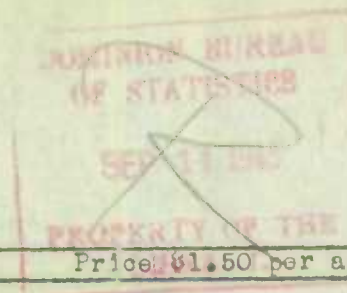


## Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Economic Conditions During First Half of 1945

Economic developments were uneven in the first six months of 1945 compared with the same period of the preceding year. Production and employment showed minor recession from the extremely high levels of 1944. The index of the physical volume of business receded nearly eight per cent while the general index of industrial employment was 4.2 points lower. Commodity prices strengthened slightly, a large measure of stability having been shown since the later period of 1943. The present level is moderately above the base period of 1926. Prices rose sharply in the early years of the war but the general index has been moving in a sidewise direction for more than twenty months.

Commercial failures dropped to a low level in the first half of the present year. The number receded to 85 compared with 137 in the same period of 1944, while the defaulted liabilities dropped from \$2.6 million to \$1.2 million. Failures numbered 1,996 in the first half of 1923, the maximum since the time when the statistics were first tabulated.

A feature of the first half of 1945 was the revival in construction. The contracts awarded amounted to nearly \$176 million, an increase of 15 per cent over last year. While production of building materials has shown an upward trend, the increased volume of construction has outstripped the supply of materials and skilled labour. Building permits in 58 municipalities rose from \$46.5 million to \$54.9 million in this comparison. The index of construction employment rose more than six per cent to 97.7. Indicating the trend of the production of munitions and producer's durables, the output of steel rose 5.5 per cent over the high level of the same period of 1944.

The export trade continues to be an important economic generator. The total value of outward shipments in the first half of the present year was nearly equivalent to that of the same period of 1944. The total was \$1.7 billion, a recession of 1.3 per cent, contrasted with the considerable decline in imports. The active balance of trade, excluding the non-monetary gold, was \$947 million compared with \$904 million last year.

The ordinary expenditures of the Dominion government rose 23.4 per cent in the first three months of the present fiscal year. The rise was from \$172 million to \$212 million. War expenditures, on the other hand, showed a decline of 27 per cent to \$508 million. A marked increase was shown in Mutual Aid expenditures, the total rising from \$85 million to \$350 million.

Measured by the indexes of internal trade, considerable betterment was shown in both retail and wholesale sales in the first half of the present year. Distribution through retail outlets rose 5.3 per cent while the wholesale trade was 9.2 per cent greater.

The largest item in personal income is the salaries and wages paid by productive enterprise. According to the weekly index of aggregate payrolls, the total payments of industrial plants showed a slight recession in the first half of 1945 compared with the same period of last year, the decline in the average index having been 1.4 per cent. The extremely high levels of such payments in 1944 must be taken into consideration in appraising the present situation. The general index of employment averaged 177.5 against 181.7. The per capita earnings in the week of June 1 was given at \$32.10 against \$31.80 in the same week of 1944.

Food Commodities in Cold Storage

Stocks of Canadian creamery butter in storage and in transit on August 1 totalled 56,044,542 pounds, being 2 million pounds more than the stocks of August 1, 1944, which were 54,021,900 pounds. Last month's holdings were 39,690,878 pounds. Of the current holdings, 3,861,984 pounds were held for the Dairy Products Board. Storage stocks of cheese, and cheese in transit amounted to 68,227,327 pounds on August 1 as compared with 61,133,698 pounds a year ago, and 65,585,933 pounds on July 1 this year.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk on August 1 increased to 44,851,893 pounds from 40,754,124 pounds a month ago and 35,868,859 pounds on August 1, 1944. Skim milk powder has also increased, being 7,082,161 pounds as compared with 3,560,741 pounds a year ago and 6,890,318 pounds last month. Shell eggs in storage were slightly reduced from last month, being 20,286,567 dozen, while on July 1 they were 21,022,380 dozen, and last year on August 1, they totalled 18,344,372 dozen. Frozen egg stocks are not so high as last



year by 12 million pounds; on August 1 this year they were 30,077,504 pounds, while a year ago they totalled 42,734,981 pounds. On July 1 this year they amounted to 25,790,970 pounds.

Poultry holdings are still very much lower than last year, being 5,894,433 pounds as compared with 10,077,349 pounds a year ago. Last month the holdings were 5,165,421 pounds. Of the current stocks, chickens totalled 1,128,263 pounds, fowl 2,783,054 pounds, and turkeys 1,161,980 pounds.

