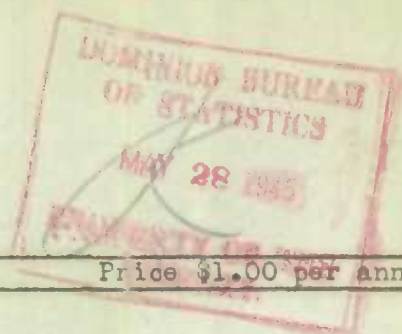


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Facts of Interest from Bureau Records

Canada's list of food fishes embraces nearly 60 different kinds, chief among which are salmon, herring, cod, lobster, whitefish, halibut, sardines, haddock, pilchard and pickerel. The total quantity of fish of all kinds taken by Canadian fishermen in 1943 was 12,352,898 cwt., for which fishermen received, at the point of landing, a total of \$49,031,781, compared with a catch of 11,233,710 cwt. with a landed value of \$41,734,723 in the preceding year.

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Six telegraph systems are operated in Canada, five in conjunction with the railways and one small system that is owned and operated independently. One United States company operates lines across Canadian territory; one private Canadian company operates a wireless system; and three cable companies, in addition to the telegraph companies, operate cables from Canadian stations. In all, 22 cables are operated between Canada and England, Azores, Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, and Bermuda, and two cables between North Sydney and Canso, N.S. These systems operate 378,931 miles of telegraph wire in Canada, 5,419 miles outside of Canada, and 32,805 nautical miles of submarine cable between Canada and other countries.

Stone Quarrying in Canada in 1943

The gross value of all varieties of stone produced in Canada during 1943 totalled \$7,964,179 as compared with \$8,746,594 in the preceding year. Shipments in 1943 included 6,265,181 tons of limestone valued at \$6,105,749; 780,422 tons of granite valued at \$1,522,072; 164,163 tons of sandstone valued at \$250,303; 11,848 tons of marble valued at \$68,022, and 1,336 tons of slate worth \$17,733. Of the total value of domestic stone produced in 1943, quarries in the Province of Quebec contributed 50.2 per cent, Ontario 37.1 per cent, and Nova Scotia 5.3 per cent.

Department Store Sales in April

Sales of Canadian department stores were practically unchanged in April of this year compared with last and declined 18 per cent below March. The contrast between the fractional increase in April of this year over last and the 25 per cent gain recorded in the March comparison reflects the earlier consumer expenditures this year resulting from the early date of Easter and the unseasonably warm weather throughout March. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 165.2 for April, 200.5 for March, and 164.3 for April a year ago.

Sales of Clay Products in February

Sales by producers of clay products made from domestic clays during February totalled \$398,724 as compared with \$408,135 in the preceding month and \$322,221 in the corresponding month of last year. Sales in February this year included building brick to the value of \$198,584, structural tile \$37,042, drain tile \$5,906, sewer pipe \$31,091, fireclay blocks and shapes \$17,880, pottery \$74,691, and other clay products \$33,530.

Loadings of Revenue Freight in February

Revenue freight loaded at stations in Canada and received from foreign connections during February amounted to 10,905,524 tons as compared with 12,229,609 tons in the corresponding month of last year and 10,988,069 tons in February, 1943. Loadings decreased from 1944 by 527,818 tons or 6.6 per cent, imports by 365,785 tons or 31 per cent, and freight between foreign stations by 430,482 tons or 17 per cent.

Merchandise Exports of Canada in April

April exports of merchandise produced in Canada were valued at \$312,323,000 as compared with \$282,891,000 in the corresponding month of 1944, an advance of 10.4 per cent. The total for April included items intended mainly for war purposes to the value of \$147,369,000 as compared with \$119,030,000 in April 1944. Amongst the war supplies sent abroad were tanks, military vehicles, shells, guns, metals, explosives, aircraft, Red Cross supplies, and Canadian army stores. Merchandise exports during the first four months of the present year were valued at \$1,080,360,000 as compared with \$1,034,753,000 in the corresponding period of 1944, an increase of 4.4 per cent.

