

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings

The trend of employment in manufacturing at January 1 was downward, partly as a result of seasonal factors, which also seriously affected the number of hours worked and the aggregate hourly earnings during the holiday week; the 6,087 co-operating establishments reported a total of 637,307 hourly-rated employees, who worked an aggregate of 26,265,209 hours in the week preceding January 1, for which they received the sum of \$17,810,753. At December 1, the indicated wage-earners had numbered 708,677; their hours had amounted to 31,719,699, and their weekly wages, to \$21,250,939. Thus there were declines of three per cent in the number of wage-earners, 17.2 per cent in the man-hours reported, and 16.2 per cent in the total wages paid to hourly-rated wage-earners at January 1 as compared with a month earlier.

The average of hours worked, at 38.2 in the week under review, was lower than that of 44.8 hours reported in the week ending December 1, being also lower than the mean of 39.6 indicated in manufacturing as a whole at January 1, 1945. It should be noted that the occurrence of the Christmas and New Years holidays this winter on Tuesday may have resulted in a greater loss of working time than would be the case in years in which the holidays did not fall near to the week-end; the decline in the hours worked in manufacturing as a whole in the period under review was very similar to that recorded a year ago, when the holidays had been celebrated on Monday.

Partly because the reductions in employment at January 1 were greater among workers in the non-durable goods industries than was the case among those engaged in the generally higher-paid durable goods industries, the average hourly earnings in manufacturing as a whole showed an increase of four-fifths of a cent as compared with December 1; the re-employment of many workers in the automotive industries, following settlement of the strike in the latter part of December, also contributed to this result. The hourly average at the date under review was 67.8 cents, as compared with 67 cents at December 1, and 70 cents at January 1, 1945, when war work was of course a factor of much greater importance than in more recent months. The decline in the average hourly rate in manufacturing as a whole in the last year is largely due to important changes in the industrial distribution of wage-earners during the period of conversion from wartime to peace-time production, and to reductions in the amount of overtime work, while industrial disputes continued, directly and indirectly, to affect the situation to some extent; as already mentioned, the termination of the strike in the automotive division on December 21 was partly responsible for the increase in the average hourly earnings at January 1 as compared with December 1.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 7 were recorded at 127,037,791 bushels as compared with 358,699,610 on the corresponding date of last year, a decline of 64.6 per cent. Visible stocks in Canadian positions totalled 117,061,312 bushels as compared with 328,696,559 a year ago, and in United States positions, 9,975,979 bushels as compared with 30,003,051 bushels.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 7 amounted to 1,684,466 bushels as compared with 1,638,931 bushels in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year, which commenced August 1, 1945, wheat marketings totalled 139,966,569 bushels as compared with 262,990,697 bushels 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 March 7, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,705,832 (1,794,334) bushels; barley, 346,180 (307,644); rye, 11,498 (21,635); flaxseed, 9,780 (13,153).

Production of Wheat Flour in January

Wheat flour production in January was recorded at 2,240,242 barrels as compared with 2,068,232 in the corresponding month of last year, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output for the first half of the present crop year totalled 12,989,189 barrels, an increase of more than 500,000 barrels over the similar period of the preceding crop year.

Wheat used in the manufacture of flour in January amounted to 9,964,985 bushels compared with 9,177,050 bushels in the same month of 1945. Total wheat milled during the first six months of the crop year was 57,837,369 bushels compared with 55,235,944 for the same six months of 1944-45. Coarse grains milled and ground in January were slightly lower in most cases, but showed a marked drop in buckwheat and rye.

Production of Butter and Cheese

Creamery butter production in February registered a further decline, falling 18 per cent from that produced in the same month of the preceding year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This reduction was three per cent greater than that indicated in the previous month. The output of 8,632,000 pounds was almost two million pounds lower than the February 1945 total.

Cheddar cheese production fell to 1,294,000 pounds in February, a reduction of 37 per cent. Ice cream output dropped to 743,000 gallons, or by 4.3 per cent. The production of concentrated milk products is also moving to lower levels, the total output of 11,833,000 pounds being seven per cent below that of February, 1945. Evaporated milk was the only product to register an increase, the output of 7,786,000 pounds, being six per cent greater than that of February, 1945.

Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products

Stocks of creamery butter in cold storages, in dairy factories, and in transit at the opening of business on March 1, 1946, totalled 9,870,366 pounds as compared with 22,836,293 pounds on February 1, and 20,687,984 pounds on March 1, 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Cheese stocks on hand and in transit on March 1 this year were 19,174,608 pounds as compared with 24,379,094 pounds on February 1, and 24,253,354 pounds on March 1 a year ago. Holdings of evaporated whole milk by manufacturers amounted to 6,963,176 pounds as compared with 11,227,666 pounds on February 1, and 18,269,781 pounds on March 1, 1945.

Storage holdings of shell eggs on March 1, 1946, amounted to 2,457,594 dozen as compared with 3,078,610 dozen on February 1, and 2,925,175 dozen on March 1, 1945. Stocks of frozen egg meats on March 1 were recorded at 4,488,208 pounds as compared with 5,385,834 pounds on February 1, and 17,974,384 pounds a year ago.

March 1 stocks of poultry including "in transit," totalled 9,897,269 pounds as compared with 12,377,378 pounds on February 1, and 16,074,891 pounds on March 1, 1945.

Cold Storage Holdings of Meat

Cold storage holdings of meat held by packers, abattoirs, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses on March 1 this year were recorded at 70,198,368 pounds as compared with 76,323,572 pounds on February 1, and 88,317,260 pounds on March 1 last year, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There was an out-of-storage movement of 6,100,000 pounds of Canadian meat during the month of February, being exactly the same as it was a year ago.

Stocks of Canadian pork on March 1 this year were 40,785,747 pounds as compared with 36,782,923 pounds on February 1, and 51,616,683 pounds on March 1, 1945. Beef stocks were lower, amounting to 23,859,180 pounds as compared with 30,698,064 pounds on February 1, and 29,804,725 pounds on March 1 last year.

Veal holding were lower on March 1 this year, totalling 1,738,480 pounds as compared with 3,112,920 pounds on February 1, and 2,492,986 pounds on March 1, 1945. Stocks of mutton and lamb were also reduced, standing at 3,814,961 pounds as compared with 5,729,666 pounds on February 1, and 4,402,866 pounds a year ago. March 1 stocks of Canadian lard showed an increase over the preceding month, but continued to be lower than in 1945, this year's March 1 total being 1,435,178 pounds as compared with 897,271 pounds on February 1, and 3,754,220 pounds on March 1, 1945.

Cold Storage Holdings of Fish

Stocks of frozen fish in Canada on March 1 this year totalled 18,063,135 pounds as compared with 20,271,800 on February 1, and 20,931,594 pounds on March 1, 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Holdings of frozen fresh

amounted to 16,866,919 pounds as compared with 18,913,304 pounds on February 1, and 19,577,097 pounds on March 1, 1945, while stocks of frozen smoked fish were 1,126,216 pounds as compared with 1,358,496 pounds on February 1, and 1,354,497 pounds on March 1 last year.

Storage holdings of frozen salmon, fresh and smoked, were recorded at 4,702,025 pounds on March 1 this year as compared with 6,271,183 pounds on February 1, and 3,075,852 pounds on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks of sea herring and kippers totalled 3,912,731 pounds as compared with 4,399,847 pounds on February 1, and 8,167,574 pounds a year ago, while the stocks of cod amounted to 2,023,020 pounds as compared with 2,283,086 pounds and 2,535,218 pounds on February 1, 1946, and March 1, 1945, respectively.

Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables

March 1 stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives amounted to 20,360,693 pounds as compared with 22,098,209 pounds on February 1, and 25,538,641 pounds on the corresponding date of last year, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of vegetables, frozen and in brine, totalled 3,409,886 pounds on March 1, as compared with 4,260,546 pounds on February 1, and 4,915,781 pounds on March 1, 1945.

Stocks of Canadian apples, held in cold and common storage, including holdings of commercial growers, moved to a lower level on March 1, totalling 581,725 bushels as compared with 1,001,899 bushels on February 1, and 2,042,270 bushels on March 1, 1945. Stocks of Canadian-grown vegetables, including the holdings of commercial growers on March 1 this year, were as follows: potatoes, 157,127 tons; onions, 5,452 tons; celery, 1,740 crates. Stocks of imported celery on March 1 totalled 35,012 crates, and of imported potatoes, 3,985 tons.

