

Employment Situation at January 1

Industrial employment showed a pronounced contraction at January 1 in accordance with the movement invariably indicated at the year-end holiday season. The number of workers released was large, exceeding that recorded at the beginning of January in the two preceding years; the general decline was nevertheless considerably below-average judged by pre-war standards.

The 14,251 establishments furnishing information to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported a personnel of 1,868,615, as compared with 1,916,728 at December 1, a reduction of 48,113 employees, or 2.5 per cent. The unadjusted index number of employment on the base 1926=100, declined from its all-time high of 190.5 in December to 185.7. On January 1 last year it was 183.7. Since the curtailment was less than normal in extent, the seasonally-adjusted index showed a gain, rising from 186.0 at December 1 to 192.9.

The gain of 1.1 per cent in the index at January 1 as compared with the corresponding date last year was noteworthy in that it was the smallest increase reported in any month in a similar comparison for a lengthy period. At January 1, 1943, the increase over January 1, 1942, had amounted to 10.8 per cent, while that at January 1, 1942, over January 1, 1941, was 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The relatively slight advance in the index for January this year in the 12 months' comparison affords further evidence of the levelling-off process now under way in industrial employment.

Communications, retail trade and logging afforded more employment at January 1 than at December 1; the improvement in trade was seasonal, while that in the other two groups was contrary to the usual trend at the time of year. The remaining major industrial divisions - manufacturing, mining, transportation, construction and maintenance and services - showed seasonal curtailment, which in the first three industries was below-normal in extent. The largest decline took place in construction, where the reported loss of 28,463 persons or 17.6 per cent, exceeded the average at January 1 in the period from 1920.

The co-operating manufacturing establishments laid off 23,736 men and women, a reduction of two per cent. This was about twice as large as the decrease indicated at the same date in 1943, but was considerably smaller than the average in the last 23 years. Rubber and tobacco factories afforded more employment, but other divisions showed reduced activity. The greatest contractions in employment were in textile, food, lumber, chemical, pulp and paper, non-ferrous metal and iron and steel plants. The shrinkage in the last-named is the greatest indicated since January 1, 1939. On the whole, the declines in the various industries were less-than-usual for the time of year.

The aggregate payroll of \$55,446,212 disbursed in weekly salaries and wages at January 1 by the 14,251 reporting employers, was lower by 8.5 per cent than the sums paid at the first of December. The decline, which was seasonal, constituted the fourth interruption in the generally upward movement indicated since the institution of the statistics of payrolls in the spring of 1941; the other occasions on which the trend was downward were at the beginning of January in 1942 and 1943, and at May 1 of last year, largely as a result of the Easter holidays. The weekly per capita average earnings fell from \$31.61 at December 1 to \$29.67 at the first of January, or by \$1.94; the decline of \$2.14 indicated at January 1, 1943, had lowered the average to \$27.92.

Dominion Bureau of Statistics Cost of Living Index

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has issued an explanatory statement regarding the cost of living index. This statement incorporates all revisions up to the end of 1943. The purpose of the cost of living index is to measure the influence of changes in retail prices and services upon the cost of a representative urban wage-earner family budget. It served as a basis of cost of living bonus adjustments from December, 1940 to October, 1943 under the terms of Orders-in-Council P.C. 7440 and P.C. 5963. The cost of living bonus to industrial workers was then incorporated into the wage structure with the provision that wage levels would be reviewed after the index rises 3.0 points above its October, 1943 level for two consecutive months.

It should be clearly understood that the index is a measurement of price change. Many people use the term "living costs" to indicate the total cost of things they buy. Used in this sense, "living costs" may include different things from month to month and year to year, and likewise different amounts and qualities of the same things. A cost of living index based upon this idea would simply reflect the value of total purchases made by everyone. In normal times it would move closely in line with estimates of national income. The Bureau's index is based upon a quite different idea. It measures changes in the cost of a family budget which includes the same amounts of the same commodities and services for considerable periods of time; it is revised only to take account of important "long-run" changes in consumption. It is, therefore, essentially an index which measures changes in prices.

