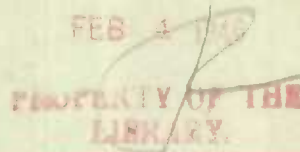


WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Department of Trade and Commerce



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External Trade of Canada during 1945

The external trade of Canada, excluding gold, was valued at \$4,853,199,000 during the calendar year 1945, recording a decline of 7.4 per cent from the historical peak reached in 1944, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The balance of trade was in Canada's favour to the extent of \$1,681,649,000 in 1945, as compared with a favourable balance of \$1,724,200,000 in the preceding year.

The merchandise export trade of the Dominion during 1945 was valued at \$3,218,330,000 as compared with \$3,439,953,000 in 1944, a reduction of 6.4 per cent. The decrease was due to the sharp falling-off in the export movement of war materials, the value of goods in this category amounting to \$1,161,096,000, a decline of 25.3 per cent. Non-war exports, on the other hand, advanced 9.1 per cent of \$2,057,234,000.

Commodity imports in 1945 were valued at \$1,585,775,000 as compared with \$1,758,898,000 in the preceding year, a decrease of 9.8 per cent. Foreign commodities were re-exported to the value of \$49,094,000 as compared with \$43,145,000 in 1944, an advance of 13.8 per cent.

Duties collected on imports during 1945 aggregated \$168,428,000 as compared with \$177,853,000 in the preceding year, a reduction of 5.3 per cent.

Canada's Merchandise Imports in 1945

Canada's merchandise imports in the calendar year 1945 amounted to \$1,585,775,000 as compared with \$1,758,898,000 in the preceding year, a decrease of 9.8 per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The decrease was due, in the main, to lower imports of war materials and equipment.

Commodity imports from the United States -- the principal source of supply -- were valued at \$1,202,418,000 as compared with \$1,447,226,000 in 1944, a decline of 16.9 per cent. Imports from the United Kingdom totalled \$140,517,000 as compared with \$110,599,000, an increase of 27.1 per cent.

Imports from British India in 1945 were valued at \$30,568,000 as compared with \$27,878,000 in 1944, Venezuela \$17,267,000 compared with \$13,826,000, Australia \$17,180,000 compared with \$12,540,000, Newfoundland \$16,600,000 compared with \$9,306,000, Mexico \$13,508,000 compared with \$13,119,000, Colombia \$11,678,000 compared with \$13,782,000, British Guiana \$9,338,000 compared with \$7,225,000, Jamaica \$9,273,000 compared with \$12,624,000, British South Africa \$8,433,000 compared with \$5,551,000, and Honduras \$8,016,000 compared with \$1,349,000.

Four of the nine main groups of commodity imports recorded advances in 1945 over 1944, while the remaining five registered declines. Imports of agricultural products rose from \$212,655,000 in 1944 to \$235,558,000, animals and animal products from \$36,379,000 to \$46,625,000, fibres and textiles from \$190,575,000 to \$196,761,000, wood and paper from \$43,636,000 to \$49,761,000, while iron and its products fell from \$428,361,000 to \$384,460,000, non-ferrous metals and products from \$106,651,000 to \$99,120,000, non-metallic minerals and products from \$271,014,000 to \$265,405,000, chemicals and allied products from \$80,843,000 to \$79,759,000, and miscellaneous commodities from \$388,786,000 to \$228,327,000.

Claims for Unemployment Insurance

Claims for unemployment insurance benefit filed in local offices across Canada during December totalled 57,612, a small increase of 4,287 over the November total of 53,325. During December 1944, 13,770 claims were recorded. All provinces except Nova Scotia shared in the increase over November.

Although the number of claims filed in December did not increase materially over November, the number of persons signing the live unemployment register during the last six working days in December increased to 113,386 from 85,174 during the last week of November. This would indicate that claimants are not being placed in employment so rapidly as before with the result that their claims remain active. This is true to a greater

extent for males than for females, the males having increased from 64,592 in November to 91,138 in December, while the females increased from 20,582 in November to 22,248 in December.

During December, 79,856 persons received one or more benefit cheques totalling \$3,450,853 as compensation for 1,684,319 days of unemployment. In November, 61,193 persons were paid \$2,509,610 for 1,244,023 compensated unemployed days, while during December 1944, 10,656 persons were paid \$337,220 for 176,084 days of compensated unemployment.