Farm Wage Rates at January 15

Average wage rates for all Canada paid to farm workers hired by the day and by the month at January 15, 1946, again show increases over the rates paid at the same date a year ago. With board provided, the average rate per day at January 15 this year was \$2.93 for all Canada compared with \$2.76 at January 15, 1945. The average rate per month with board this year for all Canada was \$57.24 as against \$55.61 a year ago. The increases from 1945 to 1946 are the lowest recorded in the past few years of rapidly rising farm wage rates. The average rate reported in January 1940 for farm help by the month, with board, was \$20.42. Thus current monthly wage rates in agriculture are three times the 1940 level. All provinces, with the exceptions of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, indicated increases at January 15, 1946, over a year ago. The lower wage rates in Manitoba and Saskatchewan are, in part, a reflection of the poor harvest and the resultant decline in farm cash income during the 1945-46 season. Lower rates also prevailed for these provinces in the last survey of wages at August 15, 1945. Wage rates are generally highest in British Columbia and lowest in Prince Edward Island.

Cattle and Sheep on Farms

Estimates of numbers of cattle on farms at December 1, 1945 showed a decline of nearly three per cent from the same date in 1944, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Numbers at December 1, 1945 totalled 9,960,800 as compared with 10,257,900 in 1944. Decreases of over four per cent occurred in New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Numbers of milk cows on farms were only slightly below those of the preceding year, the reduction amounting to 1.9 per cent. The decrease in cattle numbers is a result of the very heavy marketings in 1945, particularly in the last half of the year.

Numbers of sheep on farms at December 1, 1945, at 2,455,800 head are 13 per cent smaller than a year ago. This is the lowest number reported for the December 1 count since 1941. The decrease in sheep numbers was common to all provinces, with New Brunswick, Quebec and the four western provinces indicating the heaviest reductions.

Value of Farm Lands

The average value of occupied farm lands in Canada for 1945 is reported at \$30.00 per acre, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This is the same value as reported for 1944 and it is the first time since 1940 that average values failed to show an increase. In six provinces of the Dominion, increases in value were reported, but these were offset by decreases in the values reported for Ontario and Quebec.

As a large proportion of the occupied farm lands in Canada is located in these provinces, the weighted average for the Dominion did not change from 1944.

Bureau's Crop Reporting Program for 1946-47

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has made public its annual crop reporting calendar, showing the dates of issue and subject matter of a series of 26 crop reports to be issued during the crop year 1946-47. The first crop report of the year is to be issued on May 9. This report will measure the extent to which farmers intend to plant field crops, together with an estimate of winter-killing and spring conditions of fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover meadows. A progress report of spring seeding will be included.

Telegraphic crop reports covering the Dominion as a whole will be issued fortnightly commencing May 14 and continuing throughout the growing season. Similar releases for the three Prairie Provinces will be issued. Statements showing the condition of crops at the end of June, July and August also are to be released. A preliminary estimate of the areas sown to field crops is to be made public on July 19, and on August 9 the first estimate of production of fall wheat, fall rye and alfalfa will be announced. On August 16 the stocks of grain in Canada at the end of the crop year 1945-46 will be made known.

The first estimate of production of principal grain crops and hay and clover will be released on September 12, and the first estimate of production of root, fodder and late-sown crops on October 11. On November 14, the second estimate of production of grain, root and fodder crops will be published together with a recording of the area and condition of fall wheat, fall rye, and a progress report of fall ploughing. The first estimate of the value of field crops produced during the year is to be published on December 12. The third estimate of production and value of field crops is to be issued on January 22, 1947, and on April 17 an estimate of the stocks of grain as at the end of March 1947 will be made public.

Claims for Unemployment Insurance in January

The number of claims for unemployment insurance benefit registered in local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission during January was 71,932, an increase of 14,320 over the 57,612 received during December, 1945. In January of last year, 20,412 claims were filed. These figures include both initial and renewal claims. Persons who signed the live unemployment register during the last six working days of January numbered 145,952 as compared with 113,336 in December and 27,305 in January, 1945. During January this year, 70,760 claims were adjudicated at insurance offices, 57,383 being considered entitled to benefit and 13,377 not entitled to benefit.

A total of 102,713 persons received benefit payments aggregating \$4,493,252 for 2,193,317 compensated unemployed days during January 1946. In December, 79,856 persons were paid \$3,450,853 for 1,684,319 days, while in January of last year 15,575 persons were paid \$546,569 for 281,193 days. The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 21.4 days in January, 21.1 days in December and 18.1 days in January, 1945. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$43.74 in January, \$43.21 in December and \$35.09 in January of last year. The average amount paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$2.05 in January 1946, \$2.05 in December and \$1.94 in January, 1945.

