

WEEKLY BULLETIN

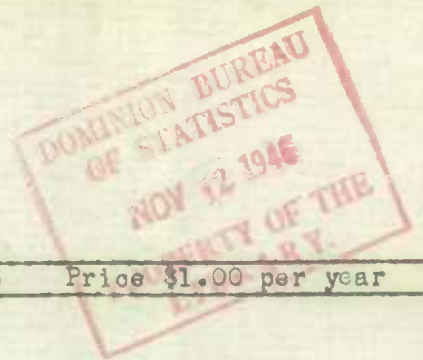
Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

Vol. XIV - No. 45

Ottawa, Saturday, November 9, 1946

Price \$1.00 per year



Substantial Increase in Industrial Employment at Beginning of September

There was a substantial increase in industrial employment generally in Canada at the beginning of September, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics states in its monthly review of employment payrolls. Although industrial disputes continued to be an important factor in some cases, the settlement of strikes in certain establishments contributed to the upward movement, which was also seasonal in character. Expansion took place in all provinces, and very generally in manufacturing, as well as in most of the non-manufacturing industries. Within the manufacturing group, there were also widely-distributed gains.

The staffs of the 16,087 establishments in the eight leading industries participating in the monthly survey aggregated 1,793,875 as compared with 1,768,001 at the beginning of August. The increase of 25,874 workers, or 1.5 per cent, was larger than at September 1 in any other year since 1940, and also considerably exceeded the average increase at that date in the period since 1920.

The general improvement in industrial employment at the beginning of September was accompanied by a relatively larger gain in the amount of weekly payrolls. These aggregated \$58,713,734 as compared with \$57,707,650 at the first of August. There was thus an increase of 1.7 per cent in this comparison, while that in employment amounted to 1.5 per cent. The average earnings per employee stood at \$32.73 at September 1 as compared with \$32.64 at the beginning of August, and of \$32.06 at September 1, 1945. The latest figure is the highest in the record of 64 months, with the exception of that of \$32.81 reported at March 1, 1945.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the latest index of employment was 175.4 as compared with 172.8 at August 1 and also at September 1, 1945. This is the first occasion in a lengthy period in which the monthly index number has been higher than at the same date a year earlier. The most recent index, however, was lower than at September 1 in 1942, 1943 or 1944, although with these exceptions, it was the highest for September in the record of 26 years.

There was an improvement of a general character in manufacturing notwithstanding the existence of many important strikes. The largest gains took place in the vegetable, food, textile, lumber and electrical apparatus groups, but many other industries shared in the upward movement. The advance is in striking contrast to the extremely pronounced curtailment which had been indicated in manufacturing a year earlier, following the cessation of hostilities in the European and Japanese wars.

Among the non-manufacturing industries, there were moderate declines in mining, and also in the service industries taken as a whole. On the other hand, the trend was upward in logging, transportation, communications, construction and trade. The most noteworthy additions to the working forces were those of nearly 5,200 persons in construction in which the increase was contra-seasonal in character. It also considerably exceeded the advance which had been noted in that industry at September 1, 1945.

Cost-of-Living Index Higher for October

An advance of 1.3 points in its cost-of-living index during September was reported today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the index rising from 125.5 on September 3 to 126.3 on October 1. Increases in consumer milk prices, the Bureau states, accounted for the major part of the rise recorded at October 1, although the index numbers for five of the six family budget groups moved higher. The index at September 3 had declined slightly from August 1.

The food index moved up from 143.2 at September 3 to 146.5, further seasonal declines in vegetables offsetting part of the rise for milk. Results from an October survey of rentals increased the index for this group from 112.6 to 113.4. The fuel and light index rose slightly from 107.2 to 107.3, while the clothing index moved up from 129.6 to 130.2 and the index of homefurnishings and services from 128.4 to 129.3. The miscellaneous items series was unchanged at 113.9.

Further Increase in Retail Sales in September

Flow of consumer dollars into Canada's retail stores continued at a high level in September when sales were up 11 per cent above those in September a year ago, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Thirteen of the 14 trades reported increased sales, the single exception being shoe stores. Sales advances of retailers dealing chiefly in durable merchandise continued to feature the month's retail trade. The general unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 207.8 for September, 215.0 for August, and 187.1 for September, 1945. Sales during the first nine months of this year averaged 15 per cent higher than in the similar period of last year.

