exports	cwt.	36,576	28,084	91,670
Bank Debits	\$ 000	4,931,879	4,654,207	4,818,599
Car Loadings	No.	330,000	315,000	317,000

(x) The index of the physical volume of business according to preliminary calculations showed decline from the preceding month

Canada's Domestic Exports in October

Canada's exports of domestic merchandise in October were valued at \$313,962,000 as compared with \$259,808,000 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 20.8 per cent. During the first ten months of the current year the total value was \$2,860,583,000 compared with \$2,378,992,000 in the similar period of 1943, an advance of 20.2 per cent.

Commodity exports to the United Kingdom in October were valued at \$112,639,000 compared with \$73,360,000 in October of last year, the aggregate for the first ten months of this year standing at \$1,054,934,000 compared with \$837,193,000 in the comparable period of 1943. October exports to the United States were of the value of \$123,050,000 compared with \$112,807,000 in October, 1943, expanding the ten-month total to \$1,056,040,000 from last year's corresponding figure of \$910,663,000.

Exports to British India in October were valued at \$20,064,000 compared with \$12,087,000 in October, 1943, the ten-month aggregate totalling \$133,558,000 compared with \$105,151,000 in the similar period of 1943. Exports to Russia in October amounted to \$8,276,000 compared with \$7,426,000 in October of last year, and in the ten months ended October, \$82,129,000 compared with \$46,330,000.

Exports to other principal countries in October were as follows, totals for October 1943 being in brackets: Italy, \$9,158,000 (\$34,000); France, \$7,756,000 (nil); Newfoundland, \$5,369,000 (\$5,455,000); French Possessions, \$4,255,000 (\$9,846,000); Australia, \$4,199,000 (\$4,045,000); British South Africa, \$1,821,000 (\$2,113,000); Jamaica, \$1,001,000 (\$1,289,000); Trinidad and Tobago, \$1,440,000 (\$985,000); New Zealand, \$1,901,000 (\$38,000); Egypt, \$2,399,000 (\$17,296,000); Switzerland, \$1,702,000 (\$983,000).

The following were amongst the leading commodities exported in October, values for October of last year being in brackets: fruits, \$2,082,000 (\$621,000); vegetables, \$1,744,000 (\$898,000); barley, \$9,390,000 (\$4,508,000); wheat, \$36,784,000 (\$22,629,000); wheat flour, \$7,162,000 (\$4,612,000); alcoholic beverages, \$2,250,000 (\$1,887,000); fishery products, \$4,892,000 (\$5,077,000); meats, \$7,221,000 (\$8,539,000); cheese, \$4,290,000 (\$3,571,000); eggs, \$2,638,000 (\$384,000); cotton, \$2,601,000 (\$1,077,000); wool, \$2,757,000 (\$579,000); planks and boards, \$10,516,000 (\$6,693,000); pulpwood, \$2,875,000 (\$2,924,000); wood pulp, \$11,294,000 (\$7,806,000); newsprint paper, \$14,255,000 (\$13,267,000); petroleum, \$2,110,000 (\$1,077,000); chemicals, \$9,655,000 (\$9,662,000); motor vehicles and parts, \$40,035,000 (\$50,718,000).

Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables

Stocks of canned fruits and vegetables held by canners, wholesale dealers and chain store warehoused on October 1 were higher than on the corresponding date of last year. Canned fruit stocks advanced to 1,921,730 dozen cans from the July 1 holdings of 361,787 dozen and the October 1, 1943, figure of 1,062,324 dozen. This year's October 1 stocks of canned vegetables increased to 14,206,613 dozen cans from the July 1 stocks of 2,789,596 dozen and the October 1, 1943, holdings of 9,267,579 dozen.