Each index figure is a percentage which shows the relationship between the dollar value of the index budget for a specified period, and the corresponding dollar value of the same budget in a reference period. The Bureau's standard reference period includes the five years 1935 to 1939. The average value of the index budget for this period is represented by 100.0. The value of the same budget in August, 1939 was 100.8 per cent of the reference budget, and the corresponding value for December, 1943 was 119.3 per cent. These figures become the cost of living index numbers for August, 1939 and December, 1943.

Because August, 1939, the last pre-war month, provided the basis for cost of living bonus adjustments, it is used frequently as a reference period. The procedure in this case is essentially the same as that described above. The value of the index budget in August, 1939 is considered as 100.0, and budget values for other months are computed as percentages of the August, 1939 value. The December, 1943 index then becomes 118.4. Indexes related to the August, 1939 budget value have become widely known as the "adjusted" indexes. They may be computed by dividing the original August, 1939 index of 100.8 into the comparable index for any other period, e.g., the December 1943 index of 119.3 divided by 100.8 gives 118.4.

Canada's External Trade in January

Canada's external trade in January, excluding gold, was valued at \$372,359,000 as compared with \$305,834,000 in the corresponding month last year, an increase of \$66,525,000. The expansion was due entirely to the increase in merchandise exports, the total of which amounted to \$242,011,000 as compared with \$177,324,000 in January, 1943. Merchandise imports recorded a minor decline to \$126,369,000 from \$127,299,000 a year ago. Foreign exports amounted to \$3,978,230 compared with \$1,211,242.

The balance of commodity trade continued to be in Canada's favour, the total having been \$119,621,000 as compared with \$51,237,000 in January, 1943. The commodity trade balance has been favourable since October, 1941 in which month a minor unfavourable balance of \$1,141,275 was recorded. In addition to the balance in January, net exports of non-monetary gold amounted to \$9,400,000 compared with \$13,900,000 in January, 1943. Duties collected during the month amounted to \$14,005,432 compared with \$9,992,699.

January merchandise exports to the United Kingdom were sharply higher, the total having been \$94,800,000 compared with \$42,600,000 in January last year, while imports from that country amounted to \$7,100,000 compared with \$8,600,000. Exports to the United States in January amounted to \$85,300,000 compared with \$91,200,000, and imports from that country \$106,300,000 as compared with \$104,800,000.

Canada's Imports in January

A minor decrease was recorded in the value of Canada's merchandise imports in January, the total having been \$126,369,000 as compared with \$127,298,000 in the corresponding month last year. The United States accounted for a large part of this trade, the total being \$106,297,000 as compared with \$104,816,000. The total from the United Kingdom was \$6,179,000 compared with \$5,748,000, British India \$2,216,000 compared with \$1,213,000, Mexico \$1,040,000 compared with \$1,052,000.

Commodity imports from other leading countries were as follows, totals for January, 1943 being in brackets: British South Africa, \$672,000 (\$330,000); British Guiana, \$538,000 (\$324,000); Barbados, \$807,000 (\$93,000); Jamaica, \$808,000 (\$483,000); Newfoundland, \$490,000 (\$444,000); Australia, \$695,000 (\$248,000); Fiji, \$499,000 (nil); New Zealand, \$290,000 (\$2,100,000); Argentina, \$541,000 (\$946,000); Brazil, \$416,000 (\$236,000); Colombia, \$683,000 (\$286,000); Switzerland, \$529,000 (\$191,000); Venezuela, \$515,000 (\$1,070,000).

Imports of agricultural products in January were valued at \$14,367,000 as compared with \$11,060,000 a year ago, animal products \$3,498,000 compared with \$2,846,000, fibres and textiles \$13,059,000 compared with \$15,731,000, wood and paper products \$3,231,000 compared with \$2,939,000, iron and products which includes machinery and vehicles \$32,691,000 compared with \$21,989,000, non-ferrous metals \$9,727,000 compared with \$6,643,000, non-metallic minerals including coal and petroleum \$18,317,000 compared with \$14,722,000, chemicals \$6,033,000 compared with \$5,016,000 and miscellaneous commodities including certain military stores \$25,446,000 compared with \$46,352,000.

