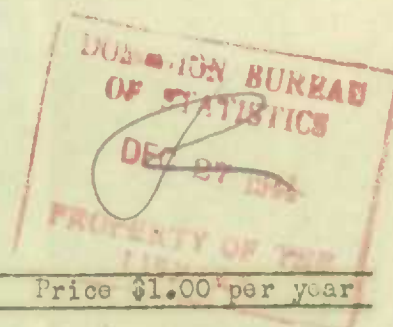


## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Business Conditions in November

Further recession was shown in the productive operations of Canada in November from the preceding month. The downward trend in evidence from last December was continued in the latest month for which statistics are available. The index averaged higher in the first 11 months over the same period of 1943, and it is anticipated that the standing for the year will constitute an historical maximum.

The majority of the factors indicating the trend of mineral production showed declines in the latest month. Gold receipts at the Mint, however, rose from 222,542 fine ounces in October to 239,567 in the month under review. The flour milling industry was less active after seasonal adjustment in the latest month, the index receding from 143 to 125.

The recession in the output of dairy products was less than normal for the season. The index of the volume of production consequently rose from 128 to 153. Canned salmon exports advanced to a high level greatly in excess of the movement of the preceding month. The cotton textile industry showed further recovery in operations during November. The cotton used rose from 13.3 million pounds to 14.3 million, the seasonally adjusted index rising from 132 to 139.7.

Four of the five indexes indicating the trend of operations in the forestry industry recorded increases. The slight recession in the output of newsprint was less than normal for the season, the index rising one point to 97.7. A contra-seasonal increase was recorded in the exports of planks and boards, which amounted in November to 207.5 million feet. The index rose 12 points to 147.3. Timber sealed in British Columbia was 280.7 million feet in the latest month for which statistics are available compared with 250.7 million. The factors indicating the trend of operations in the secondary iron and steel industry moved predominantly in a downward direction in the latest month.

Construction contracts awarded in November were greater than in the same month of 1943 but showed seasonal recession from October. Commodity distribution through retail and wholesale outlets showed an advance in the latest month after the usual adjustments for seasonal and price changes. Domestic exports rose from \$289.9 million in November, 1943 to \$312.5 million. A slight recession, however, was shown from the preceding month. Domestic exports amounted to \$3,173 million in the first 11 months of the present year against \$2,669 million in the same period of 1943.

Business Indicators for November, 1944, Compared with October and November, 1943.

		November, 1944	November, 1943	October, 1944
Physical Volume of Business .....	1935-39=100	(x)	242.9	228.0
Cost of Living .....	1935-39=100	118.9	119.4	118.6
Factory Cheese Production .....	pounds	9,472,449	9,028,203	19,601,506
Creamery Butter Production .....	pounds	16,332,706	15,795,705	24,575,843
Newsprint Production .....	tons	256,762	256,336	258,301
Contracts Awarded .....	\$	18,901,600	14,146,500	25,925,400
Exports, domestic .....	\$ 000	312,481	289,912	313,962
Raw Cotton Consumption .....	lb.	14,343,086	14,253,640	13,314,851
Gold Receipts at Mint .....	fine oz.	239,567	263,668	222,542
Woodpulp Exports .....	cwt.	2,364,070	2,712,193	2,950,110
Shingles Exported .....	squares	129,605	132,236	132,874
Canned Salmon Exports .....	cwt.	170,698	90,208	36,576
Bank Debits .....	\$ 000	6,671,201	5,913,477	4,931,879
Car Loadings .....	No.	327,000	319,000	330,000

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



### Production of Coal and Coke in October

The output of coal in Canada during October amounted to 1,532,295 tons compared with 1,396,169 tons in the preceding month and 1,559,007 in the corresponding month of last year. Production during the first 10 months of the current year totalled 13,848,034 tons, a decrease of six per cent from the output of 14,746,581 in the similar period of 1943.

Coke production in October was recorded at 331,000 tons as compared with 320,000 in the preceding month and 349,000 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first 10 months of this year production totalled 3,342,000 tons compared with 2,867,000 a year ago.

Imports of coal in October amounted to 3,211,246 tons compared with 3,515,852 in October 1943, the total for the first ten months of this year having been 24,385,941 tons as compared with 23,948,403 in the comparable period of 1943. Exports of coal in October totalled 64,087 tons compared with 122,423 in October of last year, while the total for the ten months ended October aggregated 862,797 tons compared with 922,707.

### Visible Supply of Canadian Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on December 14 totalled 368,568,587 bushels as compared with 361,547,488 on the corresponding date of last year. This year's total included 322,695,860 bushels in Canadian positions and 45,872,727 bushels in United States positions.

### Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending December 14 amounted to 8,666,405 bushels as compared with 7,130,939 in the preceding week, increasing the total for the elapsed portion of the present crop year to 206,140,010 bushels from 108,481,824 in the similar period of the crop year 1943-44.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending December 14, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,547,266 (978,201) bushels; barley, 1,681,502 (1,400,747); rye, 61,250 (63,265); flaxseed, 59,833 (59,500).

### Canada's Merchandise Exports in November

Canada's merchandise exports during the month of November were valued at \$312,491,000 as compared with \$289,912,000 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 7.8 per cent. During the first eleven months of the current year, commodity exports were valued at \$3,173,074,000 as compared with \$2,668,904,000 in the similar period of the preceding year, an advance of 18.9 per cent.

Merchandise exports to the United Kingdom in November were valued at \$102,214,000 compared with \$105,970,000 in November 1943, the total for the eleven months ended November standing at \$1,157,147,000 as compared with \$943,163,000 in the comparable period of 1943. November exports to the United States were valued at \$118,914,000 as compared with \$108,339,000 in November last year, the aggregate for the eleven months of this year amounting to \$1,174,954,000 as compared with \$1,019,002,000.

Commodity exports to other leading countries in November were as follows, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in brackets: British India, \$24,220,000 (\$17,145,000); Italy, \$13,589,000 (\$1,055,000); Russia, \$13,501,000 (\$3,365,000); Egypt, \$7,273,000 (\$17,396,000); Newfoundland, \$4,483,000 (\$4,119,000); French Possessions, \$4,332,000 (\$6,610,000); France \$2,898,000 (nil); British South Africa, \$2,409,000 (\$5,309,000); Australia, \$2,211,000 (\$1,059,000).

The following were amongst the principal items exported in November, totals for November 1943 being in brackets: wheat, \$29,837,000 (\$29,031,000); wheat flour, \$6,494,000 (\$4,749,000); meats, \$14,787,000 (\$11,360,000); planks and boards, \$10,004,000 (\$7,457,000); wood pulp, \$8,420,000 (\$8,608,000); newsprint, paper, \$14,015,000 (\$13,961,000); motor vehicles and parts, \$42,972,000 (\$58,589,000); chemicals, \$10,155,000 (\$8,652,000); fishery products, \$7,547,000 (\$6,117,000).



### Canadian Construction Industry in 1943

The value of work performed by the Canadian construction industry in 1943 amounted to \$572,426,551, a decrease of \$63,223,019 or 9.9 per cent from the 1942 total of \$635,649,570. Employment was provided for 155,300 persons, or 19,967 fewer than in the preceding year; salary and wage payments totalled \$246,836,035, a decline of \$15,207,436. Materials used cost \$278,888,384, a reduction of \$45,843,996.

New construction was undertaken in 1943 to the value of \$422,423,651, which was a decrease of \$67,894,266 or 13.8 per cent, while alterations, maintenance and repairs at \$150,002,900 represented an increase of \$4,671,247 or 3.2 per cent. New residential construction, under which heading is included dwellings, single, semi-detached or double, duplexes and apartment houses, totalled \$52,372,057, a decrease of \$12,980,229 or 19.9 per cent.

### Bicycle Manufacturing Industry in 1943

Fewer bicycles were manufactured in Canada in 1943 than in any year since 1935, according to production figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number produced in 1943 was 47,679 compared with 72,120 in the preceding year and 37,248 in 1935. The 1943 valuation was \$1,265,144 as compared with \$1,810,771 in 1942 and \$748,670 in 1935.

The value of all products manufactured in bicycle plants during 1943 was \$3,369,040, a decrease of about one per cent from the 1942 total. In addition to the bicycles produced, the 1943 output included bicycle parts and accessories to the value of \$48,489, and miscellaneous products such as ice skates, tricycles, children's wagons, etc., valued at \$2,055,407.

### Drug Chains in Canada in 1943

Results of a recent survey of retail drug chains compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics indicate a continued expansion in sales volume from the previous all-time high attained in 1941. This was accompanied by a moderate decline in the number of stores operated and by a moderate decline in the number of companies which by definition must operate a minimum of four outlets to qualify as a retail chain.

Total sales made by the 343 chain drug stores in 1942 amounted to \$19,711,700, an increase of four per cent over the 1941 dollar volume, while in 1943 the 336 outlets made sales of \$21,511,600, an advance of 9.1 per cent over the turnover of the preceding year. The drug chains were also able to maintain a comparatively stable inventory position, the valuation of their stocks at cost prices amounting to \$2,732,900 at the end of 1942 and to \$2,913,900 at the end of 1943 which compares with total inventories of \$2,936,100 shown by such systems at the end of 1941.

