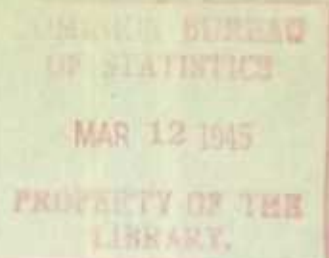


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics
Department of Trade and Commerce



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Recession in Business Operations in January

The recession in business operations in evidence for about twelve months was continued in January when the index of the physical volume of business receded to 228.8 from 233.0 in December. Two of the five main components recorded increases, the index of electric power advancing from 144.7 to 151.6 while the index of distribution based on transportation, internal and external trade, rose from 185.5 to 193.7. The index of mineral production, manufacturing and construction dropped to lower levels in the first month of the year. The decline in the index of mineral production was from 189 to 174. Gold receipts at the Mint, however, were 232,647 fine ounces against 202,318. The output of coal rose from 1,524,000 tons to 1,682,000, the index rising from 100.7 to 113.6.

The index of manufacturing was 274.3 in January against 283.7 in December. The flour milling index rose from 137 to 203.3. The release of tobacco was particularly heavy in the first month of the year, the index rising from 220 to 263. The release of cigarettes was 1,159 million against 1,032 million. The operations of the meat packing industry were nearly maintained after the usual adjustment. Cattle slaughterings were 193,000 head against 187,000. The index of dairy production receded from 214 to 139. A slight increase was shown in the operations of the textile industry, the cotton used rising from 12.7 million pounds to 13.1 million. Forestry operations showed recession in the first month of the year despite the excellent showing of the newsprint industry, the output of which rose from 244,970 tons to 264,766. The factors indicating the trend of lumber production showed recession in January.

The primary iron and steel industry was more active in January, the output of steel ingots rising from 243,000 tons to 269,000. A considerable gain was also shown in the output of pig iron. New business obtained by the construction industry was at a considerably lower level in January, the general index having been 97.7 against 122.6. Retail sales showed recession in the latest month while wholesale sales were at a higher position. Imports amounted to \$129.7 million against \$127.2 million. Exports which had been \$270 million in December receded to \$234 million. After seasonal and price adjustments, however, the index rose from 268.6 to 281.3.

Economic Activity in January compared with the Preceding Month
1935-1939=100

	1945 January	1944 December
Physical Volume of Business	228.8	233.0
Industrial Production	245.8	256.0
Mineral Production	174.0	189.3
Gold Receipts	60.9	57.8
Coal Production	113.6	100.7
Manufacturing	274.3	283.7
Flour Production (x)	203.9	137.7
Rolled Oats Production (x)	161.5	114.9
Inspected Slaughterings	212.4	214.3
Cattle	191.0	200.7
Sheep	167.2	161.8
Hogs	231.1	227.4
Creamery Butter	121.8	119.2
Factory Cheese	164.7	359.1
Tobacco	263.4	219.8
Cigar Releases	239.8	180.9
Cigarette Releases	265.2	222.9
Boots and Shoes Production (x)	199.1	212.4
Textiles	129.5	128.2
Cotton Consumption	127.7	121.5
Forestry	116.8	126.1
Newsprint	110.7	100.8
Iron and Steel	532.4	547.4
Pig Iron Production	207.7	193.0
Steel Production	225.9	219.6

(continued on page 2)

Economic Activity in January compared with the Preceding Month
1935-1939=100

	1945 January	1944 December
Construction	97.7	122.6
Contracts Awarded	97.0	121.0
Building Permits	100.3	128.7
Cost of Construction	135.9	135.9
Electric Power	151.6	144.7
Distribution	193.7	185.5
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings	255.1	167.7
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators	278.0	162.5
Wheat	376.0	245.8
Oats	889.3	283.4
Live Stock Marketings	155.8	162.5
Cattle	171.4	181.0
Calves	103.0	109.4
Hogs	129.1	127.3
Sheep	157.9	164.0
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month	195.2	190.1
Butter	111.3	110.6
Cheese	127.4	148.2
Beef	168.3	141.9
Pork	130.6	141.5
Mutton	94.6	83.6
Poultry	156.9	166.7
Lard	157.8	195.6
Veal	154.3	152.0

(x) Preceding Month

February 1 Cost of Living Index

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index on the base 1935-1939=100, remained unchanged at 118.6 between January 2 and February 1, 1945. Increases in the foods and homefurnishings and services sub-groups were balanced by a decline in the fuel and light and clothing sections. For foods a gain of 0.4 to 130.6 was due to higher prices for fresh vegetables and certain fruits and meats which outweighed continued weakness in eggs.