The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 21.1 days in December, 20.2 days in November and 16.5 days in December 1944. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$43.21 in December, \$40.82 in November and \$31.65 in December 1944. The average amount paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$2.05 in December, \$2.02 in November and \$1.92 in December 1944.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on January 24 totalled 171,661,954 bushels as compared with 372,893,760 on the corresponding date of last year. Visible stocks in Canadian positions amounted to 145,958,502 bushels as compared with 335,294,865 a year ago, and in United States positions, 25,703,452 bushels as compared with 37,598,895.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended January 24 amounted to 2,416,854 bushels as compared with 4,178,327 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year, marketings of wheat totalled 182,220,231 bushels as compared with 241,829,214 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 January 24, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 2,581,352 (5,312,538) bushels; barley, 394,504 (684,248); rye, 16,425 (25,389); flaxseed, 13,883 (49,340).

Department Store Sales in December

Dollar sales of Canadian department stores reached a new all-time peak in December 1945, when sales rose eight per cent over the previous record established in November. Compared with December 1944, sales gained 10 per cent, a result which is almost on a par with the overall gain of 11 per cent in annual sales volume between 1944 and 1945. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base, 1935-1939=100, stood at 279.3 for December 1945, 253.9 for December 1944, and 258.3 for November, 1945.

A feature of the December regional results was the 14 per cent increase in sales in Ontario stores over the same month of the preceding year. Sales in Quebec increased nine per cent in December, a result which contrasts sharply with much higher increases in each of the six preceding months. December sales in the Prairie Provinces and in British Columbia recorded gains of eight and nine per cent, while a more moderate advance of four per cent occurred in the Maritime Provinces. Annual results showed Quebec's 14 per cent gain leading that of the other regions. This compares with an annual increase for Ontario of 12 per cent and with gains of eight, nine and 10 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, Prairie Provinces and British Columbia, respectively.

Country General Store Sales in December

Country general store sales in December advanced 15 per cent over the November volume of business and six per cent over sales recorded in December 1944, according to index numbers compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base, 1935-1939=100 stood at 208.7 for December 1945, 181.6 for November 1945, and 196.6 for December, 1944.

During the calendar year 1945, country general store sales averaged 6.5 per cent higher than in the preceding year, with all provinces sharing in the advance. Sales in the Maritimes increased 8.4 per cent during 1945, Quebec 5.5 per cent, Ontario 9 per cent, Manitoba 3.8 per cent, Saskatchewan 3.3 per cent, Alberta 5.5 per cent, and British Columbia 10.2 per cent.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices

The general index number of wholesale commodity prices, on the base 1926=100, rose to 103.3 in December 1945, from 103.1 in November, and 102.5 in December, 1944. Three of the sub-group indexes advanced over the November standing, that for vegetable products rising to 97.0 from 96.6, iron products to 115.2 from 115.1, and non-metallic minerals to 101.7 from 101.4. The index for animal products declined to 108.9 from 109.8, and chemical products to 98.8 from 98.9. The index numbers for textiles at 91.8, wood products at 117.6, and non-ferrous metals at 81.6 were unchanged from the November recording.

Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts in 1945

Cheques cashed in the clearing centres of Canada rose to a new high position during 1945. The total was \$68.4 billion compared with \$60.7 billion in 1944. Each of the five economic areas recorded increases not only over the preceding year but over any other year during the period of observation from 1924 to the present. A new maximum had been reached in 1944 and advances were recorded last year in each of the five economic areas. The increase in the Prairie Provinces was of moderate proportions while pronounced gains were shown in the other regions. The increase of 12.7 p.c. in the Dominion total reflected investment and speculative activities and slightly higher levels in prices.

The gain in the Maritime Provinces was 17 p.c., the total in 1945 having been \$1,554 million. Bank debits showed an increase of \$2,087 million in the three centres of Quebec. The total in the Province was \$19,309 million in 1945 compared with \$17,222 million in the preceding year. The greatest absolute increase was recorded in Ontario where the advance was \$4,640 million or 17.2 p.c. The total in the fourteen centres of the Province during the year just ended was \$31,543 million.

An increase of more than \$74 million was recorded in the Prairie Provinces, the total in 1945 having been \$11,562 million. The percentage increase in British Columbia was greater than in any other economic area. The total for the Province was \$4,416 million, an increase of 18.2 p.c.