Commodity exports to countries of the British Empire in April were valued at \$157,326,000 as compared with \$126,827,000 in April of last year, an advance of 24 per cent, whereas the total destined to foreign countries recorded a minor reduction from \$156,064,000 to \$154,997,000. During the first four months of this year, the value of merchandise exports to Empire Countries was \$533,440,000 as compared with \$482,562,000 in the comparable period of 1944, an increase of 10.5 per cent, while the aggregate to Foreign Countries totalled \$546,920,000 as compared with \$552,191,000, a decrease of one per cent.

Merchandise exports to the United Kingdom in April were valued at \$109,091,000 as compared with \$101,225,000 in April of last year, the total for the four months ended April amounting to \$368,574,000 as compared with \$384,583,000 a year ago. April exports to the United States were valued at \$109,121,000 as compared with \$120,273,000, and in the four-month period, \$388,686,000 as compared with \$394,630,000. Exports to British India in April were recorded at \$29,138,000 as compared with \$13,068,000, and in the four months ended April, \$101,171,000 as compared with \$39,666,000.

The values of commodity exports to other leading countries in April were as follows, totals for April 1944 being in brackets: Italy, \$14,731,000 (\$11,483,000); France, \$8,501,000 (nil); Russia, \$6,223,000 (\$7,118,000); Australia, \$5,761,000 (\$1,755,000); Egypt, \$4,411,000 (\$10,333,000); Newfoundland, \$3,017,000 (\$2,063,000); British South Africa, \$2,399,000 (\$2,285,000); Trinidad and Tobago, \$2,223,000 (\$1,076,000); Switzerland, \$1,549,000 (\$114,000); Jamaica, \$1,473,000 (\$1,135,000); Greece, \$1,389,000 (\$298,000); French Possessions, \$1,190,000 (\$1,583,000); Brazil, \$1,013,000 (\$319,000); New Zealand, \$926,000 (\$166,000); British Guiana, \$854,000 (\$338,000).

Agricultural products were exported in April to the value of \$60,618,000 as compared with \$83,805,000 in the corresponding month of last year. The total value of wheat exported decreased to \$20,591,000 from \$46,150,000, and of wheat flour to \$9,225,000 from \$9,866,000. The value of animal products exported rose to \$34,798,000 from \$25,260,000, meats advancing to \$14,584,000 from \$13,886,000, eggs to \$7,249,000 from \$1,436,000, and fishery products to \$6,006,000 from \$4,223,000.

April exports of wood and paper products totalled \$37,018,000 as compared with \$31,435,000 in April of last year, newsprint paper exports amounting to \$14,819,000 as compared with \$12,618,000, wood pulp \$8,262,000 as compared with \$8,491,000, and planks and boards \$6,500,000 as compared with \$4,822,000. Motor vehicles and parts were exported to the value of \$43,688,000 as compared with \$37,145,000, chemicals \$12,685,000 as compared with \$6,897,000, and fibres and textiles \$7,401,000 as compared with \$4,439,000.

Production of Iron and Steel in April

Production of pig iron in Canada in April amounted to 156,070 tons as compared with 170,364 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first four months of the current year, production totalled 627,343 tons as compared with 612,417 in the like period of 1944. In April of this year the output included 122,445 tons of basic iron, 22,076 tons of foundry iron and 11,549 tons of malleable iron.

April production of steel ingots and steel castings totalled 274,213 tons as compared with 260,825 in April of last year. This year's April output included 260,144 tons of ingots and 14,069 tons of castings. During the four months ended April, production of steel ingots and castings aggregated 1,070,860 tons as compared with 1,008,402 in the comparable period of 1944.

Ferro-alloys output in April was recorded at 18,350 tons as compared with 16,434 in the preceding month and 12,818 in the corresponding month of 1944. During the four months ended April, production amounted to 60,316 tons as compared with 57,460 a year ago.

