

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



Vol. XIII - No. 41

Ottawa, Saturday, October 20, 1945

Price \$1.00 per annum

Domestic Merchandise Exports in September

Canada's domestic merchandise exports in September were valued at \$220,810,000 as compared with \$264,619,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a decline of 16.6 per cent. The reduction was due to a sharp falling-off in the export movement of direct war materials, the total for this classification of goods being reduced 50 per cent from \$106,280,000 in September last year to \$53,157,000. On the other hand, exports classified as non-war materials advanced from \$158,339,000 in September last year to \$167,653,000, or by 5.9 per cent. The aggregate value of merchandise exported during the first nine months of the current year stood at \$2,516,966,000 as compared with \$2,546,621,000 in the like period of 1944, a decline of 1.2 per cent.

The continued high level of wheat exports was a feature of the month's trade, the valuation standing at \$43,572,000 as compared with \$33,979,000 in September last year, with a nine-month aggregate of \$310,320,000 as compared with \$283,169,000. Wheat flour exports, although lower than in September, were considerably greater in the nine-month comparison, the September total being \$7,140,000 as compared with \$7,915,000, and the cumulative figure, \$74,779,000 as compared with \$68,235,000.

September exports of fish and fishery products moved up from \$6,930,000 to \$9,150,000, expanding the nine-month total from \$47,127,000 to \$40,306,000. Meat exports were lower, totalling \$7,425,000 as compared with \$11,064,000 in September last year, and in the nine months, \$119,549,000 as compared with \$158,145,000. The September total for fibres and textiles fell from \$4,701,000 to \$4,316,000, while that for iron and products was reduced from \$40,221,000 to \$29,050,000, the decline in this latter group being due to a reduction in the export of motor vehicles and parts. Exports of newsprint paper in September rose to \$17,291,000 from \$13,437,000 a year ago, and in the nine months to \$129,520,000 from \$116,741,000.

Exports to the United States in September were recorded at \$84,837,000 as compared with \$110,457,000 in the corresponding month of last year, and in the nine months ended September, \$918,377,000 as compared with \$932,990,000 in the like period of the preceding year. September exports to the United Kingdom were valued at \$58,820,000 as compared with \$94,425,000, and in the nine months, \$788,151,000 as compared with \$942,295,000. Shipments to British India in September were valued at \$16,385,000 as compared with \$6,684,000, and in the cumulative period, \$273,322,000 as compared with \$113,494,000. Exports to Australia in September totalled \$4,023,000 as compared with \$2,066,000, and to Newfoundland \$3,680,000 as compared with \$5,446,000.

Merchandise exports direct to countries of Continental Europe were relatively high in September. Shipments to Belgium were valued at \$4,133,000, to Czechoslovakia, \$648,000; France, \$4,083,000; Greece, \$1,813,000; Italy, \$2,124,000; Netherlands, \$6,183,000; Norway, \$809,000; Poland, \$1,918,000; Russia, \$2,445,000; Sweden, \$1,187,000; and Yugoslavia, \$630,000.

Exports to South American countries moved higher in September, as recorded in the following comparison: Argentina, \$740,000 (\$212,000); Brazil, \$1,977,000 (\$773,000); Chile, \$368,000 (\$135,000); Colombia, \$596,000 (\$196,000); Peru, \$131,000 (\$122,000); Uruguay, \$216,000 (\$75,000); Venezuela, \$311,000 (\$96,000).

Economic Conditions During First Eight Months of 1945

Six factors indicating the trend of economic conditions averaged higher in the first eight months of 1945 than in the same period of the preceding year. Dominion bond and wholesale prices were at a somewhat higher level, while business operations receded to a lower position.

The index of the physical volume of business averaged 220.9 in the first eight months of 1945, a decline of eight per cent from the same period of last year. In the same comparison, the general index of employment averaged 2.7 per cent lower at 177.0. Advances were shown in the cost-of-living and in commodity prices at wholesale but the increases were of minor proportions. The index of wholesale prices averaged 103.2 against 102.6, an increase of 0.6 per cent.

A somewhat lower level of salaries and wages paid by industrial concerns was indicated by the statistics of aggregate payrolls at August 1. Per capita earnings in the week of August 1 were given at \$32.20 against \$31.66 in the same week of 1944.

