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August Employment Situation

Industrial employment generally in the Dominion showed a contraction at the beginning of August; this was the first decline indicated at midsummer in the years since 1938, although previously the tendency at August 1 had been downward in seven of the years since 1920. The 15,439 establishments participating in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' latest survey of employment and payrolls reported the release of 5,891 workers, reducing their staffs by 0.3 per cent to 1,787,962 at the beginning of August. The shrinkage took place largely in manufacturing, in which there were important losses of a contra-seasonal character, some 16,100 workers being laid off by the co-operating factories. The movement in the non-manufacturing division as a whole was upward, notably in construction, but the expansion therein was not sufficient to offset the contraction in manufacturing. On the whole, however, the gains in the non-manufacturing groups approximated, or rather exceeded, the average in the experience of pre-war years.

Within the manufacturing division, there was a considerable recession in the production of durable manufactured goods, from which more than 13,400 persons were released by the reporting employers; of these, over 12,000 were let out by the iron and steel industries. In the production of non-durable goods, the general loss exceeded 3,500; in this category, there was a falling-off of some 5,350 workers in chemical plants, but vegetable foods and some other classes showed improvement. The trend was also favourable in central electric stations.

Among the non-manufacturing industries, logging reported a reduction which was below-average for the time of year. Decreases were also indicated in mining and trade, that in the former being contra-seasonal in character. On the other hand, improvement was shown in services, transportation, communications and construction. The greatest increase was that of more than 8,600 workers in construction, in which the gain approximated the average at the time of year.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the index of employment at August 1 was 175.0, as compared with 175.5 at July 1, 1945, and 184.3 at August 1, 1944. The latest index is the lowest since that for June 1, 1942, but exceeds by almost 49 per cent the August 1, 1939, index of 117.5. For the seventh consecutive month there was a reduction in the seasonally-adjusted index, which stood at 170.3, as compared with 172.2 at July 1.

The amounts expended in salaries and wages by the establishments furnishing statistics in the eight leading industries at August 1 aggregated \$57,478,047, giving an average weekly wage of \$32.15 per employee. At July 1, the sum of \$57,977,540 had been disbursed by these employers, a per capita figure of \$32.32. The average at August 1, 1944, had been \$31.63, while those at August 1 of 1943 and 1942 had been \$31.06 and \$28.62, respectively.

External Trade of Canada in August

The external trade of Canada in August, excluding new gold, was valued at \$428,766,000 as compared with \$416,510,000 in August, 1944, an increase of 2.9 per cent. Advances in the value of domestic merchandise exports and of foreign commodities, more than counter-balanced a sharp decline in the value of imports entered for consumption. For the first eight months of the current year, Canada's external trade was valued at \$3,397,395,000 as compared with \$3,479,990,000 in the similar period of 1944, a decline of 2.4 per cent.

The domestic merchandise export trade in August was valued at \$295,049,000 as compared with \$257,021,000 in the corresponding month of last year, an advance of 14.8 per cent. The total for the first eight months of the current year recorded an increase from \$2,282,002,000 a year ago to \$2,296,156,000, or by 0.6 per cent.

Commodity imports in August were sharply lower, amounting to \$128,134,000 as compared with \$157,324,000 in August last year, a reduction of 18.6 per cent. The eight-month aggregate stood at \$1,065,510,000 as compared with \$1,170,304,000 in the similar period of 1944, a decrease of nine per cent.

The re-export of foreign commodities in August amounted to \$5,533,000 as compared with \$2,165,000 in the corresponding month of last year, and in the eight months ended August, \$35,730,000 as compared with \$27,684,000.

Imports for Consumption in August

Merchandise imported into Canada for consumption was valued at \$128,134,000 in August as compared with \$157,324,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a decrease of 18.6 per cent. The aggregate for the first eight months of the current year was \$1,065,510,000 as compared with \$1,170,304,000 in the like period of 1944, a decline of nine per cent. August imports from foreign countries were valued at \$108,255,000 as compared with \$146,082,000 a year ago, and from countries of the British Empire, \$19,880,000 as compared with \$11,242,000.

