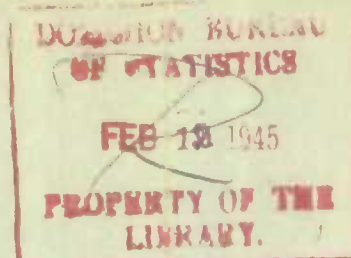


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics
Department of Trade and Commerce



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Business Operations in December

Productive Operations in Canada were greater in 1944 than in any other year. The index of the physical volume of business averaged 236.8 against 235.9 in 1943, the previous maximum. The index was 233.0 in December compared with 227.9 in the preceding month, reversing the downward trend in evidence for several months. The index of the physical volume of business is based upon 66 factors showing the trend of production and distribution.

The index of manufacturing production receded one point in December from the preceding month, the index having been 283.7. The construction index, reflecting the amount of new business obtained in the form of contracts awarded and building permits, rose from 92.7 in November to 122.6. The recession in the electric power index was nearly four points to 144.7.

Mineral production registered recession in the latest month for which statistics are available. The output of coal was 1,524,000 tons against 1,638,000 in November. A considerable decline was shown in the receipts of gold at the Mint.

The flour milling industry was more active according to latest available information. Release of tobacco rose after seasonal adjustment. The cigarettes made available numbered 1,032 million against 1,044 million. The meat packing industry recorded a gain in activity after the usual adjustment, the index rising about six points to 214.3. The output of dairy products was considerably greater, taking seasonal factors into consideration. The index of operations in the textile industry receded from 134.4 to 128. The forestry industry was more active in the last month of the year. The output of steel ingots and pig iron showed a recession in December, the output of steel having been 243,482 tons against 268,923.

The index of tons carried by steam railways rose from 164.4 to 180.5. Distribution through retail and wholesale outlets recorded expansion in the latest month.

The index of imports after seasonal adjustment showed an increase, while exports were at a somewhat lower level after the usual adjustments.

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

	December	November
Physical Volume of Business	233.0	227.9
Industrial Production	256.0	255.4
Mineral Production	189.3	191.7
Gold Receipts	57.8	71.6
Coal Production	100.7	99.2
Manufacturing	283.7	284.7
Flour Production (x)	137.7	125.9
Rolled Oats Production (x)	114.9	97.0
Inspected Slaughterings	214.3	208.1
Cattle	200.7	189.8
Sheep	161.8	127.4
Hogs	227.4	249.6
Creamery Butter	119.2	120.8
Factory Cheese	359.1	203.0
Tobacco	219.8	199.9
Cigar Releases	180.9	132.9
Cigarette Releases	222.9	205.3
Boots and Shoes Production (x)	212.4	149.0
Textiles	128.2	134.4
Cotton Consumption	121.5	139.7
Forestry	126.1	124.6
Newsprint	100.8	97.7
Iron and Steel	547.4	558.0
Pig Iron Production	193.0	222.9
Steel Production	219.6	251.7

(continued on page 2)

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

	1944	
	December	November
Construction	122.6	92.7
Contracts Awarded	121.0	85.0
Building Permits	128.7	123.2
Cost of Construction	135.9	135.7
Electric Power	144.7	148.5
Distribution	185.5	171.1
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings	167.7	133.4
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators	162.5	126.7
Wheat	245.8	212.7
Oats	283.4	124.7
Live Stock Marketings	162.5	126.7
Cattle	181.0	125.1
Calves	109.4	86.2
Hogs	127.3	139.9
Sheep	164.0	176.7
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month	190.1	180.7
Butter	110.6	104.9
Cheese	148.2	155.0
Beef	141.9	127.6
Pork	141.5	156.8
Mutton	83.6	76.4
Poultry	166.7	250.6
Lard	195.5	230.1
Veal	152.0	160.0

(x) Preceding Month

Cost of Living Index

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index number advanced from 118.5 for December 1, 1944, to 118.6 for January 2, 1945. Increases in the fuel and light, clothing and miscellaneous groups outweighed fractional decreases for foods and home-furnishings and services.

The fuel and light index advanced from 108.1 to 109.1; rebates in electricity bills made a year ago were spread over the past year, since in effect they represented a return to the customer covering an annual period. This change, therefore, reflects a return to an index level based upon normal rates and not an increase in rates.