A gain was recorded in the new business obtained by the construction industry and in building permits. Contracts awarded were \$266,800,000, a gain of 27.6 per cent, while building permits were \$84,100,000, a gain of 27 per cent. The index of employment in the construction industry averaged 102.3, an increase of eight per cent over the same period of 1944.

Canada's export trade amounted to \$2,332,000,000 in the first eight months against \$2,310,000,000 in the same period of last year, an increase of one per cent. The decline in imports was nine per cent, resulting in a considerable gain in the active balance of trade. The net exports of non-monetary gold amounted to \$65,500,000 against \$76,600,000 in the same period of last year.

Dominion government ordinary expenditures were nearly \$388,000,000 in the first five months of the present fiscal year compared with \$270,700,000 one year ago. Special expenditures, on the other hand, receded from \$1,633,000,000 to \$1,465,000,000. War expenditures dropped from about \$1,282,000,000 to \$854,000,000.

The payments of dividends, according to unofficial sources, was at a lower level, the decline having been 1.7 per cent. Interest payments by the Dominion Government amounted to \$153,400,000 in the first five months of the present fiscal year compared with \$115,400,000 in the same period of last year.

The slaughtering of cattle amounted to 1,555,915 head in the first eight months, a gain of 23.6 per cent over the same period of last year. Hog slaughtering decreased in the same period by 35.6 per cent from 6,120,701 head in 1944 to 3,942,707 in 1945. Some decline was recorded in the production of creamery butter, while a gain of more than six per cent was shown in the output of factory cheese, the total in the first eight months of the year having been 129,300,000 pounds. The tobacco industry was more active as measured by the release of cigarettes. The total in the first eight months was 9,158,000,000 against 7,506,000,000, a gain of 22 per cent. A gain of 6.2 per cent was shown in the release of cigars.

The output of steel ingots showed a gain of 2.8 per cent, while pig iron production dropped from 1,300,000 to 1,200,000 short tons. The output of newsprint showed moderate betterment, the total having been 2,102,181 tons. As the production in the first eight months of 1944 was 1,937,540 tons, an increase of 5.3 per cent was indicated. Retail sales in the first seven months increased 7.7 per cent, while wholesale sales increased 9.5 per cent over the same period of 1944.

World Price Movements

World wholesale price index numbers continued to show small changes in the first half of 1945, according to information assembled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. These were usually net gains of less than two per cent. However, declines were recorded by wholesale price series for Calcutta, India and for Mexico.

It is of interest to note the contrasts and parallels in wholesale price levels approximately six years after the outbreak of hostilities in World Wars I and II. Available comparisons for these two periods follow, percentage advances for World War II being in parentheses: Australia, 142 (45) per cent; Canada, 149 (43); India, 118 (193); New Zealand, 114 (46); South Africa, 130 (59); Sweden, 212 (77); Switzerland, 226 (106); United Kingdom, 210 (73); United States, 140 (41).

Small increases were recorded by most cost-of-living series for the first half of 1945. As a rule these were less than two per cent, although advances of 4.3 per cent and 6.9 per cent, respectively, were shown for Mexico City and Lima, Peru. Series for Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom moved to new wartime high levels in June, 1945. The United Kingdom Ministry of Labour index rose 1.5 per cent in the first half of 1945, the largest half-year increase to be recorded since the first half of 1941.

Production of Butter and Cheese in September

Creamery butter production fell two per cent in September below that of September 1944, reversing the favourable trend of the two previous months. The total output amounted to 30,400,000 pounds as against 30,900,000 pounds in the same month of the preceding year. The decline was common to all provinces with the exception of Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. The cumulative production for the first nine months of the current year amounted to 244,309,000 pounds, a reduction of 0.3 per cent from the corresponding period of 1944.

Cheddar cheese production in September amounted to 23,900,000 pounds, representing an increase of three per cent over September, 1944. The advance, however, was confined to the provinces of Ontario and Alberta, the former increasing 11 per cent, and the latter 15 per cent. During the nine months ended September, 153,200,000 pounds of cheese were produced, being up approximately six per cent as compared with the same period of 1944.