Radio and electrical stores transacted 80 per cent more business in September this year than in the same month of last year. Ranking second among trade increases for September was a 33 per cent gain for furniture stores. Increases in both of these trades compare favourably with those obtained in earlier months of the year. Hardware merchants, although recording a 22 per cent increase in September sales, did not maintain the average margin established in the preceding eight months of the year.

Department stores continued to provide an attractive market for a variety of consumer goods. Their sales gained 19 per cent in September over last year, almost maintaining the 20 per cent increase in the cumulative comparison for the first nine months of this year. Other trades in the general merchandise group had somewhat smaller increases, both in September and in the average results for the first nine months of the year. Variety stores maintained their average margin, a September sales increase of 13 per cent comparing with a total advance of 11 per cent for the nine months. Gains for country general stores were eight per cent in September, and 12 per cent in the nine months.

Shoe stores recorded a decline of two per cent in September, while increases for other apparel trades shrank considerably in comparison with those shown in most of the earlier months of the year. September sales of men's clothing stores were up only three per cent in September as against a cumulative advance of 17 per cent. Sales of family clothing stores rose eight per cent in September and 18.7 per cent during the nine months.

A six per cent increase for food stores in September, and one of three per cent for restaurants, though not outstanding, were fairly consistent with gains of nine and six per cent, respectively, for these trades in the first nine months of the year. Sales of drug stores showed a steady advance of eight per cent in September and an overall increase of 11 per cent in the January-September comparison.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Continuing the week-by-week advance noted since harvest time, stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at Midnight on October 31 stood at 149,-577,750 bushels, an increase of 12,193,376 bushels over the total for the preceding week, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Current stocks, however, remained below the level of last year when the total was 222,957,579 bushels.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces also were heavier during the week ended October 31, the total being 20,079,989 bushels as compared with 17,722,686 in the preceding week, and the aggregated for the elapsed portion of the present crop year -- from August 1 to October 31 -- rose to 173,791,722 bushels from 130,479,962 in the similar period of 1945-46.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending October 31, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 3,850,240 (3,795,593) bushels; barley, 2,140,123 (2,315,451); rye, 252,335 (195,230); flaxseed, 993,270 (681,307).

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins in September

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada at the end of September amounted to 543,623 as compared with 690,202 at the end of September 1945, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Calf and kip skins on hand totalled 467,984 compared with 535,037, goat and kid skins 323,769 compared with 362,-670, and sheep and lamb skins 70,898 (dozen) compared with 81,458. Stocks of horse hides amounted to 14,154.

Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs

Creamery butter stocks in nine of the principal cities of Canada totalled 41,879,858 pounds at the opening of business on November 1 as compared with 43,967,296 pounds on October 1 and 43,387,014 pounds on November 1 last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of cheese amounted to 19,953,551 pounds as compared with 23,083,443 pounds on October 1 and 39,905,004 pounds on the corresponding date of 1945.

Stocks of cold storage eggs totalled 1,477,890 dozen compared with 4,534,786 dozen on October 1 and 3,736,170 dozen on November 1, 1945. Fresh eggs on hand amounted to 673,555 dozen as against 1,128,609 dozen on the first of the previous month. Holdings of frozen egg meats on November 1 stood at 7,128,966 pounds compared with 7,664,058 on October 1 and 15,278,101 pounds on November 1 last year.

Fourth Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Canada's civilian labour force showed a net increase of 149,000 between June 1 and August 31, according to the fourth quarterly labour force survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Civilian labour force comprised 4,977,000 persons at the end of August as compared with 4,828,000 on June 1. The survey further shows that 117,000 persons were unemployed on August 31, a decrease of 9,000 from the June 1 total of 126,000.

Of those comprising the Canadian civilian labour force an estimated 4,860,000 persons were employed on August 31, of whom 4,656,000 were at work and 204,000 had a job but were not at work. On June 1, 4,702,000 were recorded as being employed, including 4,581,000 at work, and 121,000 with a job but not at work.

There were increases in employment in all five economic regions of the country at August 31 as compared with June 1. In Ontario the total rose from 1,618,000 to 1,673,000, Quebec from 1,289,000 to 1,330,000, Prairie Provinces from 1,007,000 to 1,041,000, Maritime Provinces from 414,000 to 423,000, and British Columbia from 374,000 to 393,000.

