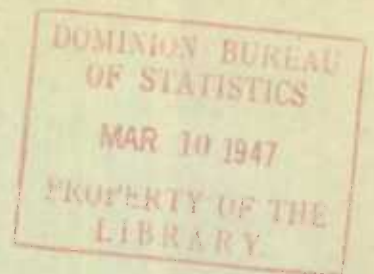


## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics  
Department of Trade and Commerce



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World Wheat Situation

Combined wheat supply of the United States, Canada, Argentina and Australia at January 1 this year amounted to 1,353 million bushels -- the smallest since 1940 -- and somewhat less than the low level of January last year. Most of the reduction has occurred in the United States and Australian supply, Canadian stocks showing little change and the Argentine supply a slight increase. The exportable surplus from these supplies is deemed to be considerably below the abnormally large world import requirements for bread grains.

While January 1 wheat stocks were down from a year ago, there is some encouragement in the fact that total grain supplies in the four principal exporting countries were some five per cent above last year's level, chiefly due to the record 1946 United States corn crop. Thus, it has been possible to make some progress in increasing the exports of coarse grains for human consumption in deficit areas where home-grown and imported stocks of bread grains are still insufficient to meet requirements.

Some weeks ago President Truman set up a special committee to control rail shipping priorities with the object of speeding up grain movement from interior points to the seaboard. There have since been substantial gains in the rate of export clearance from the United States, although much more is yet to be accomplished if the export goals of that country are to be fully attained.

The success of Canada's export program has also been threatened by a rail transportation crisis, brought about in part by exceedingly bad weather, seasonal accumulation of Canadian cars in the United States and unusually keen competition from other users of box cars. To meet the situation the Government on February 14 gave the Transport Controller power to commandeer box cars over a period of six weeks for the movement of export wheat and feed grain from western Canada. By February 25 the situation was described as "much better" as a result of improved weather conditions and increased clearances from the Prairies. The Transport Controller has stated that feed grains and export wheat will continue to hold priority until minimum requirements are met.

Exports of Canadian wheat and flour in terms of wheat amounted to approximately 21 million bushels during January, bringing the total for the first six months of the crop year to 110.2 million bushels. During the same period last year 206.6 million bushels of wheat and flour equivalent were exported. An estimated 205.5 million bushels remained on February 1 for export or carry-over at the end of the crop year.

Up to February 20 of the current crop year farmers in the Prairie Provinces had marketed 249.9 million bushels of wheat as compared with 186.6 million bushels during the corresponding period of the previous crop year. The province of Saskatchewan accounted for 52 per cent of the 1946-47 marketings, Alberta and Manitoba supplying 32 and 16 per cent respectively.

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Stocks and Marketings of  
Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America were further reduced during the week ending February 27, the total being 119,299,144 bushels compared with 122,189,831 bushels on February 20, and 136,483,323 bushels on the corresponding date of last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Current stocks included 119,006,144 bushels in Canadian positions, and 293,000 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces were increased during the week ending February 27, totalling 2,287,300 bushels compared with 1,828,479 in the preceding week. The aggregate for the elapsed portion of the current crop year -- August 1 to February 27 -- was 252,309,821 bushels compared with 188,282,103 bushels in the same period of 1945-46.

Substantial increases were recorded in the deliveries of oats and barley from Prairie farms during the week ending February 27. Oat deliveries amounted to 2,331,013 bushels compared with 1,034,294 in the preceding week, barley 981,132 bushels compared with 508,645, rye 60,668 bushels compared with 57,348, and flaxseed 2,459 bushels compared with 1,224.

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### Farm Wage Rates Higher

Wages paid to hired help on Canadian farms at January 15, 1947, show a further increase over those paid at the same date a year ago and were more than double those paid in 1940, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

With board provided by the employer, the average rate per day for all Canada at January 15 this year was \$3.23 as compared with \$2.93 a year ago. When no board was provided the daily rate was \$4.15 as against \$3.84 a year earlier. Wage rates for day help were highest in British Columbia and lowest in Prince Edward Island.

Average monthly wage rate with board for all Canada was \$63.29 at January 15, 1947, as compared with \$57.24 at the same date in 1946. When workers provided their own board the average rate for men hired by the month rose from \$82.23 in 1946 to \$89.25 in 1947. Wage rates with or without board were lowest in Prince Edward Island and highest in New Brunswick.

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### Stocks of Canadian Butter and Cheese in Principal Cities on March 1

Stocks of creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada on March 1 totalled 11,255,050 pounds as compared with 17,444,172 pounds on February 1, and 5,569,156 pounds on March 1 last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cheese stocks on March 1 were 12,907,308 pounds, against 14,880,432 pounds on February 1, and 14,235,418 pounds a year ago.

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### Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts during January

With four of the five economic areas recording advances, cheques cashed against individual accounts in January rose almost four per cent over the corresponding month of last year, the aggregate being \$6,215,840,000 compared with \$5,990,656,000. Ontario was the exception to the general advance, cheques cashed showing a decrease of nine per cent.