World Wheat Situation

With the livestock population in North America consuming wheat, bushel for bushel, with the human population, a new chapter is being added to the story of wheat. It will tell of the all-out war effort on Canadian and United States farms to produce maximum supplies of food for the United Nations, and the part played by wheat when stocks of feed grains fell short of requirements. This broad grain, hitherto the preserve of human beings, has been pinch-hitting for oats, barley and other feedstuffs and has made possible the maintenance of record numbers of livestock on North American farms.

It is estimated that a total of 590,000,000 bushels of wheat will be fed to animals on this continent during the crop year 1943-44, while the civilian and home military requirements of Canada and the United States may total only 580,000,000 bushels. It would take Canadians about thirteen years, on the basis of pre-war bread consumption, to get rid of the amount of wheat that live stock will consume in the current crop year, while the civilian population of the United States would need at least fifteen months to digest the flour product of 590,000,000 bushels of wheat.

Animal consumption of wheat in the United States is placed at 500,000,000 bushels for the twelve months ending June 30, 1944. This compares with about 108,000,000 bushels fed to live stock in the crop year 1939-40. In Canada, the use of wheat for live stock feed in the year ending July 31, 1944, is expected to be two and a half times the quantity fed during the crop year 1939-40. But Canadian wheat is moving in large quantities to the United States to be used there as livestock food, so that the quantity of Canadian wheat fed to animals in both countries might easily reach a total of 215,000,000 bushels. Transportation will be the chief determining factor in the ultimate figure.

Since the big crop of 1942 was harvested, a large volume of Canadian wheat has been dammed up on farms in the three Prairie Provinces due to a combination of circumstances, but it has recently been decided to draw off some of this wheat during the current crop year. It was the original intention of the Government to take delivery, through the Canadian Wheat Board, of only 280,000,000 bushels of western wheat, representing a maximum delivery of 14 bushels per "authorized" acre in the west. The maximum delivery quota has now been raised to 18 bushels and this will permit the delivery of approximately 360,000,000 bushels during the crop year 1943-44.

In the event that the maximum delivery of 360,000,000 bushels is realized, stocks of wheat remaining on prairie farms at the close of the crop year will be down to almost normal proportions, but on the basis of current estimates of domestic and export disappearance the Canadian carry-over of wheat is expected to exceed 400,000,000 bushels next July 31. The United States carry-over of wheat may fall to 250,000,000 bushels compared with 618,000,000 bushels on July 1, 1943, so that the prospective surplus in North America is 650,000,000 to 675,000,000 bushels, despite the enormous quantities of wheat fed to live stock.

The indicated carry-over means a reduction of between 45 and 50 per cent from the record North American carry-over of wheat at the close of the 1942-43 crop year, but this reduction is significant only if the feeding of wheat to livestock is to be continued beyond July 1944 at the current rate, or if the present outlook for wheat production in Canada and the United States in 1944 shows further deterioration. Both countries experienced an unusually dry fall in 1943, though some improvement has taken place the past two months in the United States winter wheat belt.

Seed-bed conditions for spring wheat are unfavourable in both countries, but there is ample time for rains to remedy this condition, in part at least, while the increase of about 10,000,000 acres in the winter wheat acreage in the United States may offset to some degree the unfavourable moisture situation at seeding time. No increase in Canadian wheat acreage in 1933 is being sought officially, but spring wheat farmers in the United States have scope for increasing substantially their wheat acreage in line with the official objectives set for 1944, which call for an over-all increase of 14,000,000 acres in the United States.

The statistical position of wheat in the southern hemisphere countries is still very favourable, despite a recent lowering of the Argentine estimate. The output in Australia is now placed at 110,000,000 bushels and the Argentine crop at approximately 261,000,000 bushels. Crop news from Europe is largely favourable in character. A large acreage has been seeded to winter wheat, and moisture conditions are reported to be very satisfactory. A mild winter has produced rapid growth and there is some danger of damage in the event of a cold spell during the next month or so. Shortage of fertilizer continues to be a hazard of production, but at the moment, from the standpoint of moisture, European crops hold the edge on North America for the second successive year.

Visible Supply of Canadian Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on February 24 totalled 339,232,457 bushels, including 317,013,458 bushels in Canadian positions and 22,218,000 in United States positions. The visible supply on the corresponding date last year amounted to 449,650,512 bushels.