Amongst the canned fruits, large increases over October 1, 1943, were shown in the stocks of canned peaches, plums and gages, apricots, cherries, raspberries, pineapple, grapefruit and fruit cocktail and fruit for salad. Decreases were recorded in the stocks of apples, blueberries, loganberries and strawberries, while pears were at about the same level. Noteworthy increases were revealed in the October 1, 1944 stocks of green or wax beans, baked beans, carrots, corn, mixed vegetables, peas, pumpkin, spinach, and tomatoes, while decreased holdings of asparagus, and carrots and peas combined were shown.

October 1, 1944, stocks of principal canned fruit were as follows, in dozen cans, totals for October 1, 1943, being in brackets: peaches, 948,730 (380,274), plums, gages, 429,386 (229,076); apricots, 145,816 (55,215); cherries, 145,884 (91,603); pears, 122,757 (121,282); raspberries, 27,650 (13,667); rhubarb, 23,634 (19,906); fruit cocktail and fruit for salad, 12,314 (5,270); grapefruit, 9,054 (1,919); blueberries, 7,904 (87,542); strawberries, 71 (10,990); loganberries, 25 (5,560).

Stocks of canned vegetables were as follows, in dozen cans, with October 1, 1943, totals in brackets: asparagus, 139,174 (189,624); green or wax beans, 1,902,795 (1,413,827); baked beans, 330,726 (42,122); beets, 105,766 (42,117); carrots, 55,664 (11,944); carrots and peas combined, 17,865 (90,147); corn, 3,135,276 (1,472,073); mixed vegetables, 117,235 (48,887); peas, 4,695,941 (3,436,553); pumpkin, 162,280 (96,684); spinach, 71,554

(42,739); tomatoes, 3,411,866 (2,296,942).

Stocks of other canned foods, in dozen cans, included the following, comparisons with 1943 being in brackets: apple juice, 41,693 (23,190); infant foods, 1,019,808 (599,413); soups, 4,585,938 (2,647,563); tomato juice, 5,047,311 (3,421,772); tomato catsup, 1,411,681 (975,605). Stocks of jam included 207,181 dozen cans and 1,218,119 pounds compared with 140,950 dozen cans and 385,782 pounds a year ago. Marmalade on hand included 146,285 dozen cans and 322,176 pounds compared with 67,151 cans and 94,559 pounds.

Visible Supply and Marketings of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on November 16 totalled 359,974,457 bushels compared with 363,786,183 on the corresponding date of last year. This year's stocks included 329,911,305 bushels in Canadian positions and 30,063,152 in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending November 16 amounted to 12,261,941 bushels compared with 14,155,587 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1944, 168,837,710 bushels of wheat were marketed compared with 76,512,238 in the similar period of the preceding crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending November 16, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,139,641 (1,557,044) bushels; barley, 937,676 (1,305,562); rye 56,166 (65,951); flaxseed, 67,466 (62,237).

Stocks of Unmanufactured Tobacco

The stocks of unmanufactured tobacco in Canada at the end of September amounted to 92,683,293 pounds as compared with the five-year, 1939-43, September average of 104,910,166 pounds. Stocks of Canadian tobacco on hand totalled 90,922,329 pounds and of imported tobacco 1,760,964 pounds compared with the September five-year averages of 101,940,513 and 2,969,653 pounds, respectively.

Production of Raw Furs in Canada

The value of raw furs produced in Canada during the year ended June 30, 1943, comprising pelts taken by trappers and those sold from fur farms, established a new record of \$28,505,000. This valuation represents an increase of \$3,645,000 or 15 per cent over the previous high recorded in the preceding season. Generally higher prices were responsible for the advance in 1942-43.

Mink pelts contributed the largest amount to the total value of raw furs produced in 1942-43 with a valuation of approximately \$5,800,000, followed by muskrat at \$5,600,000 and silver fox at \$4,600,000. Beaver pelts, with a valuation of \$3,000,000, were another important source of revenue to trappers. Silver fox pelts rose in price from an average of \$22.96 in 1941-42 to \$24.84; red fox from \$8.81 to \$12.50; white fox from \$25.74 to \$26.37; ermine from \$1.20 to \$1.58; muskrat from \$2.00 to \$2.74 and squirrel from 31 cents to 34 cents.