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Stocks of all meat in Canada on August 1, 1945, amounted to 48,595,459 pounds. Last year the stocks totalled 88,989,186 pounds, while last month they were 57,644,658 pounds. Current stocks of pork were 28,159,043 pounds, beef 13,897,176 pounds, veal 5,481,010, and mutton and lamb 1,058,230 pounds.

Holdings of all frozen fish in Canada amounted to 32,944,660 pounds as compared with 34,976,741 pounds on August 1, 1944, and 22,971,841 on July 1, 1945. Of the current amount, 7,097,113 pounds were frozen cod, 605,123 pounds frozen haddock, 1,058,283 pounds frozen smoked fillets, 2,534,859 pounds frozen salmon, and 8,519,331 pounds frozen herring, including kippers.

Stocks of frozen fruit and fruit in preservatives totalled 29,142,966 pounds, while a year ago they totalled 30,062,615 pounds, and last month the amount was 19,365,236 pounds. Vegetables, frozen and in brine, aggregated 3,348,701 pounds as compared with 2,221,289 pounds a year ago, and 1,593,336 pounds last month. Celery and potatoes are becoming more plentiful; on August 1, however, there were only 1,191 tons of potatoes at distributing centres and 3,085 crates of Canadian celery.

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#### Crop Conditions in the Prairie Provinces

Crop prospects in the Prairie Provinces were generally unchanged during the past week, with Manitoba showing better-than-average conditions, while in Saskatchewan and Alberta prospects are much more variable and in many areas the yields will be considerably below average. Harvesting has commenced in all provinces but will not be general for another ten days to two weeks. While some damage to the crop has occurred in scattered areas from rust, hail, grasshoppers and sawfly, drought has been the main factor in reducing yields.

Better-than-average yields of all grain are in prospect in Manitoba where rainfall has been adequate. Harvesting has commenced in a few districts but will not be general for another week or ten days. Yields of wheat as high as 30 bushels per acre are indicated in some areas and coarse grains also give promise of a good crop in almost all districts. Sunflowers, while late, show fair promise but the corn crop is disappointing. Sugar beets are doing exceptionally well in this province. Pastures are good and cattle are doing well.

In Saskatchewan, generally good crops are in sight in the more easterly sections of the province but growth remains poor in the south-west and west-central districts. In the central area there has been some improvement during the past week where rains have benefited late-sown crops. Some rye harvesting has taken place but the cutting of grains will not be general for another ten days and not until September 1 in the more northerly districts. Pastures are variable, being fair to excellent in the eastern sections of the province but are very poor in the south-west where the situation is becoming critical. Live stock are in fair to good condition.

Light to heavy showers fell in a number of districts of Alberta during the past week but crop conditions generally have not changed greatly. Crops are still only poor to fair in the north-central sections of the province and generally poor in the south-east and east-central districts. Some deterioration of crops has occurred in the south-west but in this section of the province fair to good yields are still in prospect. Cutting has commenced in the south but is not yet general. While there was some improvement in the fodder situation it is still a problem in many areas and a shortage of feed grains is indicated.

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### Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on August 9 totalled 213,689,324 bushels as compared with 296,540,535 on the corresponding date of last year, a decrease of 82,851,211 bushels. Stocks this year included 196,-361,325 bushels in Canadian positions and 17,327,999 bushels in United States positions.

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### Production of New Copper in June

The production of new copper in Canada in June amounted to 44,379,551 pounds as compared with 41,165,776 in the preceding month and 47,344,917 in the corresponding month of last year. For the first six months of the current year the output aggregated 258,715,-286 pounds as compared with 284,141,481 in the corresponding period of 1944.

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### Nickel Production in June

Nickel production in Canada in June was recorded at 22,644,417 pounds as compared with 23,484,009 in May and 20,373,599 in June, 1944. During the first six months of this year, nickel output totalled 135,799,577 pounds as compared with 138,773,912 in the similar period of 1944.

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### Production of Asbestos in 1944

Canadian production of asbestos in 1944 totalled 419,265 short tons valued at \$20,-619,516 compared with 467,196 tons worth \$24,409,416 in 1943. The mineral in 1944 came entirely from deposits located in the Province of Quebec. Exports of asbestos in 1944 included 1,541 short tons of crude valued at \$649,564; 181,668 tons of milled fibres worth \$13,634,772; asbestos waste, refuse, and shorts, 212,728 tons at \$5,361,358, and asbestos manufactures, \$184,139. Imports of various asbestos products were appraised at \$1,977,516.

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### Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas

Sales of manufactured gas by distributing companies in June totalled 1,909,321 M cubic feet as compared with 1,776,770 M in the corresponding month of last year. June sales of natural gas were recorded at 1,929,144 M cubic feet as compared with 1,664,162 M in June, 1944.