Marketings of Wheat in Western Canada

Deliveries of wheat from the farms in western Canada during the week ending February 24 amounted to 5,341,734 bushels as compared with 4,978,461 in the previous week. The total for the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1943, amounted to 167,101,550 bushels compared with 165,799,000 in the similar period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from the farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending February 24, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 940,287 (825,530) bushels; barley, 529,447 (522,008); rye, 93,405 (67,966); flaxseed, 31,970 (19,633).

Production of Wheat Flour in January

Production of wheat flour in Canadian mills in January amounted to 2,041,193 barrels as compared with 1,963,042 in the corresponding month last year. The amount produced during the first half of the current crop year was 12,411,151 barrels, an increase of slightly more than a million barrels over the same period of 1942-43 when the amount was 11,408,011 barrels.

The quantity of wheat ground during January was 8,987,626 bushels, bringing the half-year total for 1943-44 to 54,814,407 bushels compared with 50,957,920 for the similar period of the previous crop year. The coarse grain grind for January increased in oats, barley and buckwheat but fell off in corn and mixed grain. Stocks of wheat in flour mills at the end of January amounted to 6,094,405 bushels compared with 6,130,144 at the end of the previous month.

Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs

There were 11,663,103 pounds of wholesale creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada at the opening of business on March 1, according to reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This was a drop of almost 10 million pounds since February 1 when the revised total was 21,458,437, but the current stocks were seven million pounds more than holdings in these cities a year ago, when Canada was in very short supply.

Stocks of cheese were 22,274,851 pounds, a decline of 2.1 million from February 1, but an increase of 3.8 million pounds over the quantity in storage on March 1, 1943. Shell eggs in storage totalled 3,447,308 dozen as compared with slightly over two million dozen last month and 1,850,429 dozen a year ago. Frozen eggs amounted to 5,089,078 pounds, being more than double last year's figures which were 2,068,259 pounds, but only 14.7 per cent greater than those of last month.

Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on February 24 amounted to 1,803,000 bushels as compared with 3,555,000 bushels on the corresponding date last year. Corn accounted for most of the decline, stocks of which decreased to 564,749 bushels from 3,530,390 bushels. Wheat increased to 1,222,242 bushels from mil.

Hog Numbers Increase Sharply

Numbers of hogs on farms at December 1, 1943, reached the highest level in all time. The total of 9,473,000 head represents an increase of 1,723,000 or 22 per cent over the corresponding date for 1942. The increase was common to all provinces with the exception of Ontario and was particularly marked in each of the three Prairie Provinces. The high number of hogs on farms at December 1 has been reflected in marketings during the past two months, indicating that marketings will continue heavy throughout the first half of 1944.

As at December 1 an over-all decrease of 7.5 per cent was indicated in the number of sows expected to farrow during the spring of 1944 but in the light of additional bonus payments to hog producers announced early in January it is not unlikely that the indicated downward trend has been reversed. The reduction was particularly marked in Ontario and recent reports indicate a sharp increase in the demand for breeding stock and young pigs. Hogs from those late breedings will start to appear on the market late in 1944.

Numbers of hogs on farms at December 1, 1943, were as follows by provinces, totals for the corresponding date in 1942 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 73,900 (66,300); Nova Scotia, 79,600 (63,000); New Brunswick, 106,900 (89,500); Quebec, 1,289,100 (1,094,500); Ontario, 1,809,400 (2,019,300); Manitoba, 863,200 (696,000); Saskatchewan, 2,182,400 (1,368,000); Alberta, 2,977,400 (2,269,700); British Columbia, 91,300 (84,300).

Output of Leading Mineral Products in 1943

Canada's production of coal during 1943 was reduced to 17,786,562 tons as compared with 18,865,030 tons in 1942, gold to 3,652,376 fine ounces compared with 4,841,306, cement to 7,292,782 barrels compared with 9,126,041, and natural gas to 43,992,700,000 cubic feet compared with 45,697,359,000, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Production of other leading mineral products during the calendar year 1943 was as follows, totals for 1942 being in brackets: clay products, \$6,414,615 (\$7,081,723); feldspar, 25,489 (22,270) tons; gypsum, 435,865 (566,166) tons; lime, 952,781 (884,830) tons; commercial salt, 339,667 (326,084) tons; silver, 17,187,069 (20,695,101) fine ounces.