Percentage increases in cheques cashed were considerable in Moncton and Saint John, the standing having been better by 17.8 per cent and 15.4 per cent, respectively. An increase of 6.2 per cent was shown in Halifax. The net result was that the total for the Maritime Provinces rose 10.8 per cent to \$136,000,000.

A marked increase was recorded in Montreal, the percentage advance having been no less than 24.5. The total was \$1,883,000,000 against \$1,513,000,000 in January last year. The increases in Quebec and Sherbrooke ranged between 10 and 12 per cent. The provincial total at \$2,041,000,000 was 23.3 per cent greater than in January, 1946.

Advances were shown in 11 of the 14 centres in Ontario, the exceptions having been Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton. The decline in Ottawa was 46.3 per cent, the total in January having been \$244,000,000. The percentage declines in Toronto and Hamilton were of minor proportions, being limited to 4.3 and 1.7 per cent, respectively. Increases of more than 20 per cent were shown in Peterborough, St. Catharines, Sudbury and Windsor. The decline in the province as a whole was from \$2,854,000,000 to \$2,597,000,000.

Eight of the ten centres in the Prairie Provinces recorded increases over the first month of last year. The exceptions were Brandon and Regina. The increase in Winnipeg was 1.7 per cent, the total for January having been \$535,000,000. Cheques cashed in Calgary rose 7.5 per cent to more than \$140,000,000. The total for the Prairie Provinces was two per cent greater, amounting to \$917,000,000.

The appreciable increase in Victoria was 23.6 per cent, the total in January having been \$71,000,000 against \$58,000,000. A marked absolute increase was shown in Vancouver, the total rising from \$383,000,000 to \$436,000,000. The total for British Columbia was 14.3 per cent greater at \$526,000,000.

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### Production of Salt in November

Salt production was sharply increased in November, the total being 54,994 tons or almost double the October figure, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. November output included 38,763 tons of table, common fine, and other commercial grades, and 16,231 tons for the manufacture of chemicals.



### Cost-of-Living Index Up 0.8 Points

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100, advanced from 127.0 for January 2 to 127.8 for February 1, 1947. Price increases affected five of the six budget group indexes comprising the total. The largest rise occurred for food, which moved from 145.5 to 147.0 as pork products, tea, coffee, and fresh vegetables averaged higher. Eggs and citrus fruits continued to decline.

Widely distributed increases advanced the clothing index from 131.5 to 131.9, while homefurnishings and services rose from 129.8 to 130.9. The miscellaneous index mounted from 114.7 to 115.5, due to changes in the personal care and transportation components. Fuel and light changed from 109.0 to 109.1, while the rent index remained at 113.4.

### Wholesale Prices in February

There was a further increase in Canadian farm product wholesale prices in February, as indicated by a gain of 1.1 points to 115.4 in the weekly composite index, on the base 1926=100, between January 31 and February 21, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Animal products advanced 1.7 points to 140.6, due to higher prices for livestock and eggs, while the field products index rose 0.8 to 100.4, reflecting upturns in rye, potatoes, hay and raw leaf tobacco.

Wholesale prices of industrial materials rose sharply in February, moving the composite index for 30 commodities 6.4 points higher to 120.5 between January 31 and February 21. Among sub-groups, the manufacturing materials index led the advance with a gain of 8.5 points to 113.7, due to strength in prices for vegetable oils, raw cotton and tin ingots. Five foods rose 5.6 points to 113.1, reflecting a sharp increase in wheat coupled with higher quotations for steers and hogs. In the stable group, an increase in white lead supported an advance of 4.1 points to an index level of 132.0.

### Country General Store Sales Advance Eight Per Cent

Country general store sales were eight per cent higher in January than in the corresponding month of last year, and showed a seasonal decline of 34 per cent from the December level, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Sales increases were somewhat lower in the Prairie Provinces, and higher elsewhere, than the average gain for the country as a whole. Quebec led other provinces with a gain of 12 per cent, while at the other end of the scale, Saskatchewan reported a minor gain of only two per cent above January a year ago.

Unadjusted indexes of sales for the country as a whole, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 148.7 for January this year, 137.6 for January 1946, and 223.7 for December, 1946.

### Output of Refined Petroleum Products

Output of refined petroleum products in Canada during 1946 aggregated 66,752,345 barrels, an increase of 11.5 per cent over the preceding year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the year, 70,333,514 barrels of crude oil were received by Canadian refineries, of which 63,342,772 was imported, and 6,990,742 was of domestic origin. In 1945, refinery receipts totalled 65,691,977 barrels.

Production of most of the principal products was higher in 1946 than in the preceding year, the chief exception being aviation grades of gasoline which fell from 796,528 barrels in 1945 to 250,328 in 1946. Output of kerosene and stove oils rose sharply from 999,464 barrels to 2,944,288.