The number of skins taken declined from 19,561,024 in 1941-42 to 7,418,971 in 1942-43. The large portion of this decline occurred in the case of rabbit skins 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 October

New and used motor vehicles financed by finance companies during October totalled 2,354 units with a financed value of \$1,076,237, being down 23 per cent in number and 15 per cent in amount of financing from the 3,045 vehicles financed in October last year for \$1,262,897. Included in the October 1944 totals were 213 new vehicles financed to the extent of \$284,077.

Financing of used vehicles declined 26 per cent in both number and in dollar volume, 2,141 units being financed for \$792,160 compared with 2,886 transactions

involving \$1,074,701 in the same month last year. Declines were less extensive in Quebec and Ontario than in other sections of the country. The number of used vehicles financed in Quebec fell off only two per cent from last year's figure, while Ontario recorded a 14 per cent decrease. The following percentage reductions were reported for other regions: British Columbia, 36; Alberta, 48; Maritime Provinces, 50; and Manitoba and Saskatchewan combined, 56.

There were 1,935 new vehicles financed in the first ten months of 1944 compared with 787 in the same period of last year. Used vehicles financed in the January to October period numbered 27,179 this year compared with 33,630 in the comparable period of 1943.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in October

The general index number of wholesale commodity prices, on the base 1926=100, advanced to 102.4 in October from 102.3 in the preceding month and was 0.5 points higher than October 1943. The vegetable products group index rose to 94.7 from 94.4 in September, and that for animal products to 106.3 from 106.0. The non-metallic mineral group index declined to 101.8 from 102.3. Indexes for textile, wood, iron and non-ferrous metal products were unchanged at 91.7, 118.1, 117.0 and 79.7, respectively. The index for Canadian farm products rose to 103.0 from 101.0.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended November 11 increased to 74,835 cars from 73,267 cars for the previous week and 73,652 for the corresponding week of last year. In the eastern division loadings increased to 46,915 cars from 46,649 in 1943 and in the western division the total increased to 27,920 cars from 27,003.

Grain loadings increased in the eastern division but declined in the western division, the total being up by 680 cars. Coal increased by 524 cars, coke by 372 cars, fresh fruits by 371 cars, merchandise by 612 cars and miscellaneous by 289 cars. Ores and other mine products declined by 1,223 cars, fresh vegetables by 366 cars, and sand, gravel and stone by 248 cars.

During October, 330,000 cars of railway revenue freight were loaded as compared with 317,000 in the preceding month and 315,000 in the corresponding month of last year.

Canadian Tobacco Industries in 1943

The net value of products made by the Canadian tobacco manufacturing industry in 1943 was \$64,092,000 compared with \$59,390,000 in the preceding year, an increase of 7.9 per cent. The gross output, selling values including excise duties and taxes, was valued at \$206,609,000 compared with \$159,455,000 in 1942, an advance of 29.6 per cent. Excise duties and taxes paid on tobacco products during the year increased to \$142,-517,000 from \$100,065,000 in 1942, or by 42.4 per cent.

Cigarettes formed the main item of production in 1943 with an output of 13,591,-320,000 valued at \$155,931,000 compared with 11,966,459,000 valued at \$115,125,000 in 1942. Smoking tobacco was next in importance with an output of 24,808,718 pounds valued at \$35,536,000 compared with 26,242,628 pounds valued at \$31,849,000 in 1942. This was followed by cigars with a production of 200,370,000 valued at \$9,666,000 compared with 206,486,000 at \$7,906,000 in 1942. There were 2,927,050 pounds of chewing tobacco produced valued at \$3,660,000 and 941,740 pounds of snuff valued at \$1,796,000. Values quoted include excise duties.