The advance from 1929, the culmination of the last economic cycle was of pronounced proportions in each of the five economic areas. The Dominion total in 1929 was \$46,671 million, the increase to 1945 having been more than 46 p.c. The advance in the Maritime Provinces was from \$798 million to \$1,554 million. The Quebec total was \$19,309 million in 1945 compared with \$16,484 million at the peak of the last economic cycle. The increase in Ontario was from \$18,543 million to \$31,543 million. Cheques cashed in the Prairie Provinces in 1929 amounted to \$7,923 million, the advance having been to \$11,562 million in the year under review. The total in British Columbia was \$4,416 million in 1945 against \$2,923 million in the year of reference.

Retail Merchandise Trade of Canada

Sales through retail stores in Canada exceeded the four billion dollar mark in 1944, according to revised estimates recently completed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The estimate for 1944 stands at \$4,124,200,000, an increase of 8.9 per cent over the 1943 estimate of \$3,785,840,000, and compares with \$3,649,041,000 for 1942, and \$3,440,901,700 for the census year 1941.

That the volume of retail trading was not higher in 1944 may be attributed, of course, to the shortness of supply prevailing in the case of many consumer goods. This was particularly true in the case of the automotive group of establishments, sales of new motor vehicles being restricted to releases to high priority users from the reserve bank of vehicles established when production for civilian use was discontinued early in 1942. Complete curtailment of radio production and drastically reduced production of electrical household equipment were factors adversely affecting the sales trend for stores specializing in these commodities. Some improvement in the supply situation with respect to hardware items lead to a moderate expansion in the business of retail hardware stores.

Retail store sales by kind-of-business groups were as follows in 1944, in thousands of dollars, totals for 1943 being in brackets: food group, \$1,017,541 (\$950,332); country general stores, \$321,308 (\$289,583); general merchandise, \$654,954 (\$602,204); automotive group, \$351,942 (\$311,330); apparel group, \$397,458 (\$372,509); building materials group, \$247,723 (\$209,967); furniture-household-radio group, \$107,056 (\$101,334); restaurants, \$202,463 (\$189,056); coal and wood yards, \$122,765 (\$133,177); drug stores, \$139,104 (\$128,741); jewellery stores, \$56,228 (\$49,067); Government liquor stores, \$165,677 (\$153,104).

Building Permits Issued in December

Building permits issued by municipalities which reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reached the value of \$13,540,946 in December, recording a decline from the November total of \$18,116,236, but exceeding the December 1944 figure of \$7,901,591 by 71 per cent. Permits for new construction were issued in December to the value of \$10,335,789 and additions, alterations and repairs, \$3,205,157. During the calendar year 1945, permits were granted to the value of \$195,142,798 as compared with \$128,728,465 in the comparable period of 1944, an advance of 52 per cent.

New housing units represented in the building permits issued in December by the reporting municipalities numbered 1,507, of which 1,337 were new buildings and 170 were conversions. In December 1944, 896 permits were issued for housing units, including 755 for the construction of new buildings and 141 for conversions. The aggregate value of new residential buildings, additions and repairs thereto, was \$5,291,709 in December 1945 as compared with \$3,165,936 in December, 1944.

Permits for the construction of 28,462 new dwelling units were granted during 1945 as compared with 23,695 in 1944. The permits for 1945 included 25,530 for new buildings and 2,932 conversions. The value of new residential buildings, and additions and repairs thereto amounted to \$116,710,963 during 1945 as compared with \$82,951,187 in 1944.

Output of Central Electric Stations

Central electric stations produced 3,288,710,000 kilowatt hours in December as compared with 3,356,102,000 in December, 1944. This brought the total for the year to 40,100,608,000 kilowatt hours, which was 365,125,000 kilowatt hours less than was produced in 1944 and 277,041,000 kilowatt hours less than for 1943.

Primary power declined from 36,549,464,000 kilowatt hours in 1944 to 33,323,866,000, and secondary power increased from 3,916,269,000 to 6,776,742,000 kilowatt hours. Total production of hydro-electric power declined from 39,486,462,000 to 39,153,253,000 kilowatt hours, and thermal electric power declined from 979,271,000 to 947,355,000 kilowatt hours.

Net exports to the United States for the year increased from 2,571,872,000 to 2,631,245,000 kilowatt hours. These include a deduction of 15,190,000 kilowatt hours imported from January to December, making the gross exports 2,646,435,000 kilowatt hours as against 2,585,311,000 in 1944.