The United States was the leading source of supply, imports from that country in August totalling \$96,756,000 as compared with \$138,252,000 in the same month of last year, and in the eight months ended August, \$818,360,000 as compared with \$971,217,000 in the same period of last year. Imports from the United Kingdom in August were valued at \$10,661,000 as compared with \$4,564,000, and in the eight-month period, \$89,056,000 as compared with \$64,889,000.

Merchandise imports from other leading countries in August were as follows, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in parentheses: British India, \$1,062,000 (\$1,156,000); Newfoundland, \$1,804,000 (\$1,298,000); Australia, \$1,469,000 (\$915,000); Mexico, \$1,178,000 (\$937,000); San Domingo, \$1,563,000 (\$8,000); Venezuela, \$1,838,000 (\$1,349,000); Ceylon, \$837,000 (\$1,000); British Guiana, \$865,000 (\$961,000); Jamaica, \$893,000 (\$1,413,000); Brazil, \$816,000 (\$397,000); Cuba, \$982,000 (\$526,000); Honduras, \$804,000 (\$112,000); Switzerland, \$879,000 (\$400,000).

Business Operations in August

Productive operations in Canada receded to a lower level during August, the index of the physical volume of business dropping one point to 212.7. A downward trend has been shown since the early months of 1944 and the drop in August was a continuance of the prevailing trend.

Declines were shown in the indexes of mineral production, manufacturing and the output of electric power. Construction contracts awarded were \$40,500,000 in August as compared with \$50,500,000 in the preceding month. The index of building permits recorded an increase after seasonal adjustment.

The index of wholesale sales receded about three points in the latest month for which statistics are available. Imports in August were \$128,100,000 against \$138,700,000 in July, while exports advanced from \$286,000,000 to \$301,000,000. The net result was that the distribution index advanced about four points to 184.0.

Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries in July

Total net sales of securities to all countries in July, while much lower than the record high level of \$35,100,000 in June, were, at \$21,700,000, higher than any month since July 1943. The demand for Canadian bonds continued heavy but sales of Canadian and United States stocks were somewhat below recent levels. In the seven months ending July, net sales of securities to all countries were \$120,800,000 as compared with \$69,500,000 in the corresponding period of 1944.

Net sales of securities to the United States of \$23,900,000 in July, were, with the exception of June, the highest since June, 1943. Sales of Canadian bonds accounted for \$20,800,000, \$14,900,000 of this being concentrated in Dominion issues. Net sales of Dominion Guarantees were \$1,800,000, provincials \$1,700,000 and other corporations \$1,200,000. Net sales of Canadian stocks to the United States were \$1,000,000 and net sales of United States stocks \$1,600,000.

Net repurchases of securities from the United Kingdom in July were \$2,600,000, \$2,000,000 in Canadian stocks, the remaining \$600,000 divided between the different issues of Canadian bonds. The trade in July was more comparable to earlier months of the year than in June when repurchases of stock were at a record level. Trade with other countries increased moderately and represented net sales of \$400,000.

Cost-of-Living Index for September 1

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-1939=100, dropped 0.6 points to 119.9 between August 1 and September 1. As in the preceding four months, foods accounted for most of the change. A drop of 2.0 points to 134.2 in this group was due mainly to sharply lower prices for potatoes, cabbage, carrots, onions and lamb. Eggs were higher.