Production of Iron and Steel in January

Production of pig iron in Canada in January amounted to 132,128 net tons as compared with 138,240 in the corresponding month of last year. The total included 105,142 tons of basic iron, 10,103 tons of foundry iron and 16,873 tons of malleable iron. Output of steel ingots and steel castings totalled 242,186 net tons compared with 207,008, while the production of ferro-alloys amounted to 16,495 net tons compared with 18,838 tons.

Output of Electric Power in January

Central electric stations produced a total of 3,528,908,000 kilowatt hours in January, being the greatest output in any January on record. The increase over January of last year was 9.5 per cent, the total in that month having been 3,226,644,000 kilowatt hours.

Consumption of primary power in Canada, including line losses, increased to a daily average of 102,820,000 kilowatt hours, which has been exceeded only by the averages of last November and December. No adjustments have been made in these averages for the five Sundays and five Saturdays in January, 1944, as against four each in November and December.

The consumption of secondary power in Canada increased from 129,985,000 kilowatt hours in January a year ago to 132,137,000. Exports to the United States in January increased to 209,289,000 kilowatt hours from 203,579,000 in the corresponding month last year, the increase being all in secondary power.

Gainfully Occupied in Alberta in 1941

According to preliminary figures for Alberta, 271,800 males and 40,584 females or a total of 316,384 persons, including members of the Armed Forces, were gainfully occupied at the 1941 census. The population of the province consisted of 426,458 males and 369,711 females or a total of 796,169 persons. The total gainfully occupied, therefore, accounted for 39.74 per cent of the total population. Over 85 per cent of the males and 15 per cent of the females 14 years of age and over were gainfully occupied at the 1941 census. Figures quoted in the following paragraphs do not include the Armed Forces.

The 10 leading male occupations in Alberta accounted for 74.34 per cent of the gainfully occupied male population. Ranked according to their relative importance they were: farmers and stock raisers 90,122 or 36.39 per cent, farm labourers 48,213 or 19.47 per cent, labourers (not agriculture, fishing, logging or mining) 9,969 or 4.03 per cent, owners and managers in retail trade 8,778 or 2.74 per cent, miners and millmen 5,788 or 2.34 per cent, office clerks 4,939 or 1.99 per cent, mechanics and repairmen (not electrical appliances) 4,752 or 1.92 per cent, truck drivers 4,671 or 1.89 per cent, carpenters 4,452 or 1.80 per cent, and salespersons in stores 4,406 or 1.78 per cent.

Females gainfully occupied were even more concentrated in the 10 leading female occupations than were the gainfully occupied males, representing 76.32 per cent of the total gainfully employed females in the province. The order of the leading female occupations, found mainly in the service groups, was as follows: domestic servants 8,419 or 20.77 per cent, school teachers 4,146 or 10.23 per cent, stenographers and typists 4,087 or 10.08 per cent, housekeepers and matrons 3,716 or 9.17 per cent, salespersons in stores 2,776 or 6.85 per cent, farmers and stock raisers 2,060 or 5.08 per cent, waitresses 1,898 or 4.68 per cent, graduate nurses 1,559 or 3.85 per cent, office clerks 1,363 or 3.36 per cent, and lodging housekeepers 912 or 2.25 per cent.

Among young persons in gainful occupations 82.91 per cent of the males 14 to 17 years of age were employed as farm labourers while 65.02 per cent of the females in the same age group were employed as domestic servants. In the older ages, farmers and stock raisers accounted for 61.57 per cent of all gainfully occupied males and for 36.16 per cent of all gainfully occupied females in the age group 65 years and over. Personal service occupations, chiefly housekeepers and matrons, domestic servants and lodging house keepers accounted for a further 42.43 per cent of the females in this age group.

Of the gainfully occupied females, 30,222 or 74.56 per cent were single. However, in the professional service group 86.75 per cent and in the clerical group nearly 90 per cent of the total gainfully employed women were single. There were only 4,664 married and 3,811 widowed females gainfully employed at the 1941 census. Over 50 per cent of the married women and over 38 per cent of the widows were engaged in personal service occupations, mainly as housekeepers and matrons, domestic servants, and lodging house keepers. Teachers accounted for 11 per cent of the married women while farmers and stock raisers represented over 38 per cent of the gainfully occupied widows.