Production of Coal and Coke

Production of coal in Canada during December, 1945, totalling 1,550,868 tons, showed a decline of 12 per cent from the November total, but an increase of one per cent over the December 1944 output, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Production for the latest month included 944,992 tons of bituminous coal, 401,363 tons of sub-bituminous coal, and 204,513 tons of lignite coal.

Production for the calendar year 1945 totalled 16,456,943 tons, a decline of 3.4 per cent from the 1944 total of 17,026,499 tons. Output for the year, by provinces was as follows, with totals for 1944 in brackets: Alberta, 7,752,849 (7,428,703) tons; Nova Scotia, 5,112,170 (5,745,671); British Columbia, 1,702,812 (2,134,231); Saskatchewan, 1,533,088 (1,372,766); New Brunswick, 356,024 (345,123).

December production of coke, exclusive of petroleum coke, was recorded at 312,000 tons as compared with 284,000 in the preceding month and 330,000 tons in December, 1944. During the calendar year 1945, 3,862,000 tons were produced as compared with 4,001,000 in the preceding year.

Imports of coal during December amounted to 2,106,493 tons compared with 1,430,470 in December 1944, while the total for the calendar year 1945 stood at 24,731,137 tons as compared with 28,926,925 in 1944. December exports of coal totalled 60,019 tons compared with 81,493 in December 1944, the calendar year total standing at 840,708 tons as compared with 1,010,240.

Production of Crude Petroleum in November

Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in November 1945 was recorded at 658,722 barrels as compared with 682,803 in the preceding month and 855,752 in the corresponding month of 1944, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The November output in Alberta totalled 640,516 barrels, New Brunswick 2,999, Ontario 9,192, Saskatchewan 1,818, and the Northwest Territories 4,197 barrels. Total Canadian output for the first 11 months of 1945 was 7,902,328 barrels as compared with 9,220,280 in the similar period of 1944.

November Production of Natural Gas

Production of natural gas in Canada in November 1945 amounted to 5,297,540,000 cubic feet as compared with 4,336,672,000 in the preceding month and 4,398,092,000 in November, 1944, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first 11 months of 1945, output totalled 47,235,439,000 cubic feet as compared with 39,919,724,000 in the same period of 1944.

Production of Domestic Washing Machines

Production of domestic type washing machines in January amounted to 8,942 units, including 7,722 electric, 468 gasoline and 752 hand operated models, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Monthly production figures for earlier years were not compiled by the Bureau, but on the basis of annual totals the January 1946 output would appear to be running close to the average output recorded in pre-war months. Imports of domestic washing machines in January totalled 545 units, and exports 156 units.

Production of Rock Wool in January

Rock wool production in January 1946 included 59,570 square feet of four-inch batts, 777,780 square feet of three-inch batts, 2,062,840 square feet of two-inch batts, 384,400 square feet of one-inch batts, 502,322 cubic feet of granulated wool, 50,731 cubic feet of bulk or loose wool, and 763 cubic feet of industrial wool, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. January imports of rock wool totalled 1,829,082 pounds valued at \$61,204, and of glass wool \$59,087.

Output of Gypsum Products

Production of gypsum wallboard in Canada in January totalled 13,146,748 square feet as compared with 11,696,150 in the preceding month, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output of gypsum lath was recorded at 6,888,306 square feet as compared with 5,700,655, and of gypsum plasters 6,684 tons as compared with 5,265 tons.

Indexes of Retail Sales in January

The dollar volume of retail sales in Canada was 12 per cent greater in January than in the corresponding month of last year, but was 37 per cent below December, 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Unadjusted indexes, on the base, 1935-1939=100, stood at 160.3 for January this year, 143.0 for January 1945, and 256.1 for December, 1945. Sales increases over January of last year were shown by all trades represented in the monthly survey, although the extent of the margin between January of the two years varied widely.

The much higher increases for stores engaged in retailing durable household goods, either in whole or in part, emphasizes a condition which has prevailed for the past few months under the impetus of a more substantial flow of merchandise to the retail market. The particularly extensive increases in those trades concerned principally with durable household goods are also to some extent a reflection of the relatively low level of trading in the earlier period.