Coal and Coke Supplies of Canada in March

Production of coal in Canada during March amounted to 1,467,482 tons as compared with 1,546,416 in the corresponding month of last year, the total for the latest month including 1,116,616 tons of bituminous coal, 237,269 tons of sub-bituminous, and 113,597 tons of lignite. During the first three months of the present year, the output of all grades of coal was recorded at 4,646,923 tons as compared with 4,627,068 in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Output of coke from ovens and gas retorts in March totalled 341,793 tons compared with 314,083 in the preceding month and 355,708 in the corresponding month of last year. Production for March this year was made up of 91,691 tons from the eastern provinces, 224,890 tons from Ontario and 25,212 tons from western Canada. During the first three months of the current year, production aggregated 977,000 tons as compared with 1,032,000 in the like period of 1944.

Imports of coal in March amounted to 934,677 tons, making a total of 2,515,667 for the year to date, as compared with 1,382,819 tons imported in March of last year and 3,693,823 tons for the first three months of 1944. Coal exported in March amounted to 79,138 tons compared with 79,413 in March, 1944. Total exports for the year to date were recorded at 226,907 tons compared with 251,942 in the same period of 1944.

Production of Leading Minerals

Production of coal in Canada during the first two months of 1945 amounted to 3,179,441 tons as compared with 3,080,652 in the corresponding period of 1944. Petroleum output in the two months advanced to 1,660,649 barrels from 1,631,301, natural gas to 10,862,375,000 cubic feet from 10,777,804,000, asbestos to 68,638 tons from 64,347. Nickel declined to 44,495,152 pounds from 45,927,539, while zinc rose to 94,026,765 pounds from 92,245,379.

Output of other leading minerals during the first two months of 1945 was as follows, totals for the like period of 1944 being in brackets: cement, 366,389 (377,852) barrels; clay products, \$806,859 (\$684,759); copper, 84,284,508 (95,241,714) pounds; feldspar, 3,007 (4,521) tons; gold, 445,561 (514,596) fine ounces; gypsum, 25,831 (85,724) tons; lead, 50,201,755 (62,464,828) pounds; lime, 127,417 (147,493) tons; commercial salt, 46,370 (48,656) tons; and silver, 1,671,815 (2,478,454) fine ounces.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in April

New and used motor vehicles whose sales were financed by Canadian finance companies during April totalled 2,792 units with a financed value of \$1,477,959, down 19 per cent in number but 4 per cent higher in amount of financing compared with the 3,431 vehicles financed for \$1,422,896 in April a year ago. Included in the April 1945 totals were 345 new vehicles financed to the extent of \$512,743.

The financing of used vehicles continued well below 1944 volume, reductions in April amounting to 26 per cent in number and 21 per cent in financed value. An increase of 17 per cent in Quebec, resulting from the inclusion of a number of transactions involving vehicles and buses of high unit value, contrasts with the results for all other regions which experienced a lower volume of business. Declines occurring elsewhere ranged from 26 per cent for Ontario to 48 per cent for Manitoba and Saskatchewan combined.

There were 975 new vehicles financed in the first four months of 1945 compared with 570 new vehicles financed in the corresponding period a year ago. Used vehicles financed during the same four months totalled 7,472 in 1945 and 10,239 in 1944.

Production of Motor Vehicles in April

Production of motor vehicles in Canada in April, the output of which was limited to commercial cars, including trucks, buses, chassis, and vehicles for military purposes, totalled 14,351 as compared with 14,912 in the preceding month and 11,061 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first four months of the current year, 56,098 units were produced as compared with 53,318 in the corresponding period of 1944.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended May 12 declined to 58,772 cars from the total for the preceding week of 70,067 cars and 72,612 cars for the corresponding week of last year. The V-E Day holiday was undoubtedly the main factor in the decrease. In the eastern division, loadings decreased from 44,337 cars in 1944 to 38,209 and in the western division from 28,275 to 20,563 cars.

Total grain loadings declined from 12,916 cars in 1944 to 10,629, live stock from 2,580 to 1,919 cars, meats from 904 to 457 cars, coal from 5,059 to 3,352 cars, ores and concentrates from 3,652 to 1,928 cars and wood pulp and paper from 3,072 to 2,571 cars.