The clothing index moved up from 121.6 to 121.8 on scattered price changes affecting men's wear, women's wear and piece goods. An advance in the miscellaneous items index from 108.9 to 109.2 was due mostly to higher hospital rates. The food index fell from 130.3 to 130.2 as lower prices for eggs overbalanced increases for vegetables and fruits. Homefurnishings and services declined fractionally from 118.4 to 118.3.

Sales and Purchases of Securities Between
Canada and Other Countries during November

Net sales of securities by Canada to other countries in November were \$4,000,000, representing one of the smallest monthly inflows of capital during recent years. In the preceding month, net sales of securities amounted to \$8,200,000 and in the corresponding month of 1943, \$6,400,000. In the first 11 months of 1944 the balance of sales to all countries was \$94,200,000 compared with \$164,300,000 in the similar period of 1943.

Sales of Canadian bonds to the United States continued to be the principal element in this inflow of capital to Canada, the November balance amounting to \$3,900,000. Canadian stocks were sold on balance in the trade with the United States, while the liquidation of United States stocks amounted to \$800,000. Net purchases of securities from the United Kingdom in November amounted to \$1,900,000. There were net sales of \$200,000 to other countries.

Sales of securities to other countries in November were valued at \$13,500,000 compared with \$16,100,000 in the preceding month and \$12,100,000 in November 1943, while purchases from other countries amounted to \$9,500,000 compared with \$7,900,000 in October and \$5,700,000 in November 1943.

Sales to other countries during the first 11 months of 1944 aggregated \$194,900,000 compared with \$250,900,000 in the comparable period of 1943; purchases from other countries totalled \$100,700,000 compared with \$86,500,000 in the like period of 1943.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on February 1 amounted to 369,811,697 bushels as compared with 348,047,864 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks in Canadian positions advanced to 335,056,720 bushels from 321,532,083, while the amount in United States positions rose to 34,754,977 bushels from 26,515,781.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending February 1 amounted to 5,150,101 bushels as compared with 6,390,738 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year which commenced August 1, 1944, western marketings totalled 246,996,236 bushels as compared with 148,868,848 in the comparable period of the preceding crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending February 1, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 5,338,432 (5,020,822) bushels; barley, 1,112,940 (1,439,784); rye, 51,323 (60,146); flaxseed, 17,385 (35,243).

Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Nine Principal Cities on February 1

The stocks of food commodities in nine of the principal cities of Canada are relative indicators of the total stocks in Canada. Stocks of creamery butter in these nine cities on February 1 amounted to 17,904,510 pounds as compared with 25,201,277 on January 1 and 21,437,092 on February 1, 1944. Cheese stocks totalled 21,515,742 pounds as compared with 29,740,626 on January 1 and 24,369,362 on the corresponding date of last year.

Fresh eggs on hand on February 1 were 1,700,716 dozen, a slight increase over January 1 when the stocks were 1,568,277 dozen, but a slight decrease from January 1, 1943, when the holdings were 1,876,174 dozen. Stocks of frozen egg meats totalled 15,527,440 pounds as compared with 4,436,672 pounds on February 1 last year and 21,922,277 pounds on January 1.

Fisheries Production of Nova Scotia in 1943

Fisheries production in Nova Scotia reached a new high point in 1943, the marketed value being \$21,726,734, an increase of \$6,429,302, or 42 per cent over the 1942 figures. The quantity caught was 2,995,929 cwt., an increase of 444,648 cwt. or 17 per cent over 1942. Higher prices were a more potent factor in the increase in total value than was the increase in the catch. The value as landed was \$12,827,765, an increase of \$3,952,915 or 45 per cent.

Six varieties of fish passed the million-dollar mark in total marketed value in 1943. These were as follows, with percentage increases over the preceding year in brackets: cod, \$3,560,420 (28); lobsters, \$3,804,685 (55); haddock, \$2,378,035 (46); mackerel, \$1,364,679 (58); herring, \$1,301,116 (32); and swordfish, \$1,009,792 (94).

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ending January 27 amounted to 65,356 cars as compared with 65,407 in the preceding week and 69,158 in the corresponding week of last year. Grain loadings declined from 8,052 cars in 1944 to 6,340, live stock from 2,934 to 2,536, and logs, piling, cordwood and other forest products from 3,019 to 1,836 cars. Coal increased from 5,951 to 6,400 cars, pulpwood from 4,043 to 4,176 cars and wood pulp and paper from 2,897 to 3,054 cars.