In the homefurnishings and services section an index increase of 0.1 to 118.4 reflected scattered increases in the furniture and floor coverings section. Fuel and light recorded a sharp drop to 107.4 from 109.1 due to further rebates in electricity bills coupled with a rate reduction in Toronto.

Clothing, the only other group to register a change, eased 0.1 to 121.7, reflecting lower prices for women's wear and piece goods which outweighed strength in footwear. Rentals at an index level of 112.0 and miscellaneous items at 109.2 remained unchanged.

Department Store Sales in January

January sales of Canadian department stores recorded a 12 per cent increase over sales in January of last year, and were 52 per cent below the December level. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 123.2 for January, 253.9 for December and 109.7 for January 1944. The figures upon which these indexes are based include mail order sales of departmental firms.

Indexes of Country General Store Sales

Dollar volume of sales in country general stores advanced six per cent in January over the corresponding month of last year. Approximately two-thirds of the stores which submitted figures reported increases in sales. The unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 126.4 as compared with 119.5 in January 1944.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in Second Quarter of 1944

Live births registered in Canada in the second quarter of 1944 numbered 74,745, according to preliminary totals, giving an equivalent annual rate of 25.1 per 1,000 population as compared with 75,476 births and a rate of 25.7 for the second quarter of 1943. Stillbirths numbered 1,744 or 23.3 per 1,000 live births as against 1,827 and a rate of 24.2. Deaths totalled 27,988 with a rate of 9.4 as compared with 29,500 and a rate of 10.0. There were 28,430 marriages giving a rate of 9.5 as against 30,537, or a rate of 10.4 in the second quarter of 1943.

Deaths under one year of age numbered 3,749 and the infant mortality rate was 50 per 1,000 live births. These figures compare with 3,935 deaths and a rate of 52 for the corresponding period of 1943. Deaths under one month of age numbered 2,183 giving a rate of 29 per 1,000 live births as against 2,322 and a rate of 31. There were 175 maternal deaths as compared with 215 and the rate was 2.3 as against 2.8 per 1,000 live births.

The number of deaths assigned to certain causes in the second quarter of 1944 was as follows, figures for the corresponding period of 1943 being in brackets: Typhoid and paratyphoid fever, 44 (31); Scarlet fever, 28 (18); Whooping cough, 49 (98); Diphtheria, 48 (55); Tuberculosis, 1,499 (1,739); Influenza, 321 (474); Smallpox, - (-); Measles, 69 (68); Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis, 3 (3); Cancer, 3,490 (3,523); Intracranial lesions of vascular origin, 2,130 (2,242); Diseases of the heart, 7,005 (7,275); Diseases of the arteries, 559 (571); Pneumonia, 1,485 (1,463); Diarrhoea and enteritis, 419 (438); Nephritis, 1,754 (1,850); Suicides, 197 (195); Homicides, 29 (38); Motor vehicle accidents, 274 (289); Other accidental deaths, 1,361 (1,536).

Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Cold Storage

Stocks of creamery butter in cold storage in nine of the principal cities of Canada at the opening of business on March 1 totalled 11,373,543 pounds as compared with 17,925,205 on February 1 and 11,382,477 on the corresponding date of last year. Cheese stocks amounted to 16,666,409 pounds as compared with 21,518,647 on February 1 and 22,388,045 on March 1, 1944. Stocks of fresh eggs on March 1 amounted to 1,514,272 dozen as compared with 1,673,451 on February 1. Frozen egg meats in store totalled 12,304,747 pounds as compared with 17,193,536 on February 1 and 5,300,895 on March 1, 1944.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 1 totalled 359,648,998 bushels as compared with 338,875,765 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks on the latest date included 328,961,967 bushels in Canadian positions and 30,687,031 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 1 totalled 3,543,520 bushels as compared with 2,528,759 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year, deliveries from western farms amounted to 259,512,019 bushels as compared with 173,510,539 in the similar period of 1943-44.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 1, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 3,186,166 (2,838,807) bushels; barley, 647,108 (547,925); rye, 105,579 (69,734); flaxseed, 12,343 (9,726).