Railway Revenue Freight Loadings

Loadings of railway revenue freight during April amounted to 8,408,000 tons as compared with 8,115,000 in the preceding month and 8,335,000 in the corresponding month of last year. The index number of tons loaded, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 215.3 in April, 197.5 in March and 213.4 in April of last year.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 17 totalled 303,675,861 bushels as compared with 290,590,421 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks this year included 284,004,407 bushels in Canadian positions and 19,671,454 bushels in United States position.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending May 17 totalled 2,345,951 bushels as compared with 2,711,113 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year farm deliveries amounted to 296,892,107 bushels as compared with 229,355,663 in the corresponding period of 1943-44.

The following quantities of coarse grains were delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending May 17, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,997,040 (2,415,224) bushels; barley, 226,129 (372,527); rye, 30,997 (39,946); flaxseed, 7,872 (15,765).

Ice Cream Production in 1943

The production of ice cream in Canada, exclusive of that made in hotels, restaurants, and ice cream parlours, and also unfrozen ice cream mix and novelties, amounted to 15,213,593 gallons valued at \$18,475,628 in 1943 as compared with 13,688,204 gallons valued at \$17,306,055 in the preceding year. In 1943 the Province of Ontario led in production, contributing almost 41 per cent of the total gallonage.

Based on the above figures, the per capita consumption of ice cream in Canada in 1943 was 1.28 as compared with 1.17 gallons in 1942, an increase of nine per cent. The provinces showing the highest per capita consumption were: British Columbia with 1.73 gallons, Ontario and Nova Scotia with 1.61 and 1.54 gallons, respectively, while the lowest per capita usage was recorded in Quebec and Prince Edward Island, with 0.83 and 0.88 gallons, respectively.

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Births registered in cities, towns and villages having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 11,809 in March, deaths 5,359 and marriages 2,687 as compared with 11,697 births, 5,198 deaths and 2,796 marriages in March of last year, showing increases of one per cent in births and three per cent in deaths, and a decrease of four per cent in marriages.

Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts in April

Cheques cashed in clearing centres rose in April to a higher position than in the corresponding month of last year. In continuance of the upward trend in evidence since the beginning of the war, bank debits were greater in April than in the same month of any other year. The total at \$4,855,000,000 recorded an increase of 6.4 per cent over April, 1944. April debits have shown increases year by year since the temporary recession of 1938. The trend in April debits has been consistently upward for the duration of the war.

Greater business activity was definitely indicated for each of the five economic areas except the Prairie Provinces. Increases in cheques cashed in the Maritimes and Quebec amounted to 17 per cent and 16.5 per cent, respectively. While the absolute increase was greater in Ontario, the percentage advance was slightly less than 12 per cent. The decline in the Prairie Provinces was 15.3 per cent, while an increase of 5.1 per cent was recorded in British Columbia. Debits in Montreal and Toronto were each in excess of a billion dollars in April, while in April last year Montreal alone was in that category.

Cheques cashed in the first four months of the present year were greater than in any similar period of history. The total was \$19,688,000,000 compared with \$18,055,000,000 in the first four months of 1944. New high positions have been recorded for each of the years from 1939 to the present. The standing in 1943 was \$15,694,000,000 compared with \$15,128,000,000 in 1929, the culminating year in the last major economic cycle. The increase in each of the three eastern areas of the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario was between 13 and 14 per cent. British Columbia recorded a gain of four per cent, while the Prairie Provinces showed a decline of about eight per cent. The gain in Ontario alone was more than a billion dollars.

Debits in April were as follows by economic areas, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in brackets: Maritime Provinces, \$116,551,343 (\$99,555,630); Quebec, \$1,337,595,661 (\$1,148,193,935); Ontario, \$2,201,148,549 (\$1,967,239,267); Prairie Provinces, \$896,139,992 (\$1,057,596,169); British Columbia, \$303,669,398 (\$288,675,373).