Bridge Building and Structural Steel Work Industry

The value of work done by concerns in the bridge building and structural steel work industry amounted to \$72,515,834 in 1943 compared with \$63,383,569 in the preceding year. Munitions, parts for ships and other special war contracts accounted for about half of the output in 1943. Apart from this work the principal products were: 1,832 tons of bridges at \$330,402; 95,599 tons of other structural work, such as buildings, transmission towers, etc., at \$16,061,948; plate and tank work at \$15,812,030, and mechanical work, including cranes, trolleys, etc., at \$3,818,832. Sales of plain material were reported at 55,698 tons worth \$5,534,332.

Dyeing and Finishing of Textile Goods

The gross value of the work performed by establishments occupied chiefly in the dyeing and finishing of textile goods in 1943 amounted to \$9,008,917, of which \$4,579,314 or approximately 50 per cent was represented by the dyeing and finishing of textile fabrics. The dyeing and finishing of yarns amounted to \$2,430,084 or 27 per cent, while the printing and painting of fabrics and all other work totalled \$1,999,519.

Employment Situation at Beginning of December

Further expansion was recorded in industrial employment at the beginning of December 1944. The advance, which was on a scale greater than that indicated at November 1, also exceeded the increase which had taken place at December 1, 1943. Improvement in industrial employment at the beginning of December is contra-seasonal according to pre-war experience, although the trend was favourable at that date in 1941, 1942 and 1943.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics tabulated returns received from 15,018 employers in the eight leading industries at December 1, 1944, whose working forces totalled 1,887,752 as compared with 1,867,727 at November 1. The weekly payrolls disbursed amounted to \$60,770,994 as compared with \$60,314,032 a month earlier. There was thus a rise of 1.1 per cent in the number of employees, accompanied by that of 0.8 per cent in the reported salaries and wages. The per capita earnings showed a slight reduction from \$32.29 at November 1 to \$32.19 at December 1.

The general unadjusted index number of employment, on the base 1926=100, stood at 185.7 at December 1 as compared with 183.8 in the preceding month and 190.5 at December 1, 1943. Since the increase was contrary to the usual seasonal tendency, the seasonally-adjusted index showed a further rise, standing at 181.3 as compared with 175.9 at November 1.

The greatest advances over the preceding month were recorded in logging and trade, the working forces of the former having been expanded by 18,294 persons and the latter by 10,116 persons. There were smaller but important gains in employment as compared with November 1 in mining and transportation. On the other hand activity in manufacturing showed contraction, due partly to seasonal factors. There were large reduction in iron and steel plants, from which over 5,100 men and women were laid off; lumber and vegetable food factories also released employees. The decline in manufacturing was in accordance with the usual seasonal movement in the pre-war period, although it was at variance with the gains indicated at December 1 in earlier years of the war.

Output of Central Electric Stations in December

Central electric stations produced 3,356,102,000 kilowatt hours in December 1944 as compared with 3,559,509,000 in December 1943. The decrease was all in primary power which declined from 3,315,697,000 to 2,874,666,000 kilowatt hours. The output for the year 1944 reached a new high record of 40,465,733,000 kilowatt hours as compared with the previous peak of 40,377,649,000 for 1943. The increase was made in the first half of the year when the daily average output was 4.1 per cent greater than during the second half and 3.8 per cent greater than during the first half of 1943.

Exports to the United States in December amounted to 200,684,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 188,318,000 in the preceding month and 208,346,000 in the corresponding month of last year. Exports to the United States during 1944 totalled 2,585,311,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 2,545,038,000 in 1943. During 1944, 13,439,000 kilowatt hours were imported into British Columbia, reducing net exports to a total of 2,571,872,000 kilowatt hours.

Retail Sales in Canada in December

Retail sales in Canada averaged eight per cent higher in December 1944 than in the corresponding month of 1943, and annual sales for the calendar year exceeded those of 1943 by a similar amount, according to reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from a sample number of firms representing 14 different trades dealing chiefly in food, clothing and household requirements. The general index number of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stands at 237.8 for December, 190.6 for November and 220.5 for December 1943.