Among other groups, fuel and light, influenced by stronger coal quotations, rose 0.2 to 106.7, while clothing at an index level of 122.2, and homefurnishings and services at 119.4 were each 0.1 points above August 1. Indexes for the remaining two groups were unchanged: rentals at 112.1, and miscellaneous items at 109.5.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on September 27 totalled 201,240,948 bushels as compared with 310,231,130 on the corresponding date of last year. Visible stocks in Canadian positions on the latest date amounted to 181,292,449 bushels, and in United States positions, 19,948,499 bushels.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending September 27 amounted to 5,380,892 bushels as compared with 11,828,639 in the preceding week. For the elapsed portion of the present crop year which commenced August 1, marketings of wheat were recorded at 51,939,329 bushels as compared with 66,825,781 in the similar period of the crop year 1944-45.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending September 27, totals for the preceding week being in parentheses: oats, 1,447,163 (3,343,961) bushels; barley, 1,409,174 (2,546,283); rye, 80,150 (166,211); flaxseed, 37,548 (128,884).

Production of Wheat Flour in August

Wheat flour production in Canada in August established a new high record for the month at 2,021,000 barrels, exceeding that for August last year by 5,000 barrels. Mills reporting operations in August this year had a total milling capacity of 88,566 barrels per 24-hour day, but over a 26-day working period 87.8 per cent of this was effective. In July, mills operated at 82.2 per cent of combined rated capacity.

The total quantity of wheat milled into flour during August was 8,969,829 bushels as compared with 8,936,210 bushels in the same month of last year. Millings included 450,623 bushels of Ontario winter wheat against 392,947 bushels. The following quantities of coarse grains were also ground in August, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in parentheses: oats, 1,789,927 (1,708,281) bushels; corn, 223,023 (121,104); barley, 463,574 (643,151); buckwheat, 1,304 (1,447); and mixed grain, 2,037,196 (2,037,334).

Live Stock on Canadian Farms

Numbers of cattle on farms in Canada at June 1, 1945, reached the highest level yet recorded. The total of 10,759,000 head represented an increase of four per cent over the numbers at June 1, 1944. Cattle numbers have been increasing each year since 1940. Numbers of sheep on farms showed a slight decline from 3,725,550 at the first of June 1944 to 3,621,800 at the first of June, 1945. This is a decline of 2.8 per cent and is the first decrease in numbers of these species of live stock since 1941. Numbers of horses on farms recorded a further reduction in 1945, declining by 5.5 per cent from the previous year to 2,584,800. Numbers of hens and chickens showed a small drop from approximately 86,800,000 to 84,700,000, a decline of 2.4 per cent. Turkey numbers at June 1, 1945, recorded an increase of 0.6 per cent over 1944.

In the case of cattle, most of the increase occurred in cattle other than milk cows. Milk cow numbers showed only a very slight increase, being placed at a total of 3,998,200 at the first of June, 1945. The most marked increase in numbers occurred in Ontario and the western provinces, with slight declines being shown in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec. The present high numbers of cattle on farms is reflected in the record runs of cattle marketings being reported from stockyards.

All provinces showed a decrease in numbers of horses, ranging from a reduction of 8.8 per cent in Manitoba to 1.1 per cent in New Brunswick. The total number of horses on farms reported for June 1, 1945, is the lowest since 1910 and is a reflection of the adoption of motor power.

Farm Wage Rates at August 15

The general trend in farm wages continues upwards, daily rates with board averaging \$3.55 at August 15, 1945, as compared with \$3.53 a year ago. Only Manitoba and Saskatchewan recorded decreases in this comparison. The wages per day in these two provinces, though lower than the high wages occasioned by the heavy crops of 1944, were still considerably higher than the wages paid in 1943. The demand for day help in the West was moderated by the smaller harvests in 1945, while the assistance from eastern help, military leaves, etc., helped fill the demand. All other provinces showed moderate increases in the average wages per day of male farm help.

The average wages per month of male farm help, with board provided, showed substantial increases over August 1944 in all provinces, indicating the continued demand for steady help. The average per month advanced from \$65.99 in 1944 to \$71.68. The largest increases occurred in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. New Brunswick also had the highest average wage with board at \$80.63. Saskatchewan and Alberta followed, while Prince Edward Island at \$52.59 had the lowest. The highest average wage, without board, at \$111.00 per month occurred in Alberta with New Brunswick next, followed closely by British Columbia and Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island again being lowest with a wage rate of \$76.25.

Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Nine Cities

Stocks of creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada on October 1 totalled 46,173,223 pounds as compared with 45,791,085 pounds on October 1 last year, and 44,591,375 pounds on September 1, 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There were also on hand 43,162,684 pounds of cheese as compared with 46,144,235 pounds a year ago, and 43,100,519 pounds last month.

Cold storage eggs totalled 7,153,858 dozen as compared with 3,487,947 dozen on October 1, 1944, and 9,484,683 dozen on September 1, 1945. Frozen eggs on October 1 amounted to 17,758,643 pounds. Last year at the same date the holdings were 33,660,931 pounds while a month ago they totalled 20,373,751 pounds.

Anticipated Felt Production from Fur Farms

A sample survey of fur farms in Canada made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics indicates that there will be available for the marketing season of 1945-46 approximately 115,000 standard silver and 53,400 new type fox pelts, and 252,500 standard and 2,700 new type mink pelts. At January 1, 1945 the estimates showed that there were approximately 67,000 standard silver and 29,000 new type foxes on farms in Canada. The number of standard silver fox pups raised is estimated at 120,000 and of new type pups, 62,000. The number of standard mink on farms at the beginning of the year is estimated at 126,700 and the number of new type mink at 4,000. Standard mink kittens raised in 1945 are estimated at 297,600, and new type at 12,000.

Canal Traffic in August

Traffic through Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie canals recorded a decrease in August, amounting to 15,394,145 tons as compared with 17,199,165 tons in the corresponding month of last year. Downbound iron ore declined from 12,632,719 to 11,044,250 tons, and upbound soft coal from 2,580,749 to 1,743,144 tons. Shipments of wheat increased from 1,280,051 to 1,892,290 tons, and upbound oil and gasoline from 99,421 to 121,856 tons.

Total traffic using the Welland Ship Canal increased from 1,519,578 tons in August 1944, to 1,748,517 tons, wheat increasing by 375,155 tons, pulpwood by 35,466 tons, paper by 10,839 tons, petroleum and oils by 11,734 tons, and iron, pig and bloom, by 7,678 tons. Hard coal increased by 5,250 tons, but soft coal declined by 171,273 tons. Coke decreased by 13,339 tons, gasoline by 12,328 tons and iron ore by 10,141 tons.

Heavy shipments of wheat on the St. Lawrence canals increased the total traffic for this system from 904,002 to 1,011,420 tons. Wheat increased by 295,662 tons and pulpwood by 40,034 tons. No barley or corn was shipped. Gasoline decreased by 11,208 tons, petroleum and other oils by 12,047 tons, paper by 15,826 tons, soft coal by 128,313 tons, other ore - mostly bauxite - by 28,738 tons, and sand, gravel and stone by 10,330 tons.

Output of Central Electric Stations in August

Electric energy produced by central electric stations in August amounted to 3,237,-613,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 3,274,631,000 in the corresponding month of last year. Output for the first eight months of the current year aggregated 27,186,581,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 26,953,157,000 in the similar period of 1944.

Consumption of primary power in August totalled 2,599,952,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 2,828,775,000 in August, 1944. Primary consumption in Quebec declined from 1,380,895,000 to 1,124,177,000 kilowatt hours, or by 18.6 per cent, and consumption of secondary power was almost trebled. In Ontario, consumption of primary power increased from 937,532,000 to 953,085,000 kilowatt hours, or by 1.7 per cent, and consumption of secondary power declined by 5.3 per cent.

Exports to the United States declined from 238,680,000 in August last year to 229,-746,000 kilowatt hours, while the total for the first eight months of this year advanced from 1,754,170,000 to 1,754,955,000 kilowatt hours.