Sales of Gasoline in November

Sales of motor, tractor and aviation grades of gasoline in Canada in November 1944 were reduced to 74,517,000 gallons from 100,678,000 in the preceding month and 78,178,000 in the corresponding month of last year, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from tax departments of provincial governments and Canadian oil companies. During the first 11 months of 1944, sales of gasoline totalled 911,831,000 gallons as compared with 836,128,000 in the similar period of 1943.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended February 24 amounted to 66,262 cars as compared with 65,814 cars in the preceding week and 68,330 cars for the corresponding week last year. In the eastern division, loadings increased from 42,677 cars in 1944 to 43,602 cars, but in the western division the total dropped from 25,653 to 22,660 cars, grain decreasing

by 3,316 cars.

Fur Farms of the Maritime Provinces

The total amount received by the fur farmers of the Maritime Provinces from the sale of live animals and pelts was \$1,930,084 in 1943 as compared with \$1,473,286 in the preceding year. Higher average prices for both live animals and pelts more than offset the decline in numbers sold in the three provinces in 1943 as compared with 1942. The sale of pelts accounted for \$1,710,142 of the total income while live animals contributed \$219,942.

Silver fox is the most common type raised on the fur farms of the Maritimes, but much interest has been displayed in the new type foxes in recent years. These include platinum, silver-blue, and white-face. Numbers of these new types have been increasing despite a general decline in total numbers of animals on fur farms. Numbers of mink on farms were slightly higher at the end of 1943 compared with 1942. Other kinds of fur-bearers raised on the farms are: blue, cross and red fox, fitch, marten, nutria and raccoon.

The number of fur-bearing animals on farms at the end of 1943 was 34,780 valued at \$1,831,772. First in importance for both number and value was silver fox -- 23,655 at \$1,161,490. New type fox was second in value -- 5,849 animals valued at \$527,506, followed by mink -- 4,612 at \$102,120.

Fur Farms of Ontario in 1943

The revenue of fur farmers of Ontario from the sale of live animals and pelts amounted to \$2,039,123 in 1943 compared with \$1,384,588 in 1942. The sales of pelts contributed \$1,793,568, while live animals were sold to the value of \$245,555. The number of fur farms operating in the province was slightly lower at 1,046 as compared with 1,101 in 1942. Despite this reduction, the numbers of most types of animals on farms were higher at the end of the year than at the beginning. This was particularly true of the new type foxes and of mink.

The number of fur-bearing animals on the farms in the province at the end of the year was 49,165, an increase of 12 per cent as compared with the preceding year. In 1943, on the basis of value of animals on farms, mink was the most important individual type, although the total for all classes of fox, including new types was higher than that for mink alone. At the end of 1943 the number of mink on farms was 33,204 valued at \$935,127, while silver fox numbered 11,572 valued at \$734,698. The new type foxes numbered 3,312 valued at \$409,209, an average per animal of \$123.55. Also raised on the farms of the province, but only to a limited extent, were cross, red and blue foxes, fisher, fitch, marten, nutria and raccoon.

The average price of silver fox pelts increased from \$23.05 to \$31.95, and the increase in the price of mink pelts was from \$7.63 to \$14.65. Pelts from new type foxes brought an average of \$51.89 in 1943 as compared with \$26.18 in 1942. The average value of animals sold alive showed corresponding increases.

Industrial Employment at Beginning of January

Industrial employment showed a marked contraction at the beginning of January, when the 15,042 establishments furnishing information to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported a personnel of 1,834,450 as compared with 1,888,411 at December 1, a reduction of 53,961, or 2.9 per cent. The recession at January 1 was on a scale greater than in any other winter since 1938, with the exception of 1940. The percentage loss, however, was rather smaller than the average in the years prior to the outbreak of war. The decline was in conformity with the movement invariably indicated at the year-end holiday season in the period since 1920.

The unadjusted index number of employment, on the base 1926=100, declined from 185.7 at December 1 to 180.4 at January 1. On the corresponding date of last year it was 185.7. Since the curtailment was less than normal in extent, the seasonally-adjusted index recorded an increase, rising from 181.3 at December 1 to 187.4.

The falling-off in employment at January 1 was accompanied by a relatively larger shrinkage in the indicated salaries and wages. The very general observance of Boxing Day as a holiday following Christmas, together with the loss of working time due to increased absenteeism, and lessened overtime work, combined with the reductions

associated with lowered employment, to produce a marked effect upon the disbursements made on or about January 1 for services rendered in the week preceding.

Earnings during the week aggregated \$55,207,831 as compared with \$60,794,016 reported at December 1, a contraction of 9.2 per cent. The decline exceeded that of 8.5 per cent indicated at January 1, 1944, when the year-end holidays had also been observed at the week-end. The per capita weekly earnings fell from \$32.19 to \$30.10 at the beginning of January. The average at the same date of last year had been \$29.69.