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### Manufactures of the Non-Ferrous Metals

Production in Canada of non-ferrous metals and their manufactures was valued at \$989,340,000 in 1944, according to preliminary figures, as compared with \$1,034,390,000 in the preceding year, a decline of 4.3 per cent. Imports into Canada of non-ferrous metals and their products were valued at \$106,651,000 in 1944 compared with \$115,567,000 in 1943, and exports of Canadian-made goods of this class were appraised at \$339,908,000 compared with \$332,705,000.

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### Violent Deaths in Canada in 1943

The number of deaths from external violence in Canada in 1943 was 8,274 as compared with 8,171 in 1942 and 8,442 in 1941. The rate per 100,000 population was 70.1 in 1943 as against 70.2 in 1942 and 73.5 in 1941. Over the period 1926 to 1943 the highest death rate recorded from external violence was 73.5 in 1941. Suicides numbered 758 in 1943 as compared with 839 in 1942 and 896 in 1941. There were 125 homicides in 1943 as compared with 113 in 1942 and 130 in 1941.

The number of accidental deaths in 1943 was 7,385 and the rate was 62.6 per 100,000, as compared with 7,202 and a rate of 61.9 in 1942, and 7,409 deaths with a rate of 64.5 in 1941. The rate from these causes attained its highest level in 1941 at 64.5 per 100,000. Of the accidental deaths, 3,024 or 41 per cent occurred in public places, 2,456 or 33 per cent in homes, and 1,864 or 25 per cent in industry in 1943. Deaths in public places in 1937 formed 49 per cent of the total with 33 per cent in homes and 17 per cent in industry.



There were 1,826 deaths due to land transportation accidents in 1943, forming 25 per cent of total fatal accidents, as compared with 1,871 deaths in 1942 or 26 per cent of the total and 2,285 deaths or 31 per cent in 1941. Of the land ~~transportation accidents~~ in 1943, motor vehicle accidents accounted for 1,437 deaths or 19 per cent of all fatal accidents. In 1942 there were 1,409 deaths, forming 20 per cent of the total as against 1,852 deaths or 25 per cent in 1941. The death rate from this cause was 12.2 per 100,000 population as compared with 12.1 in 1942 and 16.1 in 1941.

There was a slight increase in the number of deaths due to air transport accidents in 1943 over 1942, with 623 deaths in 1943, 589 in 1942 and 357 in 1941, forming eight, eight and five per cent of all accidents for 1943, 1942 and 1941, respectively. Of these deaths, 595 in 1943, 562 in 1942 and 303 in 1941 were non-civilians.

In 1943 there were 1,016 deaths from drownings, with a rate of 8.6 per 100,000 population as compared with 991 deaths and a rate of 8.5 in 1942 and 1,018 deaths and a rate of 8.9 in 1941. Deaths in mines and quarries in 1943 totalled 146, or two per cent of the total as compared with 158, or two per cent in 1942, and 199 deaths and three per cent in 1941.

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#### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended August 4 declined to 70,395 cars from 73,442 cars for the preceding week, but increased over the corresponding week last year when the total was 69,954 cars. Grain advanced from 10,523 cars in 1944 to 11,758 cars, but live stock declined from 2,319 to 1,670 cars, and coal from 4,965 to 4,653 cars. Pulpwood increased from 2,728 to 3,262 cars, and wood pulp and paper from 2,796 to 3,149 cars.

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#### Press Fill from Bureau Records

The tamarack is one of the larch tree family - the only native family of conifers which drops its leaves in the Fall. This tree is found from Labrador to the Rocky Mountains and north to the mouth of the Mackenzie River, where it is found at the northern limit of tree growth. Tamarack is among the heaviest and strongest of the softwoods of eastern Canada. It is quite durable and for that reason is used for railway ties, posts, and telegraph poles. The wood is valuable for construction purposes, pumps, tanks and vehicle supplies. The production of tamarack lumber in Canada in 1943 amounted to 35,233,000 feet board measure valued at \$888,000, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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#### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Production of Copper and Nickel, June (10 cents).
  2. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
  3. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, August 1 (10 cents).
  4. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, August 1 (10 cents).
  5. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, August 1 (10 cents).
  6. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, August 1 (10 cents).
  7. Asbestos Mining Industry, 1944 (25 cents).
  8. Violent Deaths in Canada, 1943 (25 cents).
  9. Manufactures of the Non-Ferrous Metals, 1944 (15 cents).
  10. Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas, June (10 cents).
  11. Economic Conditions in First Half of 1945 (10 cents).
  12. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
  13. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
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