Percentage increases in retail sales in January over the same month of last year, by kind of business, were as follows: country general stores, 9.1; department stores, 11.8; variety stores, 2.5; food stores, 9.5; restaurants, 6; family clothing stores, 16.7; men's clothing stores, 19.7; women's clothing stores, 10.5; shoe stores, 11.7; drug stores, 10.6; furniture stores, 50.3; hardware stores, 33; jewellery stores, 14; and radio and electrical stores, 47.7.

Trends in Food Distribution

January wholesale grocery sales advanced 13 per cent over the volume of business transacted in January 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sales of chain store units operating in the food retailing field were 11 per cent higher, while sales of independent food retailers advanced nine per cent.

Sales of Fertilizers

Sales of fertilizer materials and of mixed fertilizers during the year ended June 30, 1945, totalled 1,107,622 short tons, according to preliminary figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The previous year's sales were reported at 1,052,231 short tons. These figures include exports, except those for cyanamide. Figures for the year under review consist of 985 tons of fertilizer materials and 483,081 tons of mixtures sold for consumption in Canada, compared with 79,233 tons of materials and 455,375 tons of mixtures in the previous year. Exports in 1944-45 consisted of 44,231 tons of mixtures and 488,325 tons of materials, exclusive of the export of calcium cyanamide.

Brewing Industry of Canada

The output of the brewing industry of Canada in 1944 had a selling value at the factory of \$138,220,399. Sales tax and other excise taxes and duties paid to the Dominion and Provincial governments totalled \$55,728,606, leaving a net value of production of \$82,491,793. Beer, ale, stout and porter were the main items of production with a total of 113,396,351 gallons valued at \$136,673,351 compared with 95,691,158 gallons valued at \$114,758,766 in 1943.

Compared with the previous year there was an increase of \$12,832,985 in the value of production. The physical volume of production also increased considerably, the output of beer, ale, stout and porter increasing by 17,705,193 gallons and the value by \$21,914,585.

The province of Quebec is the largest producer of beer, having accounted for 45,118,805 gallons in 1944 or 40 per cent of the total Canadian production. Ontario came second with 39,690,636 gallons, or 35 per cent of the total. The plants in Quebec are also comparatively larger than those situated in other provinces. The average production per plant was 5,640,000 gallons in Quebec as compared with 1,800,000 gallons in Ontario, and 1,860,000 gallons for Canada as a whole.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended March 2 increased to 66,083 cars from 65,538 cars for the preceding week, but were down from the total of 67,657 cars for the corresponding week last year. In the eastern division, loadings declined from 45,226 cars a year ago to 43,374 cars, and in the western division the total advanced from 22,431 to 22,709 cars.

Production of Asphalt Roofing in January

Production of asphalt shingles, siding and roofing in Canada in January included 328,739 squares of shingles, siding and roofing and 4,261 tons of felts and sheathing, as compared with 308,423 squares of the former, and 3,186 tons of the latter in the corresponding month of last year.

Reports Issued during the Week

1. The Browing Industry in Canada, 1944 (10 cents).
 2. Production of Asphalt Roofing, January (10 cents).
 3. Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing, January (10 cents).
 4. Report on Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, December (10 cents).
 5. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, March 1 (10 cents).
 6. Sales of Fertilizers During Year Ended June 30, 1945 (25 cents).
 7. Current Trends in Food Distribution, January (10 cents).
 8. Cotton and Jute Bag Industry, 1944 (15 cents).
 9. Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings, January (10 cents).
 10. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, March 1 (10 cents).
 11. Domestic Washing Machines, January (10 cents).
 12. Rock Wool, January (10 cents).
 13. Crop Reporting Calendar, 1946-47
 14. Cattle and Sheep on Farms, December 1, 1945 (10 cents).
 15. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, November (10 cents).
 16. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 17. Indexes of Retail Sales, January (10 cents).
 18. Land Values, 1945 (10 cents).
 19. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, March 1 (10 cents).
 20. Coal and Coke Statistics, December (10 cents).
 21. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, March 1 (10 cents).
 22. Gypsum Products, January (10 cents).
 23. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 24. Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, December (25 cents).
 25. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act,
January (10 cents).
 26. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 27. Canadian Milling Statistics, January (10 cents).
 28. February Dairy Production (10 cents).
 29. Farm Wages in Canada (10 cents).
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