Communications, retail trade, local transportation, railway construction and maintenance and logging afforded more employment at January 1 than at December 1; the improvement in trade was seasonal, while that in the other groups was contrary to the usual trend at the time of year. Manufacturing, mining, steam railway and water transportation, building and highway construction and maintenance and services, on the other hand, showed seasonal curtailment.

The largest reductions were those of 38,889 in manufacturing, and 14,434 in construction as a whole. The loss of 3.4 per cent in the former was somewhat smaller than the average percentage decline at January 1 in pre-war years, although it was greater than in any other year during the war. Only in tobacco factories was the trend upward at the date under review, when the most pronounced contractions were in iron and steel, food and textile plants.

Indexes of Wholesale Sales in January

Wholesale trade in Canada recorded an increase of 15 per cent during the first month of 1945 over the corresponding month of last year. January sales were seven per cent higher than the December level of trading, but fell considerably below the pattern of trading witnessed in October and November 1944. The January unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stands at 182.6 compared with 170.8 for December and 159.5 for January, 1944.

The grocery trade came first in point of view of increased trading with an advance of 22 per cent. Tobacco and confectionery wholesalers reported an increase of 21 per cent, while automotive equipment sales were 15 per cent higher. The hardware trade registered a 14 per cent increase, followed by advances of 11 per cent and 10 per cent for the drug and footwear trades, respectively. Fruit and vegetable sales were up eight per cent and the clothing trade recorded a minor advance of one per cent. Dollar sales of dry goods wholesalers declined by two per cent.

Civil Aviation in November 1944

The number of revenue passengers transported by civil air carriers in November 1944 totalled 26,309 as compared with 22,726 in the corresponding month of 1943, an increase of 15.8 per cent. Passenger miles flown, however, declined from 8,298,334 to 7,190,461, or by 13.4 per cent, and the average journey decreased from 365 to 273 miles. Revenue freight carried decreased from 504,701 pounds in November 1943 to 320,476, while mail declined from 602,521 pounds to 507,762. Flights in the north country are affected by the freeze-up and freight is usually light in November.

Chemicals and Allied Products Industries

Production by Canada's chemical industries reached an all-time high in 1943, according to a final summary released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The official figures place the value of chemicals and allied products for that year at \$765 million, which is 52 per cent more than in 1942 and more than five times the best pre-war total for this group of industries. However, a large part of this gain can be attributed to higher returns from shell-filling plants which are classed in this group in the official records. Without these works the over-all increase was about 8 per cent, a figure which is probably much more representative of the general trend in the chemical field.

Nine of the industries in this group showed higher output values than in 1942, the percentage gains being as follows: heavy chemicals, 20.3; compressed gases, 12.3; fertilizers, 28.2; medicinals, 20.9; toilet preparations, 27.1; adhesives, 23.9; polishes, 4.8, and miscellaneous 91.8. There was a decline of 1.5 per cent in paints, 2.9 per cent in inks, 2.3 in wood distillation, and 3.9 per cent in coal tar distillation, while the value for soaps and cleaning preparations was practically the same as in the previous year.

Retail Sales in January

Retail Sales in January, while declining by 40 per cent from the high seasonal peak reached in December, averaged seven per cent higher in dollar volume than in January, 1944. The increase between January of this year and last is a continuation of the gains recorded in the corresponding-month comparisons for 1944 and 1943. The general index of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stands at 143.1 for January, 237.4 for December and at 134.0 for January 1944.

Radio and Electrical stores continue to record lower retail sales, the volume of business standing 3.3 per cent less than in January of last year. Sales of shoe stores decreased 4.1 per cent, while sales of other retail outlets recorded advances ranging from 0.1 per cent for restaurants to 14.1 per cent for hardware stores. Sales of department stores advanced 12.3 per cent, and men's clothing stores, 10.6 per cent.

Trend in Food Distribution in January

Sales transacted by a representative number of wholesale establishments in the grocery trade were 22 per cent higher in January than in the corresponding month of last year, while in the fruit and vegetables trade an advance of eight per cent was recorded. In the food retailing field, the sales of chain store units averaged 13 per cent greater, while the sales of independent food stores averaged five per cent heavier.

Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on March 1 amounted to 153,442 bushels, being a sharp reduction from last year's corresponding total of 1,862,463 bushels. Stocks of soybeans advanced to 32,681 bushels from 15,912, while corn declined to 120,761 bushels from 624,299, and wheat to nil from 1,222,252 bushels.