### Canadian Slaughtering and Meat Packing Industry in 1943

The output of the Canadian slaughtering and meat packing industry in 1943 marks a high record for value with a total of \$437,228,577, showing an increase over the preceding year of \$68,181,402, or 24 per cent, and an advance over 1939, the last pre-war year of \$252,032,444, or 136 per cent. To the total value, meats and poultry sold fresh contributed \$174,925,600 or 40 per cent; cured, cooked and canned meats and poultry, \$209,711,920, or 48 per cent; lard and shortening, \$27,048,854 or six per cent; hides and skins, \$10,225,899, or two per cent; and miscellaneous items, including tallow, oils, grease, fertilizer, etc., \$15,316,304, or four per cent.

The most important single item comprised bacon and sides, of which the total quantity was 469,884,814 pounds, and the total value, \$107,029,995 - an increase in quantity, compared with the preceding year, of 90,476,756 pounds, or 24 per cent, and an increase in value of \$25,976,624, or 32 per cent. Beef and pork sold fresh were valued at \$101,825,856 and \$40,078,874 respectively. Average prices were higher in 1943 for all items except hams, bacon and sides, cooked meats, canned poultry and some minor items.

There were 153 plants in operation in 1943, distributed by provinces as follows: Ontario, 73; Quebec, 29; Alberta, 12; British Columbia, 10; Manitoba, 12; Saskatchewan, eight; Nova Scotia, four; New Brunswick, four; and Prince Edward Island, one. The total number of plants shows an increase of five over the preceding year.



The position occupied by each province in respect to the total value of production for the Dominion follows: Ontario, 31 per cent; Quebec, 14; Alberta, 18; Manitoba, 22; Saskatchewan, nine; British Columbia, five; and Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick combined, one per cent.

#### Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres in November

Cheques cashed in clearing centres in Canada in November recorded an increase of 12.8 per cent over the corresponding month of last year, the total standing at \$6,671,000,000 as compared with \$5,913,000,000, the increase having been partly due to heavy payments on the Seventh Victory Loan. Considerable advances were shown in each of the five economic areas. Twenty-nine of the 33 clearing centres recorded increases over November, 1943.

Cheques cashed in the 33 clearing centres during the first eleven months of the current year aggregated \$55,614,000,000, an increase of \$6,668,000,000 or 13.6 per cent over the similar period of 1943. Substantial increases were shown in each of the five economic areas, the greatest advance having been recorded in the Prairie Provinces.

Bank debits in the Maritime Provinces in November amounted to \$156,000,000, an increase of 12.4 per cent over the same month of 1943. Increases were shown in each of the three clearing centres, the total for Halifax having been \$86,500,000. The increase in the cheques cashed in the Province of Quebec was 11.2 per cent, advances having been shown in each of the three clearing centres. The net result was that the provincial total rose from \$1,719,000,000 to \$1,911,000,000.

Eleven of the 14 clearing centres in Ontario recorded increases in November. The Toronto total rose from \$1,410,000,000 to \$1,697,000,000. The cheques cashed in Ottawa increased 16 per cent to \$784,000,000. The provincial total was 16.4 per cent greater at \$2,969,000,000. Nine of the ten centres in the Prairie Provinces recorded increases over the same month of last year. The total for the area was \$1,237,000,000 against \$1,155,000,000, an increase of 7.1 per cent. Debits in British Columbia were 14 per cent greater at \$398,000,000. Increases were shown in the three clearing centres of the province.

#### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended December 9 rose to 72,692 cars from 72,332 for the previous week and from 72,083 for the corresponding week last year. In the eastern division, loadings advanced from 44,139 cars in 1943 to 44,215, and in the western division from 27,944 to 28,477 cars.

Grain loadings increased from 8,873 cars in 1943 to 10,411, pulpwood from 1,665 to 1,706 cars, merchandise from 14,584 to 15,190 cars, and fresh vegetables from 1,115 to 1,364 cars. Coal declined from 6,785 cars in 1943 to 6,509, logs and other forest products from 2,936 to 2,255 cars, ores, matte and other mine products from 3,499 cars to 3,065, and hay and straw from 1,168 to 660 cars.

#### Loadings of Railway Revenue Freight in November

Revenue freight loadings in November amounted to 9,553,000 tons as compared with 9,602,000 in the preceding month and 9,420,000 in the corresponding month of last year. The index number of tons loaded, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 164.4 for November compared with 140.4 for October and 162.1 for November, 1943.

#### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, November (10 cents).
2. Slaughtering and Meat Packing and Sausage and Sausage Casings, Canada 1943 (25 cents).
3. Drug Chains in Canada, 1943 (25 cents).
4. Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, November (10 cents).
5. The Construction Industry in Canada, 1943 (25 cents).
6. Canada's Domestic Exports by Principal Countries, November (10 cents).
7. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, November (10 cents).
8. Coal and Coke Statistics, October (10 cents).
9. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, November (10 cents).
10. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
11. Bicycle Manufacturing Industry, 1943 (15 cents).



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