Gold Production in November

Gold production in Canada in November 1945 totalled 220,755 fine ounces as compared with 223,806 fine ounces in November 1944, and 229,550 fine ounces in October 1945. The value of the November 1945 output was \$8,499,067. During the first 11 months of 1945, 2,411,501 ounces were produced as compared with 2,693,287 in the corresponding period of 1944.

November production was as follows by areas, totals for the same month of 1944 being in brackets: Nova Scotia, 284 (483) fine ounces; Quebec, 43,457 (55,271); Ontario, 141,629 (135,319); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 14,997 (14,138); British Columbia, 16,131 (16,273); Yukon, 2,381 (1,549); Northwest Territories, 1,876 (773).

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended January 19 amounted to 67,912 cars as compared with 69,528 cars for the preceding week and 65,767 cars for the corresponding week of last year. Loadings in the eastern division increased from 42,181 cars in 1945 to 42,328 cars, and in the western division from 23,586 to 25,584 cars.

Grain loadings increased from 6,516 cars in 1945 to 6,911 cars, coal from 6,517 to 6,822 cars, sand, stone, gravel, etc. from 1,493 to 1,934 cars, pulpwood from 3,665 to 5,740 cars, wood pulp and paper from 3,218 to 3,895 cars, and merchandise from 14,442 to 15,177 cars. Live stock declined from 2,665 to 2,151 cars, ores and concentrates from 2,096 to 1,392 cars, and automobiles, trucks and parts from 1,809 to 855 cars.

Railway Traffic in October

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during October amounted to 12,695,441 tons as compared with 11,683,637 tons in September, and 13,612,702 tons in October, 1944. Loadings increased from 9,560,514 tons in October 1944 to 9,578,777 tons, due mainly to increases in wheat from 1,384,887 to 1,882,628 tons, oats from 244,190 to 313,822 tons, and in iron ore, sand and gravel, fertilizers, newsprint and wood pulp. Imports declined from 1,758,273 to 1,538,048 tons, anthracite and bituminous coal accounting for 90 per cent of this decrease. Freight between foreign points declined from 2,293,915 to 1,578,616 tons. The movement of crude petroleum, gasoline and other oils across Canada to eastern United States points has been reduced almost to pre-war dimensions and accounted for 56 per cent of this decrease.

Production of Asphalt Roofing in 1945

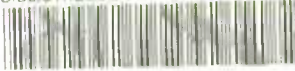
Production of asphalt roofing materials in Canada in 1945 included 3,820,685 squares of shingles, siding and roofing, and 43,091 tons of felts and sheathing, as compared with 3,368,910 squares of the former, and 36,470 tons of the latter in the preceding year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Production by types was as follows, with figures for 1944 in brackets: asphalt shingles, 1,410,644 (1,088,170) squares; asphalt siding, 22,388 (17,459) squares; smooth surfaced roofing, 1,227,103 (1,221,538) squares; mineral surfaced roofing, 1,160,550 (1,041,743) squares; tar and asphalt felts, 29,424 (24,895) tons; tar and asphalt sheathing, 13,667 (11,575) tons.

Stocks of United States Corn in Canada

Stocks of United States corn in Canada on January 17 amounted to 110,848 bushels as compared with 228,801 on the corresponding date of last year, a decline of 51.6 per cent. This year's stocks were located at the following points: Toronto, 109,956 bushels; Montreal, 892 bushels.

Reports Issued Today

1. Production of Asphalt Roofing, December (10 cents).
 2. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, December (10 cents).
 3. Output of Central Electric Stations, December (10 cents).
 4. Labour Force Bulletin No. 1 (25 cents).
 5. Department Store Sales, December (10 cents).
 6. Indexes of Country General Store Sales, December (10 cents).
 7. Statistical Report on the Operations of the Unemployment Insurance Act, December (10 cents).
 8. Imports into Canada for Consumption, December (10 cents).
 9. Imports into Canada for Consumption, by Countries, December (10 cents).
 10. Trade of Canada, December (10 cents).
 11. Prices and Price Indexes, December (10 cents).
 12. Retail Merchandise Trade of Canada and the Provinces, 1944 (25 cents).
 13. Building Permits Issued in December, 1945 (10 cents).
 14. Gold Production, November (10 cents).
 15. Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts, 1945 (10 cents).
 16. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 17. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
 18. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, October (10 cents).
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