Canadian Production of Asbestos

Canadian production of asbestos in 1943 totalled 467,196 short tons valued at \$24,409,416 compared with 439,459 short tons worth \$22,663,283 in 1942. The value of the 1943 output was the greatest ever recorded in the history of the Canadian asbestos mining industry, and the tonnage was exceeded only by that of 1941, when the mines reported a production of 477,846 tons. A decline was shown in 1944 from the high level of 1943 according to preliminary figures. The 1944 output amounted to 372,973 short tons valued at \$18,172,302.

Press Fills from Bureau Records

The Eskimos of Canada are found principally on the northern and Hudson Bay coasts of the mainland and on islands in the Arctic Archipelago and in Hudson Bay, although in the Baker Lake-Chesterfield Inlet area on the west side of Hudson Bay there are bands of Eskimos who are essentially an inland people, and who subsist chiefly on caribou. The diet of the coast Eskimos is largely marine mammals and fish, varied at times by caribou obtained from the interior during the seasonal migration of these animals. The Decennial Census of Canada in 1941 established the Eskimo population at 7,205, including 5,404 in the Northwest Territories and 1,778 in northern Quebec.

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It is not so long ago that the word 'tuberculosis' sent a chill through the hearts of men, for in years gone by this disease took a heavier toll of life than all others combined. But today, through the determined efforts of public health authorities and medical men, progressive steps are being taken toward its elimination. The reduction in the number of deaths from tuberculosis amongst the citizens of Canada during the past 17 or 18 years has been truly remarkable. In 1926 the death rate from this cause for each 100,000 of the population stood at 86; 10 years later it had fallen to 61.9; and by 1943 it had been reduced to 52.3

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The foundation of hospitals in Canada dates back to the French regime. The first hospital in New France was the Hotel Dieu de Quebec, founded in 1639. In Upper Canada, the earliest hospital recorded was founded in 1790 at Sault Ste. Marie for the care of the Indians. At the present time hospitals are to be found not only in every city and town of any size throughout the Dominion, but also at strategic points in many rural

districts. There were 597 public hospitals in Canada in 1942, with a capacity of 50,197 beds and 6,733 bassinets.

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Mention of fruit growing in Canada is to be found among the earliest records of what was then known as New France. De Monts is reported to have sent the first apple trees to Quebec City in 1608-9, while at a somewhat later date - about 1632 - d'Aulnay de Charnesay brought either trees or seeds from Normandy to Acadia. The trees did well in their new surroundings, for the census of Acadia in 1698 showed that at Port Royal alone 1,584 apple trees were growing in orchards ranging from 75 to 100 trees in size. The census of Canada in 1941 records a total of 8,841,000 apple trees in the Dominion.

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The first news of the Klondike - a name which will probably remain ever outstanding in the history of Canadian gold mining - certainly the most colourful and romantic - came to the outside world in 1896. Some of the Klondike creeks were exceedingly rich, with single pannings known to have run into the hundreds of dollars. The great rush reached its peak in 1898 when Chilcoot, Skagway, White Horse and Dawson became world-known names. The Canadian production of gold from all sources in the year 1900 amounted to 1,350,000 fine ounces valued at \$27,908,000. An estimate for the calendar year 1944 has been placed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at 2,885,000 fine ounces valued at \$111,091,000.

Reports Issued during the Week

1. Employment Situation, January 1945 (10 cents).
 2. Civil Aviation, November (10 cents).
 3. Indexes of Wholesale Sales, January (10 cents).
 4. Polishes and Dressings Industry, 1943 (15 cents).
 5. Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
 6. Chemicals and Allied Products Industries, 1943 (15 cents).
 7. Births, Deaths and Marriages, Second Quarter, 1944 (25 cents).
 8. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 9. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities of Canada, March 1 (10 cents).
 10. Live Stock and Animal Products, 1943 (50 cents).
 11. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
 12. Department Store Sales, January (10 cents).
 13. Price Movements, February (10 cents).
 14. Fur Farms of the Maritime Provinces and Ontario, 1943 (10 cents).
 15. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, January (10 cents).
 16. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, November; and Petroleum and Fuel Sales, November (10 cents).
 17. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 18. Indexes of Retail Sales, January (10 cents).
 19. Asbestos Mining Industry, 1943 (15 cents).
 20. Current Trends in Food Distribution, January (10 cents).
 21. The Hat and Cap Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
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