Estimates of unemployment show reductions in all economic regions with the single exception of Ontario, where there was a net increase of 3,000 in the number reported as unemployed. This increase was, no doubt, due to the strike situation.

Estimated distribution of employment in different industries show that those employed in manufacturing fell from 1,256,000 at June 1 to 1,229,000 at August 31, while the number in agriculture rose from 1,274,000 to 1,317,000. In trade, finance and insurance the number employed advanced from 685,000 to 727,000, and in service from 772,000 to 802,000. In transportation and communication the employed rose from 336,000 to 354,000, and in construction from 241,000 to 267,000.

More Domestic-Type Electric Refrigerators Produced in Canadian Factories in September

Canadian housewives will be happy to learn that there was a substantial increase in the production of domestic-type electric refrigerators in September, following the slow-down in the rate of output during July and August, as the result of strikes in Canada and the United States. The September level of output approached that for April, May and June, when marked post-war advanced were recorded.

Output of Canadian factories in September was 5,101 units, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, as compared with 3,633 in August and 3,295 in July, bringing the total for the nine months of the year to 38,397. If the September rate of output is maintained for the remaining three months of the year, production in 1946 will exceed the total for 1939.

Imports of domestic store-type electric refrigerators totalled 1,105 units in September, being sharply lower than in August, but higher than in other months of the year; the total imported during the nine months ended September was 6,544. None was exported in September, while in the cumulative period 48 units were shipped out of the country.

Highway Traffic at Canadian Border Points

Automobile traffic crossing the International Border into Canada during September continued at a high level, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of foreign and Canadian vehicles checked through during the month was 763,130 compared with 655,727 in September, 1945. During the first nine months of the current year 5,674,500 vehicles entered Canada at border points, an increase of 1,703,200 over the same months of 1945.

September traffic included over 574,000 foreign entries and 189,000 vehicles of Canadian registry returning from the United States. Of the foreign cars inward, 376,832 were non-permit or local category, 181,734 were entered on tourist permits and 15,558 as commercial vehicles. Canadian cars returning comprised 154,289 on stays of less than 24 hours, 21,478 remaining abroad for more than one day, and 13,239 commercial vehicles. Compared with September last year, the current record shows an increase of 24.5 per cent in the inward movement of American vehicles in the tourist class, while the short-term United States traffic rose nine per cent.

Each province recorded an encouraging gain in September over the same month of last year in all classes of motor traffic, and while percentage increases may tend to distort the relative significance in relation to the national total, they are a measure of the significant provincial recovery.

During the first nine months of the current year nearly 4,271,000 foreign vehicles have been checked through Canadian ports of entry, an increase of about 1,220,000 over the same months of 1945. Travellers vehicle permits reached 1,272,306, an advance of 85 per cent. Returning Canadian cars that had remained in the United States for more than 24 hours totalled 132,509 in the first nine months, an increase of 141 per cent; those which remained for less than 24 hours totalled 1,158,057, an increase of 51 per cent, and commercial vehicles 112,967, a gain of 14 per cent. Total Canadian cars returning was 1,404,000.

Production of Coal and Coke in August

Canadian mines produced 1,346,087 tons of coal in August, an increase of 12 per cent over the total for the corresponding month of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate output for the first eight months of the current year was 11,549,896 tons, an advance of seven per cent.

Coke production was reduced in August, amounting to 199,000 tons compared with 203,000 tons in the preceding month and 329,000 tons in the same month of last year. Total output for the first eight months of this year was 2,207,000 tons as compared with 2,638,000 in the corresponding period of last year.

Imports of coal during August amounted to 3,750,917 tons as compared with 2,799,328 in August 1945, and the total for the eight months ended August was 14,300,986 tons compared with 14,877,561 a year ago. Coal exported during the month was recorded at 87,803 tons compared with 59,340 last year, and the cumulative total was 524,014 tons compared with 557,030.

Products Made from Canadian Clays

Sales by concerns which made products from domestic clays totalled \$1,180,902 in August compared with \$1,221,741 in the preceding month and \$814,502 in the corresponding month of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first eight months of this year sales aggregated \$7,491,387 as compared with \$4,936,481 in the similar period of last year.

August sales were as follows, figures for the same month of last year being in brackets: building brick, \$691,093 (\$413,405); structural tile, \$150,931 (\$95,289); drain tile, \$62,600 (\$56,635); sewer pipe, \$111,141 (\$112,639); fireclay blocks and shapes, \$24,209 (\$21,120); pottery, \$86,541 (\$69,983); other clay products, \$54,387 (\$45,431).