The census figures showed that 111,893 or 45.19 per cent of the gainfully occupied males were employers and own accounts, 108,941 or 44 per cent were employed as wage-earners, and 26,788 or 10.82 per cent worked for no pay. The gainfully occupied male employers and own accounts were mainly farmers and stock raisers while the no pay workers were chiefly farmers' sons working on their fathers' farms. Only 4,677 or 11.54 per cent of the females were reported as employers and own accounts while 33,035 or 81.50 per cent were employed as wage-earners, and 2,823 or 6.96 per cent as no pay workers.

About 45 per cent of the gainfully occupied males of British racial stock were engaged in agricultural occupations while 60 per cent and over of each of the other European races, except Jewish, were similarly occupied. Nearly 62 per cent gainfully employed males of Jewish origin were found in trade occupations, chiefly as merchants and sales persons in stores. Over 93 per cent of the Indians were engaged in primary occupations, mainly as farmers, farm labourers and hunters and trappers. About 62 per cent of the gainfully occupied males of Asiatic origin were employed in personal service occupations, principally as restaurant owners, cooks, laundrymen and waiters.

Indexes of Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales averaged nine per cent higher in January this year than in the corresponding month last year, with all regions of the country except the northern and western parts of Ontario reporting gains. The unadjusted index of sales on the base 1935-39=100 was 118.6 as compared with 108.4 a year ago.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in January

Motor vehicle financing in Canada for January, including new and used types, totalled 2,062 units with a financed value of \$1,020,575, being 32 per cent higher in number and 93 per cent greater in financed value than the 1,558 vehicles financed for \$529,088 in January of last year. Of the total, 151 were new cars, trucks and buses financed for \$168,041 as compared with 51 units financed to the extent of \$40,423 in January, 1943. While the volume of motor vehicle financing business was lower in January than for any month since February, 1943, the increase over January last year was the first recorded in corresponding-month comparisons over a considerable period of time.

The bulk of the total volume of financing continues to be concentrated in the used vehicle field. January results showed 1,911 used vehicles financed for an amount of \$852,534, up 27 per cent in number and 75 per cent in financed value over the 1,507 transactions involving \$488,665 in January, 1943. A feature of this comparison was the increase in the average financed value per vehicle. This average was only \$324 in January last year, but stands at \$446 in January this year. Regional statistics revealed increased financing of used vehicles in all sections of the country with the exception of the Maritime Provinces.

Revised figures for the calendar year 1943 reveal that 39,573 new and used vehicles were financed during the year as compared with 66,310 in 1942, a decline of 40 per cent. New vehicle financing fell 85 per cent below 1942 volume, while the decrease in financing of used vehicles amounted to 35 per cent.

Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts in 1943

Reflecting the marked increase in economic activity based primarily upon the production of munitions and war supplies, cheques cashed against individual accounts rose to a new maximum in 1943. The aggregate in 1943 was \$53,797,000,000 as compared with \$45,526,000,000 in 1942, an increase of 18.2 per cent. The preceding high point was reached in 1929.

While advances were recorded in each of the five economic areas, the greatest percentage increase was shown in the Prairie Provinces. The total in 1943 was nearly \$9,200,000,000, an increase of about 37 per cent. The increase in the Maritime Provinces was 15.6 per cent, the total for 1943 having been \$1,244,000,000.

Cheques cashed in the Province of Quebec totalled \$15,374,000,000, the increase amounting to \$2,623,000,000 or 20.6 per cent. An advance of 11.5 per cent was shown in Ontario, or from \$22,136,000,000 in 1942 to \$24,682,000,000. The expansion in business activity in British Columbia was reflected in an increase of 16 per cent in the amount of cheques cashed, the total in 1943 having been \$3,297,000,000.