Feed Situation in Canada

The late spring season across Canada has resulted in heavier demands being made upon existing stocks of coarse grains and hay but has also encouraged farmers to increase their acreages of feed crops at the expense of wheat. In Eastern Canada it has not been possible to get cattle out of the barns and on to grass as early as usual with the result that shortages of hay continue to be reported in some areas and more grain is being fed. Farmers in the Prairie Provinces on April 30 indicated their intentions of seeding seven per cent more acres to oats and 12 per cent more to barley than in 1944 and later reports suggest that, owing to the lateness of the season, these increases are likely to be exceeded.

Total supplies of wheat, coarse grains and flax in Canada at the end of March this year were substantially below those of a year ago. These decreased stocks reflect the continued heavy feed requirements of the present live-stock population, together with an active demand for wheat for overseas shipment and barley for malting and feed, and oats for feed uses in the United States.

March-end farm stocks of oats and barley in the Prairie Provinces showed a further decline from the high bench marks established at March 31, 1943 as a result of the record crops of 1942. Although these stocks are still several times the pre-war average this fact becomes less impressive when considered in relation to our present live-stock population. If allowance is made for the continued farm feeding of oats and barley at approximately the same rate as has prevailed during the elapsed portion of the current crop year, for seed for the new crop and for probable marketings to the end of the current crop year, the July 31st farm stocks in the West will probably not exceed 50 million bushels of oats and 12 million bushels of barley.

Shipments of coarse grains to the United States have been running ahead of the rates attained in 1943-44, with about 56 million bushels of oats and 30 million bushels of barley shipped up to May 10. The equilization fee on oats exported from Fort William-Port Arthur has recently been lowered from 18 to 14 cents per bushel. With lakehead stocks nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as high as this time a year ago, this change in price should result in increased export shipments.

Nearly all of the barley exported to date has been classed as suitable for malting purposes. Since a considerable proportion of the 8.7 million bushels of this grain in

store at Fort William-Port Arthur is special binned and is being held for export, feeders in Eastern Canada have been experiencing some difficulty in securing all they desire at ceiling prices. The higher price per pound of feed wheat and oats tends to discourage substitution of those grains for barley in the feeding ration.

Although the record lake movement of wheat for overseas clearance is now engaging most of the available transportation facilities, arrangements are being made to build up emergency stocks of feed grains in the East. The damaging effects of frost and excessive moisture upon the Ontario winter wheat crop are as yet indeterminate. Since some three-fourths of the 20 million odd bushels of winter wheat grown in Ontario is fed on the farm, the outturn of this crop is of particular significance from the standpoint of feed supplies. Although a decrease in hog numbers will lessen total feed requirements this decrease has occurred in the surplus feed area of Western Canada and will not, therefore, lessen the quantities of feed grains which it will be necessary to move into Eastern Canada. A substantial increase in the acreage seeded to corn in the principal corn-growing areas of Ontario is now in prospect.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Coarse Grains Quarterly Review (10 cents).
 2. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 3. Preliminary Report on Department Store Sales, April (10 cents).
 4. Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts, April (10 cents).
 5. Sales of Clay Products Made from Canadian Clays, February (10 cents).
 6. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, March (10 cents).
 7. Ice Cream Production in Canada, 1943 (10 cents).
 8. Coal and Coke Statistics, March (10 cents).
 9. Production of Iron and Steel, April (10 cents).
 10. Hosiery, Knitted Goods and Fabric Glove and Mitten Industries, 1943 (25 cents).
 11. Stone Industry in Canada, 1943 (50 cents).
 12. Manufactures of the Non-Ferrous Metals, 1943 (15 cents).
 13. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, February (10 cents).
 14. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, April (10 cents).
 15. Automobile Production, April (10 cents).
 16. Canada's Domestic Exports by Principal Countries, April (10 cents).
 17. Iron and Steel and Their Products, 1940-1942 (50 cents).
 18. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, April (10 cents).
 19. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, April (10 cents).
 20. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 21. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, April (10 cents).
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