Ice cream production in September amounted to 1,251,000 gallons, representing a decline of almost six per cent as compared with the same month of 1944, and the cumulative output for the first nine months of this year was 14,500,000 gallons, a decline of nearly four per cent.

Concentrated milk products, including both whole milk products and milk by-products, showed a grand total of 27,389,000 pounds for the month of September, an increase of 13.6 per cent over the same month of the preceding year; and the total output for the nine months ended September amounted to 246,700,000 pounds, being approximately 11 per cent more than that produced in the similar period of 1944.

With regard to milk production, the position reported for August remains practically unchanged; the estimated production of 1,900,000,000 pounds being approximately three per cent more than that shown in the same month of the preceding year. Slightly more milk appears to be going into manufacture, but less into fluid sales, but the difference was only one per cent of the total production.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on October 11 totalled 206,834,357 bushels as compared with 317,147,936 on the corresponding date of last year, a decrease of 34.8 per cent. Visible stocks in Canadian positions on the latest date amounted to 186,799,203 bushels as compared with 291,569,562 a year ago, and in United States positions, 20,035,154 bushels as compared with 25,558,374.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending October 11 moved up sharply from 7,108,789 bushels in the preceding week to 19,670,829 bushels. Marketings of wheat during the elapsed portion of the present crop year aggregated 78,781,976 bushels as compared with 91,509,272 in the corresponding 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 October 11, totals for the preceding week being in parentheses: oats, 3,316,401 (2,308,178) bushels; barley, 6,913,638 (4,081,583); rye, 257,362 (69,538); flaxseed, 902,613 (285,576).

Production of Crude Petroleum and Natural Gasoline

The Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in July totalled 696,723 barrels as compared with 672,388 in the preceding month and 806,342 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first seven months of the current year, 5,218,534 barrels were produced as compared with 5,806,580 in the similar period of 1944.

Alberta's output in July was recorded at 680,506 barrels, including 620,913 barrels from the Turner Valley field; 1,637 barrels from the Wainwright-Ribstone field; and 57,956 barrels from other fields. New Brunswick produced 3,292 barrels in July, Ontario 10,862 barrels, and the Northwest Territories, 2,043 barrels.

Production of Natural Gas in July

Production of natural gas in Canada during July amounted to 3,338,463,000 cubic feet as compared with 3,451,616,000 in the preceding month and 2,424,789,000 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first seven months of this year, 30,556,348,000 cubic feet were produced as compared with 27,439,463,000 in the like period of 1944.

Sales of Gasoline in June

Sales of motor, tractor and aviation grades of gasoline in Canada in June totalled 95,630,000 gallons as compared with 93,779,000 in the preceding month and 92,951,000 in the corresponding month of last year, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from tax departments of provincial governments and from Canadian oil companies. Sales during the first six months of the current year aggregated 420,151,000 gallons as compared with 437,498,000 in the similar period of 1944.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in September

New and used motor vehicles whose sales were financed by Canadian finance companies during September totalled 2,488 units with a financed value of \$1,278,746, down four per cent in number but higher by eight per cent in amount of financing than the 2,597 vehicles financed to the extent of \$1,185,183 in the same month of 1944. September 1945 totals included 321 new vehicles financed for an amount of \$404,560.

In the used vehicle field, declines amounted to nine per cent in number and six per cent in dollar volume of financing. Used vehicles financed in the month under review numbered 2,167 with a financed value of \$874,197 compared with 2,387 transactions involving \$932,381 in the same month last year. Trends between September 1944 and 1945 varied widely for the different provinces. But the small number of transactions involved limits the significance which can be attached to these varying percentage changes.

The number of new vehicles financed in the first nine months of this year was 2,728, whereas only 1,711 new vehicle sales were financed in the similar period of last year. Used vehicles financed during the first nine months of the current year totalled 13,721, while 25,027 contracts were obtained in the same nine months of 1944.

Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings as at August 1

There was a reduction in the number of wage-earners employed at hourly rates in the manufacturing industries of Canada at August 1, when the 6,141 co-operating establishments reported a total of 802,730 such employees, as compared with 820,036 at the first of July, according to a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This decrease of 2.1 per cent was accompanied by that of two per cent in the number of man-hours worked. These fell from 36,247,082 in the week ending July 1 to 35,521,002 in the week of August 1. The aggregate weekly earnings of those employed at hourly rates at the latter date amounted to \$24,703,887, a total which was lower by 2.7 per cent than that of \$25,377,381 a month earlier. The average wage paid for services rendered during the week preceding August 1 was \$30.79 as compared with \$31.05 in July.

There was no general change in the average hours worked in manufacturing, these being reported as 44.3 per week at July 1 and at August 1; at the latter date, the hourly earnings averaged 69.5 cents per hour, as compared with 70.1 cents in the preceding return. The decline in the average hourly earnings in manufacturing as a whole during the month was largely due to the significant changes taking place in the industrial distribution of the wage-earners for whom statistics of hourly earnings are available, there being a reduction of some 13,500 in the numbers employed in the more highly-paid durable manufactured goods industries, as compared with that of about 3,300 wage-earners reported by establishments manufacturing non-durable goods; the average hourly earnings in the former division are substantially higher, at 76.9 cents per hour at August 1, as compared with the mean of 60.7 cents in the latter category.

Decreased overtime work, due in part to cancellation of war contracts and during the holiday season, was also a factor in the reduction of 0.5 cents in the general average in manufacturing; this change is the largest indicated in the 10 months for which data are available. Still another factor contributing to the loss was the employment of increasingly large numbers of relatively unskilled workers in the vegetable food industries during their period of seasonal activity.

Shipping in 1944

The number of vessels which entered Canadian ports during the calendar year 1944 was 88,785 as compared with 87,967 in the preceding year. The arrivals in foreign service advanced from 22,901 in 1943 to 23,786 in 1944, while those in coasting service declined from 65,066 to 64,999. The registered net tonnage of the arrivals in 1944 totalled 72,133,178, the tonnage of those in foreign service amounting to 23,356,681 and in coasting service, 43,776,497. Departures from Canadian ports during 1944 numbered 89,272 as compared with 88,553 in 1943. The departures of vessels in foreign service increased from 23,530 in 1943 to 24,892, while those in coasting trade fell from 65,023 in 1943 to 64,380. The registered net tonnage of all vessels cleared in 1944 was 72,482,450 as compared with 67,173,228 in 1943; the tonnage of those in foreign service aggregated 30,853,811 as compared with 28,504,987, and in coasting service, 41,628,639 as compared with 38,668,241.

The cargoes of vessels loaded at Canadian ports for shipment to other countries in 1944 included 18,150,714 tons of 2,000 pounds each and 805,269 tons of 40 cubic feet measurement. The following were the cargoes loaded for shipment to leading destinations in tons weight, figures of tons measurement being in parentheses: United States, 9,236,001 (1,400); United Kingdom, 5,832,691 (445,791); Newfoundland, 975,333 (2,669); China, North West Asia, 436,441; Australia, New Zealand, and Other Oceanic Countries, 265,158 (64,213); Eire, 262,583; India, Burma, Ceylon, 159,657 (136,567); West Indies, 142,146 (3,935); South Africa, 123,735 (63,566); Hawaiian Islands, 38,162.

Among the principal commodities loaded at Canadian ports for destinations abroad in 1944 were the following: wheat, 6,140,434 tons of 2,000 pounds; barley, 814,557; oats, 996,587; flour, 543,373; bituminous coal, 446,390; iron ore, 252,300; gypsum, 340,969; sand, gravel, etc., 222,323; logs, posts, poles, 254,961; pulpwood, 852,982; lumber, timber, 961,834; petroleum oils and products, 389,484; paper, paper stock, 374,475; wood pulp, screenings, 197,302. These tonnages are exclusive of shipments included in general cargo which totalled 3,449,727 tons weight and 612,966 tons measurement.

The tonnage of cargoes unloaded at Canadian ports during 1944 included 27,553,449 tons weight and 102,554 tons measurement, a large percentage of which arrived from the United States. Cargoes from the United States in 1944 included 24,409,199 tons weight and 150 tons measurement. Cargoes from other leading sources were as follows, figures of tons measurement being in parentheses: Newfoundland, 1,057,328 (120); South America, N.E., 831,772; West Indies, 591,471 (253); United Kingdom, 351,548 (52,958); Australia, New Zealand, and Other Oceanic Countries, 128,389 (144).