Telephones in Canada in 1942

The number of telephones in Canada in 1942 reached a new high record, the total being 1,627,775 as compared with 1,562,146 in 1941, an increase of 4.2 per cent. An estimate of the number of telephone conversations during the year was placed at 2,998,874,000, including 44,230,000 long distance conversations. The telephone density was 13.97 per 100 of the population, which was exceeded only by the United States with 16.56 and Sweden with 14.26.

Over 68 per cent of all telephones in Canada in 1942 were residence telephones and the remaining 32 per cent were business telephones including public pay stations. Approximately 35 per cent of the business and residence telephones were on individual lines and 19 per cent were on private branch exchanges or extensions. Two-party line telephones constituted 27 per cent of the total and telephones on lines accommodating more than four telephones per line, which are classed as "rural" were 16 per cent of the total.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices

The average level of wholesale prices in January was unchanged from December and the index number on the base 1926=100 remained at 102.5. Increases were recorded in vegetable products, iron and steel products and non-metallic minerals, while declines were shown in the animal and chemical and allied products group. The index number of Canadian farm product prices declined 0.6 points during the month to 104.0. Weakness in eggs, which fell approximately to export contract price levels, was largely responsible for the decline.

Department Store Sales in January

Sales of Canadian department stores in January, including mail order sales, were 54 per cent lower than in December, but recorded an increase of three per cent compared with the corresponding month last year. The decline from December was less than the usual seasonal movement from the Christmas peak which was less pronounced than usual, due to forward Christmas buying in anticipation of stock shortages. Unadjusted indexes of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stood at 111.4 for January, 240.2 for December and 107.8 for January, 1943.

Stocks of Unmanufactured Tobacco

Stocks of unmanufactured tobacco on hand in Canada at the end of 1943 were 11,688,500 pounds lower than on December 31, 1942, the total being 102,143,443 pounds as compared with 113,831,443. Stocks of Canadian tobacco amounted to 100,395,085 pounds compared with 112,195,478, and of imported tobacco 1,748,358 pounds compared with 1,636,466.

Production of Concentrated Milk

The total output of concentrated milk, including whole milk and by-products, in January amounted to 12,824,151 pounds compared with 11,247,379 in the preceding month and 12,151,134 in January, 1943. There was less skim milk powder manufactured than in January last year, but substantial increases were shown for condensed whole milk and evaporated whole milk.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Planing Mills and Sash and Door Factories, 1942 (10 cents).
2. Stocks and Consumption of Unmanufactured Tobacco, December 31, 1943 (15 cents).
3. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
4. Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Preparations Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
5. The Asbestos Products Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
6. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities, March 1 (10 cents).
7. Canadian Milling Statistics, January (10 cents).
8. Production of Concentrated Milk, January (10 cents).
9. The Fertilizer Manufacturing Industry, 1942 (15 cents).
10. Live Stock Survey, December 1, 1943 (10 cents).
11. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
12. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts and Equation Exchange, 1943 (10 cents).
13. The Farm Implements and Machinery Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
14. The Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
15. Department Store Sales, January (10 cents).
16. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
17. Telephone Statistics, 1942 (25 cents).
18. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, January (10 cents).
19. Prices and Price Indexes, January (10 cents).
20. Summary of Canada's Imports, January (10 cents).
21. Appendix - Prices and Price Indexes, January (10 cents).
22. The Employment Situation, January (10 cents).
23. Canada's Leading Mineral Products, December (10 cents).
24. Central Electric Stations, January (10 cents).
25. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, January (10 cents).
26. Production of Iron and Steel, January (10 cents).
27. Imports by Principal Countries, January (10 cents).
28. Trade of Canada, January (10 cents).
29. The Polishes and Dressings Industry, 1942 (15 cents).
30. Gainfully Occupied in Alberta, 1941 (10 cents).



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The following table shows the number of persons employed in the manufacturing industries of Canada, by sex and age, for the years 1950 to 1960. The figures are in thousands of persons.

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Year	Male	Female	Total
1950	1,200	800	2,000
1951	1,250	850	2,100
1952	1,300	900	2,200
1953	1,350	950	2,300
1954	1,400	1,000	2,400
1955	1,450	1,050	2,500
1956	1,500	1,100	2,600
1957	1,550	1,150	2,700
1958	1,600	1,200	2,800
1959	1,650	1,250	2,900
1960	1,700	1,300	3,000