The tobacco industry also contributes materially to the agricultural economy of Canada. Of the total cost of materials used, amounting to \$31,477,000, \$21,504,000 was spent for domestic raw leaf tobacco. All told, the tobacco industry consumed 68,203,-115 pounds of raw leaf tobacco, of which 66,930,346 pounds was of domestic origin. For the production of cigars, 794,995 pounds of imported and 3,293,322 pounds of domestic tobaccos were used; for the production of cigarettes, 307,915 pounds imported and 37,446,742 pounds of domestic tobaccos were required, while for the production of smoking and chewing tobaccos and snuff, 169,859 pounds of imported and 26,190,282 pounds of domestic tobaccos were used.

Fisheries of Prince Edward Island in 1943

The value of production of the fisheries of Prince Edward Island in 1943 was \$2,860,946 compared with \$1,639,539 in the preceding year. These figures represent the value of the product as marketed, whether sold for consumption fresh or canned, cured, etc. The lobster fishery constitutes the most important part of the Prince Edward Island fishing industry, its marketed value of output in 1943 of \$1,165,008 representing 41 per cent of the total for all kinds. Second in importance is the hake fishery with an output valued at \$567,931, or 20 per cent of the whole. Compared with 1942, higher prices were recorded for most of the principal fish products.

The total quantity of fish of all kinds landed by Prince Edward Island fishermen was 332,405 cwt., and the value at the point of landing was \$1,869,266 compared with a catch of 292,454 cwt. and a landed value of \$1,148,367 in 1942. Average prices paid to the fishermen for the principal kinds of fish in 1943 were (per cwt.) as follows with comparative figures for 1942 in brackets: lobster, \$16.74 (\$10.78); hake, \$3.81 (\$1.96); cod, \$4.02 (\$2.48); mackerel, \$4.40 (\$2.68); herring, \$1.20 (0.85); and smelts, \$6.84 (\$4.64). The average price for oysters was \$8.03 per barrel compared with \$7.13.

It should be noted in connection with the lobster fishery for this province that considerable quantities of lobsters are shipped annually to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for canning, and that such shipments although shown as taken by Prince Edward Island fishermen are not included with Prince Edward Island's marketed quantity and value, but instead are included with the output of the provinces where canned. In the year 1943 the net out shipments of Prince Edward Island caught lobsters included 3,466 cwt. to Nova Scotia and 7,712 cwt. to New Brunswick.

International Bridge, Tunnel and Ferry Companies

The number of passenger automobiles crossing the Canada-United States border by bridge, ferry and tunnel in 1943 totalled 3,022,469 compared with 4,253,759 in the preceding year, a decrease of 29 per cent, and although commercial vehicles increased slightly, the total number of all motor vehicles decreased from 4,675,740 to 3,479,675, or by 26 per cent. Pedestrians and passengers, other than drivers, however, numbered 13,223,827 as compared with 11,599,351 in 1942, an increase of 1,624,476.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Fisheries of Prince Edward Island, 1943 (10 cents).
 2. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 3. International Bridge, Ferry and Tunnel Companies, 1943 (15 cents).
 4. The Tobacco Industries in Canada, 1943 (25 cents).
 5. Iron Oxides (Ochre) - 1943 (15 cents).
 6. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, October (10 cents).
 7. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 8. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, October (10 cents).
 9. Domestic Exports by Principal Countries, October (10 cents).
 10. Coal Statistics for Canada, 1942 (50 cents).
 11. Excelsior Industry, 1943 (10 cents).
 12. Stocks and Consumption of Unmanufactured Tobacco, Quarter Ending September 30, 1944 (15 cents).
 13. Monthly Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, October (10 cents).
 14. Fur Production of Canada, Season 1942-43 (25 cents).
 15. Annual Report on the Mineral Production of Canada, 1942 (\$1.00).
 16. Prices and Price Indexes, October (10 cents).
 17. Final Report on Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables on Hand, October 1, 1944 (10 cents).
 18. Summary of Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, 1938-1943 (25 cents).
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