Salt Industry of Canada in 1945

Producers' sales of common salt or natural sodium chloride in Canada during 1945 totalled 673,076 short tons valued at \$4,054,720 compared with 695,217 short tons worth \$4,074,021 in 1944, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This represents a decrease of 22,141 short tons or 3.2 per cent in comparison with 1944. Ontario accounted for 86 per cent of the 1945 total, the balance being drawn from Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Alberta.

Of the total salt produced in 1945, 348,743 short tons or 52 per cent was consumed directly by the producers in the manufacture of caustic soda and other chemicals. Producers' sales of other salt in 1945 included 99,679 short tons of table and dairy grades; 170,493 short tons of common fine, and 50,889 short tons of common coarse. The balance, as shipped by producers, consisted of various grades, including salt for agriculture and for highway maintenance.

Statistics relating to world production of salt have not been available since 1938. In that year the world production was estimated at 32,000,000 long tons, of which the British Empire contributed 5,200,000 long tons.

Canadian exports of salt in 1945 totalled 5,314 short tons valued at \$105,494; imports during the same period amounted to 137,167 short tons worth \$805,002.

Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers were valued at \$1,016,172 during September compared with \$890,782 in the preceding month, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sales for the first nine months of the current year aggregated \$6,231,000.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways during the week ended October 26 totalled 86,189 cars, the highest weekly total so far this year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In the preceding week 76,344 cars were loaded, and in the corresponding week last year, 78,755 cars.

Loadings of grain during the week were lower than in 1945 in both divisions for a total decline of 642 cars. Grain products on the other hand increased by 545 cars. Loadings of fresh fruits increased by 746 cars, fresh vegetables by 391 cars, ores and concentrates by 482 cars, sand, stone and other building materials by 788 cars, other mine products by 542 cars, lumber, lath and shingles by 768 cars, gasoline and petroleum products by 1,036 cars, and l.c.l. merchandise by 1,786 cars.

Sugar Refining Industry of Canada in 1945

Output of the sugar refining industry of Canada decreased by approximately 37,087,000 pounds during 1945, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Production of sugar of all kinds amounted to 980,530,128 pounds, including 816,692,538 pounds made from cane and 163,837,790 pounds from beets. The production of cane sugar decreased by 35,606,400 pounds and that of beet sugar by 1,481,050 pounds. Granulated sugar comprised over 86 per cent of the total produced.

Production of beet sugar, which reached an all-time high in 1941 with an output of 215,879,271 pounds, declined to 129,268,010 pounds in 1943 but rose to 165,318,840 pounds in 1944, declining slightly to 163,837,790 pounds in 1945. The percentage of beet sugar to the total produced was 23.6 in 1942, the highest since the inception of the annual census in 1917. The percentage in 1943, however, was only 14.8 and in 1944 it rose to 16.2 and to 16.7 in 1945.

Prices of refined sugar at the factory were slightly higher in 1945 than in the preceding year. Sugar of all kinds rose from 6.10 cents per pounds to 6.12 cents. Beetroot sugar rose from 6.82 cents to 6.84 cents, and cane sugar from 5.96 cents to 5.97 cents.

There were 11 refineries in operation in 1945, including one in Nova Scotia, and one in New Brunswick, three in Quebec, two in Ontario, one in Manitoba, two in Alberta and one in British Columbia. These refineries reported a gross value of production of \$61,-821,443 in 1945 as compared with \$63,874,868 in 1944.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Salt, 1945 (25 cents).
 2. Sugar Industry of Canada, 1945 (25 cents).
 3. Coal and Coke Statistics, August (10 cents).
 4. Products Made from Canadian Clays, August (10 cents).
 5. Employment Situation, September (10 cents).
 6. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, September (10 cents).
 7. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
 8. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, September (10 cents).
 9. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in
Nine of the Principal Cities of Canada, November 1 (10 cents).
 10. Price Movements, October (10 cents).
 11. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, September (10 cents).
 12. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 13. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, September (10 cents).
 14. Indexes of Retail Sales, September (10 cents).
 15. Population of Rural Municipalities, Cities, Towns and Incorporated
Villages of the Prairie Provinces, 1946 (10 cents).
 16. Labour Force Bulletin No. 4 (25 cents).
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