Although the eight per cent increase recorded in the comparison of annual sales between 1943 and 1944 is not outstanding, it is significant in that it exceeded the smaller increase of five per cent which took place between 1942 and 1943. The radio and electrical group was the only one of the 14 trades for which statistics are available to record a decline in sales during 1944 as compared with the preceding year; in this instance the reduction was 3.5 per cent. Advances in the remaining 13 groups ranged from 6.3 per cent for food stores to 14 per cent for jewellery stores.

Indexes of Wholesale Sales in December

Dollar sales of wholesale merchants averaged five per cent higher in December 1944 than in December 1943, according to reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from wholesale houses representing nine different trades. The five per cent increase was considerably smaller than the gains recorded in the fall months, which stood at 10 per cent for September, 15 per cent for October and 13 per cent for November. Sales for the year 1944 were 11 per cent greater than the dollar volume of business transacted in 1943. The December unadjusted index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stands at 171.5 compared with 195.3 for November and 164.1 for December 1943.

During the calendar year 1944 sales were higher than the preceding year for each of the nine lines of business for which statistics were compiled. Advances ranged from 3.1 per cent for clothing wholesalers to 24.7 per cent for automotive equipment. Drug sales increased 9.6 per cent, footwear 8.8 per cent, dry goods 10.3 per cent, fruits and vegetables 7.5 per cent, groceries 12.7 per cent, hardware 6.7 per cent, and tobacco and confectionery 8.3 per cent.

Final Totals of Births, Deaths and Marriages in 1942

The 1942 Annual Report on Vital Statistics issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics contains as in past years a complete record of the registration of births, deaths and marriages in Canada, as recorded by provincial authorities. The statistics of births, deaths and marriages among the Indian population of the Dominion are also included.

The number of live births recorded in Canada in 1942 was 272,313 as compared with 255,317 in the preceding year and 229,468 in 1939. The rate per thousand of the population in 1942 at 23.4 was the highest recorded in recent years, comparing with 22.2 in 1941 and 20.4 in 1939. All provinces registered higher birth rates during 1942 than in 1941. The rates by provinces were as follows, those for 1941 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 23.7 (21.6); Nova Scotia, 25.9 (24.1); New Brunswick, 27.3 (26.8); Quebec, 28.0 (26.8); Ontario, 20.1 (19.1); Manitoba, 21.6 (20.3); Saskatchewan, 21.4 (20.6); Alberta, 23.6 (21.7); British Columbia, 19.3 (18.4).

There were fewer deaths recorded in Canada in 1942 than in the preceding year, the total having been 112,978 as compared with 114,639. In 1939 the number registered was 108,951. The death rate per thousand of the population for the Dominion as a whole fell to 9.7 in 1942 from 10.0 in 1941, and was unchanged from that registered in 1939. The rates per thousand were as follows by provinces, with those for 1941 in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 10.7 (11.9); Nova Scotia, 10.8 (12.0); New Brunswick, 11.1 (11.3); Quebec, 10.0 (10.3); Ontario, 10.1 (10.4); Manitoba, 8.9 (8.9); Saskatchewan 7.3 (7.2); Alberta, 7.8 (8.0); British Columbia, 10.2 (10.4).

The number of infant deaths, under one year of age, was 14,651 in 1942 as compared with 15,236 in 1941 and 13,939 in 1939. The rate per thousand live births was consequently reduced to 54 from 60 in the preceding year. All provinces, except New Brunswick, recorded lower infant death rates in 1942, the reduction in Prince Edward Island having been outstanding. The following were the provincial rates in 1942, with those for 1941 in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 50 (80); Nova Scotia, 58 (65);

New Brunswick, 77 (76); Quebec, 70 (76); Ontario, 40 (46); Manitoba, 51 (53); Saskatchewan, 43 (51); Alberta, 38 (51); British Columbia, 35 (37).

The excess of births over deaths in 1942 totalled 159,335 as compared with 140,678 in the preceding year and 120,517 in 1939. The rate of natural increase per thousand of the population was 13.7 in 1942, 12.2 in 1941 and 10.7 in 1939. The rates of natural increase were as follows by provinces in 1942, with those for 1941 in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 13.0 (9.7); Nova Scotia, 15.1 (12.1); New Brunswick, 16.2 (15.5); Quebec, 18.0 (16.5); Ontario, 10.0 (8.7); Manitoba, 12.7 (11.4); Saskatchewan, 14.1 (13.4); Alberta, 15.8 (13.7); British Columbia, 9.1 (8.0).