Claims for Unemployment Insurance Benefit

A total of 20,557 claims for Unemployment Insurance benefit was received at the offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission throughout Canada in August. This is almost double the 10,886 claims received during July and more than six times the 3,241 claims registered in August, 1944. Similarly, the number of persons who signed the live unemployment register during the last six working days in August increased sharply over previous months. Persons signing in August numbered 28,770 as against 19,224 in the last week of July and 5,408 during the last week of August, 1944.

This sudden rise in recorded unemployment among those covered by the Unemployment Insurance Act unquestionably results from lay-offs due to the cessation of hostilities in the Pacific. The figures become even more significant when it is noted that the month of August normally represents almost the peak of seasonal employment in Canada and could thus be expected to record close to the monthly minimum of applications for benefit. During August, 12,661 claims were adjudicated at insurance offices, 10,616 being considered entitled to benefit and 2,045 not entitled to benefit.

In all, 19,521 persons received a total of \$685,571 for 358,360 days of compensated unemployment during August. This compares with 18,257 persons paid \$602,003 for 317,628 days in July and 4,746 persons paid \$108,688 for 57,547 days in August, 1944. The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 18.4 days in August as against 17.4 days in July and 12.1 days in August of last year. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$35.12 in August, \$32.97 in July and \$22.90 in August, 1944. The average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$1.91 during August, \$1.90 in July and \$1.89 in August last year.

Indexes of Wholesale Sales in August

The dollar volume of wholesale trading transacted in August of this year increased eight per cent over the August, 1944, level. August sales advanced seven per cent over the July volume, and four per cent over June. The general unadjusted index of sales on the base, 1935-1939=100, stands at 215.8 for August, 1945; 203.5 for July, 1945; and 199.4 for August, 1944. Aggregate sales for the year-to-date were nine per cent greater than in the similar period of 1944.

Index Numbers of Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales increased eight per cent in August over the corresponding month of last year and were three per cent higher than in the immediately preceding month of July, according to reports submitted by stores handling a general line of merchandise and located in smaller communities and rural areas. The eight per cent margin over August 1944, compared with a six per cent gain in sales during the first eight months of this year over last. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base, average for 1935-

1939=100, stood at 187.9 for August 1945, 174.6 for August 1944, and 182.0 for July, 1945.

Production of Gold in Canada in July

Production of gold in Canada in July was recorded at 210,209 fine ounces as compared with 212,163 in the preceding month and 236,362 in the corresponding month of last year. Output for the first seven months of the current year totalled 1,537,913 fine ounces as compared with 1,763,964 in the similar period of 1944. This year's July production was valued at \$8,093,046.

Production in July was as follows by areas, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in parentheses: Nova Scotia, 534 (574) fine ounces; Quebec, 50,142 (56,061); Ontario, 122,895 (140,969); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 16,271 (17,743); British Columbia, 13,938 (14,770); Yukon, 6,373 (4,526); Northwest Territories, nil (1,710) fine ounces.

Civil Aviation in June

The number of revenue passengers carried by civil air carriers during June increased to 45,176 from 36,719 in May and 36,216 in June, 1944. International passenger traffic, exclusive of passengers between foreign points, increased from 11,403 passengers in June last year to 17,220, or by 51 per cent, and the entirely Canadian traffic increased from 22,886 last year to 26,559, or by 16 per cent.

Revenue freight increased from 937,324 pounds in June 1944 to 1,180,094 pounds, and although the pounds of mail carried showed an increase from 509,392 to 524,315, the mail ton miles declined from 166,549 to 160,766. Operating revenues of licensed Canadian carriers increased to \$1,614,016 from \$1,432,499 in 1944 and operating expenses were reduced to \$1,448,974 from \$1,581,490, raising the net operating revenue from a debit of \$148,991 to a credit of \$165,042.

Production of Machinery in 1943

The production of industrial, household, office and business machinery in Canada in 1943 was valued at \$159,094,000 as compared with \$163,438,000 in the preceding year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Results of the war-time restrictions placed on the manufacture of such items as power washing machines, clothes wringers, ironers, electric refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, lawn mowers and typewriters, are plainly demonstrated by the figures for individual items.