Included in the cargoes unloaded at Canadian ports in 1944 were the following: bituminous coal, 17,254,190 tons; anthracite coal, 481,617; crude petroleum, 3,288,241; gasoline, 178,014; petroleum oils and products, 695,362; iron ore, 2,987,220; bauxite, 411,284; sand, gravel, etc., 157,962; sugar, molasses, 244,464. These tonnages are exclusive of shipments included with general cargo of 327,520 tons weight and 102,554 tons measurement.

Advertising Agencies in Canada in 1944

The 41 advertising agencies in Canada which contract for space, radio or other advertising media, and that place the advertising for the client on a commission or fee basis, had total billings of \$36,944,765 in 1944 as compared with \$29,224,400 in 1941, an advance of 26.4 per cent, according to a survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Gross revenues received by the agencies in 1944 amounted to \$5,949,499 as compared with \$4,823,900 in 1941, an increase of 23.3 per cent. Gross revenues for 1944 formed 16.1 per cent of the total billings for all services performed and represented the amount which the agencies received out of which to pay their operating expenses and provide a profit on the year's operations. In 1941 the percentage was 16.5.

Almost exactly two-thirds of the billings made by advertising agencies in 1944 represented advertising in newspapers, magazines or other printed matter. Twenty per cent of the billings were for radio advertising and the remaining 13 per cent represented advertising expenditures in other media.

Revenues and Expenses of Railways in July

Operating revenues of Canadian railways established a new monthly record in July at \$70,913,046, exceeding the previous record made in June by \$1,051,899 and the July 1944 revenues by \$1,887,011. Freight revenues were greater than in 1944 by \$441,606 and passenger revenues increased by \$447,144. Operating expenses advanced from \$51,805,125 in July last year to \$54,060,944, and the operating income declined from \$12,577,191 to \$11,663,078. For the first seven months of the current year, operating revenues of Canadian railways totalled \$451,047,439 as compared with \$452,152,959 in the similar period of 1944.

Operating revenues of the Canadian lines of the Canadian National Railways increased from \$34,347,700 in July 1944, to \$35,473,700, a total which has been exceeded only in July and August, 1943. Operating expenses were increased by \$834,437, and the operating income was increased from \$7,451,494 to \$7,862,636. Operating revenues of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in July amounted to \$29,164,135, the largest monthly total on record. Operating expenses were increased by \$1,670,828, and the operating income was increased from \$3,659,490 to \$3,896,114.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended October 6 increased to 76,376 cars from 73,921 cars for the preceding week, due mainly to an increase in grain from 11,317 to 14,313 cars, but were down by 2,058 cars from the total of 78,434 cars for the corresponding week last year. Total loadings in the eastern division declined from 43,912 cars in 1944 to 46,761 cars, despite an increase of 894 cars of grain; coal was down by 515 cars, and automobiles by 816 cars. The heavier loading of grain offset declines in other groups in the western division and the total advanced from 29,522 to 29,615 cars.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in August

Births registered in cities, towns and villages of Canada having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 11,305 in August, deaths 4,578 and marriages 5,475 as compared with 11,202 births, 4,750 deaths and 4,794 marriages in August last year, showing increases of one and 14 per cent, respectively, for births and marriages, and a decrease of four per cent for deaths.

Reports Issued Today

1. Births, Deaths and Marriages, August (10 cents).
2. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, September (10 cents).
3. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
4. Canada's Domestic Exports by Countries, Excluding Gold, September (10 cents).
5. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, Excluding Gold, September (10 cents).
6. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
7. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, July (10 cents).
8. Advertising Agencies in Canada, 1944 (10 cents).
9. Monthly Dairy Review of Canada, September (10 cents).
9. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
10. Shipping Report, Year Ended December 31, 1944 (25 cents).
11. Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings as at August 1 (10 cents).
12. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, July; and Petroleum Fuels Sales, June (10 cents).
13. World Price Movements, First Half of 1945 (25 cents).
14. Economic Conditions in Canada, First Eight Months of 1945 (10 cents).



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