The number of marriages registered in 1942 totalled 127,372 as compared with 121,842 in the preceding year and 103,658 in 1939. The 1942 rate per thousand of the population was 10.9 as compared with 10.6 in 1941 and 9.2 in 1939. New Brunswick was the only province to record a lower marriage rate in 1942, and in this instance the decline was of a minor nature from 10.8 to 10.6. Rates for the remaining provinces were as follows with those for 1941 in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 8.6 (7.1); Nova Scotia, 11.6 (11.4); Quebec, 10.0 (9.8); Ontario, 11.7 (11.4); Manitoba, 11.6 (11.4); Saskatchewan, 8.5 (7.9); Alberta, 11.6 (10.6); British Columbia, 12.4 (11.9).

Revenues and Expenses of Railways in November

Canadian railways earned \$66,294,000 in November 1944, a decrease of \$1,070,000 or 1.6 per cent from the November 1943 revenues of \$67,364,000. Passenger revenues advanced 3.9 per cent, but freight revenues decreased by 3.3 per cent. Operating expenses increased from \$47,662,000 to \$53,404,000, or by 12 per cent, and the operating income declined \$4,530,000. The total pay roll increased from \$26,371,000 to \$28,777,000. The number of employees was increased from 163,882 to 167,107 or by two per cent for an increase in pay roll of 9.1 per cent. During the first 11 months of 1944, operating revenues increased from \$703,341,000 in 1943 to \$723,747,000, while operating expenses rose from \$505,201,000 to \$573,793,000.

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada amounted to 497,361 at the end of December 1944 as compared with 523,110 at the end of the preceding month and 482,903 on the corresponding date of 1943. Calf and kip skins on hand increased from 352,639 at the end of November to 456,258. Stocks of other types at the end of December included 116,454 dozen sheep and lamb skins, 352,803 goat and kid skins and 24,735 horse hides.

Production of Asphalt Roofing in 1944

The production of asphalt shingles in Canada in 1944 amounted to 1,088,170 squares as compared with 860,096 in the preceding year, asphalt siding 17,459 squares as compared with 1,880, smooth surfaced roofing 1,221,538 squares as compared with 1,079,520, mineral surfaced roofing 1,041,743 squares as compared with 1,018,460, asphalt felts 24,895 tons as compared with 24,420, and asphalt sheathing 11,575 tons as compared with 13,676 tons.

Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on February 1 amounted to 253,516 bushels as compared with 1,775,677 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks of soybeans advanced to 74,131 bushels from 26,542, while corn decreased to 179,385 bushels from 526,883, and wheat to nil from 1,222,252 bushels.

Cooperage Industry in 1943

Establishments engaged wholly or principally in the manufacture of barrels, casks, kegs, tubs, etc., manufactured these products to the value of \$2,294,499 in 1943 as compared with \$4,103,434 in the preceding year. The cost of materials used in 1943 was \$2,651,493 as compared with \$2,521,495 in 1942.

Shipments of Mineral Waters in 1943

Shipments of natural mineral waters from Canadian springs in 1943 totalled 139,611 gallons valued at \$67,541 as compared with 157,085 gallons valued at \$74,505 in the preceding year. Production during both years originated in Ontario and Quebec.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. The Cooperage Industry, 1943 (10 cents).
 2. Miscellaneous Paper Goods, 1943 (10 cents).
 3. Indexes of Wholesale Sales, December (10 cents).
 4. Indexes of Retail Sales, December (10 cents).
 5. Central Electric Stations, December (10 cents).
 6. Employment Situation, December 1, 1944 (10 cents).
 7. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 8. Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing, December (10 cents).
 9. Production of Asphalt Roofing, December (10 cents).
 10. Lasts, Trees and Wooden Shoe findings, 1943 (25 cents).
 11. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, December (10 cents).
 12. Current Trends in Food Distribution, December (10 cents).
 13. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, November (10 cents).
 14. Vital Statistics of Canada, 1943 (\$1.00).
 15. The Bridge Building and Structural Steel Work Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
 16. Price Movements, January (10 cents).
 17. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, November, 1944 (10 cents).
 18. Advance Report on the Fisheries of Nova Scotia, 1943 (10 cents).
 19. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Nine Principal Cities, February 1, 1945 (10 cents).
 20. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
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