There were only 5,373 electric washing machines made in Canada in 1943 as compared with 52,198 in the preceding year, and only 38 other power washers as compared with 7,237, whereas hand washing machines were only slightly lower at 7,787. Clothes wringers were reduced from 26,146 to 11,025, ironers from 2,064 to 78. The value of electric refrigerators and condensing units dropped sharply from \$6,721,822 to \$798,407, while floor model electric vacuum cleaners fell from 34,547 units to 2,577.

Only 42 lawn mowers were manufacturing during 1943 as compared with 55,985 in the preceding year. Reductions were also shown in the production of certain office and business machinery. Typewriters, for instance, were reduced from 53,743 units in 1942 to 16,221 in 1943, and adding machines from 3,476 to 1,425. On the other hand, the value of ships' machinery and fittings advanced from \$11,738,000 to \$20,700,000, steam engines from \$15,981,000 to \$19,422,000, and electric motors and parts from \$13,707,000 to \$14,700,000.

Loadings of Railway Revenue Freight in June

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during June amounted to 13,442,604 tons as compared with 13,067,067 tons in May and 13,303,294 tons in June, 1944. Loadings increased from 9,268,310 tons in June 1944 to 9,551,203 tons. Wheat loadings advanced from 2,041,995 to 2,355,553 tons, pulpwood from 370,412 to 540,047 tons, and wood pulp from 118,382 to 146,856 tons. Loadings of potatoes dropped from 32,804 to 5,501 tons, hogs from 45,275 to 24,620 tons, oats from 330,957 to 266,676 tons, copper ore and concentrates from 150,058 to 88,378 tons, and other ores and concentrates from 468,364 to 414,609 tons. Imports of other ores and concentrates also declined from 212,630 to 167,732 tons, and anthracite coal from 311,867 to 268,977 tons.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended September 22 amounted to 73,395 cars as compared with 73,717 in the preceding week and 74,558 in the corresponding week of last year. In the eastern division, loadings declined from 47,985 cars last year to 47,696, and in the western division from 26,573 cars to 25,699.

Grain loadings continued heavy, increasing from 10,339 cars in 1944 to 10,889 cars. Pulpwood advanced from 2,299 to 2,336 cars, and wood pulp and paper from 3,118 to 3,359 cars. Coal loadings decreased from 5,798 to 5,305 cars; logs, piling and cordwood from 1,954 to 1,681 cars; and automobiles and parts from 1,562 to 1,033 cars. Hay and straw, fruit and vegetables also showed decreases.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
 2. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, August (10 cents).
 3. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Nine of the Principal Cities of Canada, October (10 cents).
 4. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, June (10 cents).
 5. Civil Aviation, June (10 cents).
 6. Employment Situation, August (10 cents).
 7. Production of Asphalt Roofing, August (10 cents).
 8. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, August (10 cents).
 9. The Machinery Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
 10. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, July (10 cents).
 11. Gold Production, July (10 cents).
 12. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, July (10 cents).
 13. Live Stock Survey, June 1, 1945 (10 cents).
 14. Price Movements, September (10 cents).
 15. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, August (10 cents).
 16. Anticipated Felt Production of Fur Farms, 1945-46 (10 cents).
 17. Canadian Milling Statistics (10 cents).
 18. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 19. Central Electric Stations, August (10 cents).
 20. Summary of Canal Traffic, August (10 cents).
 21. Statistical Report on the Operations of the Unemployment Insurance Act, August (10 cents).
 22. Imports into Canada for Consumption, by Countries, Excluding Gold, August (10 cents).
 23. Summary of Canada's Imports for Consumption, Excluding Gold, August (10 cents).
 24. Trade of Canada, August (10 cents).
 25. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
 26. Farm Wages in Canada at August 15, 1945 (10 cents).
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