Production of motor gasoline and naphtha specialties rose from 28,947,949 barrels to 32,100,980, tractor distillate from 1,104,134 barrels to 1,248,598, light fuel oils from 7,780,569 barrels to 9,179,902, heavy fuel oils from 15,682,903 barrels to 15,692,170, asphalt from 2,034,812 barrels to 2,679,459, and lubricating oils from 1,453,774 barrels to 1,846,485.



### November Output of Crude Petroleum

Output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in November amounted to 619,832 barrels, compared with 639,222 in the preceding month and 652,081 in the corresponding month of 1945, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first eleven months of 1946, 7,012,401 barrels were produced, compared with 7,822,650 in the similar period of 1945.

Alberta's output in November was recorded at 576,214 barrels as against 634,271 in November, 1945, and the aggregate for the province for the first eleven months of 1946 stood at 6,572,996 barrels compared with 7,343,152 in the like period of 1945. In November, New Brunswick produced 2,384 barrels, Ontario 9,771 barrels, Saskatchewan, 22,632 barrels, and the Northwest Territories 8,831 barrels.

### Production of Natural Gas in November

Production of natural gas was increased in November, the total being 5,293,136 M cubic feet as compared with 4,364,346 M in the preceding month and 4,841,314 M in the corresponding month of 1945, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate for the eleven months ended November was 46,469,114 M cubic feet compared with 43,167,506 in the same period of 1945.

### Fewer Cattle, Sheep, Horses

Continuing the decrease first in evidence in the results of the December 1945 survey, numbers of cattle on farms in Canada at December 1, 1946, are estimated at 9,748,000, a decline of 213,000 from the same date in 1945, or slightly more than two per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Reductions in cattle numbers occurred in all provinces except Quebec where the increase was 2.7 per cent. The greatest decreases were indicated in the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Milk cows, at 3,959,300, were 53,300 below those of a year ago. The decline in milk cows was common to all provinces except Quebec.

Sheep numbers at December 1, 1946 estimated at 2,186,000, were appreciably below the peak recorded at December 1, 1944, of 2,822,000. The reduction from 1945 amounted to 11 per cent, with major declines recorded in the Maritimes and the four western provinces.

Numbers of horses on farms continue to decline, the December 1, 1946, count of 2,463,300 head, being 7.5 per cent under December 1, 1945. While decreases were common to all provinces, the greatest were shown for the Prairie Provinces.

### Production and Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing Materials

Production and domestic sales of asphalt shingles and rolled roofing were advanced in January, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's output was recorded at 433,748 squares, an increase of 33 per cent, and domestic sales at 403,131 squares were up about 38 per cent. Production of asphalt felts and sheathing were lower in January, totalling 4,004 tons compared with 4,402, and domestic sales 3,737 tons compared with 4,303.

### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended February 22 increased to 68,486 cars from 65,909 cars for the preceding week and 65,538 cars for the corresponding week last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase was largely in the western division where loadings increased to 23,010 cars from 20,714 cars in the previous week.

Loadings of western grain increased from 2,120 during the week ending February 15 to 3,211, and coal from 2,909 to 3,400. Loadings of coal in the eastern division declined from 2,599 cars for the previous week and 2,537 cars last year to 1,338 cars. Total pulp wood loadings were slightly heavier than in 1946; wood pulp and paper increased from 3,922 to 4,103 cars, and total L.C.L. merchandise increased from 15,983 to 17,125 cars.



### Retail Chains in Canada

Sales transacted by retail chain outlets were 13.4 per cent higher in 1945 than in the preceding year, the aggregate value being \$877,895,900 compared with \$774,088,400, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Accounting for an increasing proportion of the total retail trade, sales of these establishments formed 19.1 per cent of the total in 1945, as compared with 18.8 per cent in 1944, and 18.7 per cent in 1943.

Dollar volume of sales has followed a consistent year-by-year increase since 1933, and since 1941 has shown marked rise each year. Stocks on hand in stores, however, ceased their upward climb, which paralleled sales in 1941 and remained at a fairly even level through 1945. Stocks on hand in stores were valued at \$68,475,200 at the end of 1945 as compared with the 1944 total of \$67,615,100. Warehouse stocks moved up from the 1941-1944 level to the high total of \$28,850,000, a considerable increase over the 1944 stocks of \$21,681,800 and well above the previous high mark of \$23,606,500 in 1943.

Chain companies specializing in the sale of food products transact a larger volume of business than do other trades in the chain field. There were 84 such companies operating 1,611 stores in 1945 with sales of \$230,342,700, or 26.2 per cent of the total retail chain sales. Included in this group were 23 grocery chains operating 366 grocery stores whose sales amounted to \$34,453,600. The bulk of the chain food group is concentrated in the combination store classification. Most of these stores sell both groceries and fresh meats, although some dealing exclusively in groceries are to be found under this heading as a consequence of the classification assigned to the chain company. The 22 combination chains transacted \$178,438,000 annual business through 845 outlets. The ten meat market chains operated 95 units whose sales totalled \$6,077,100. These three types of chains, with sales from their 1,306 outlets totalling \$218,968,700, accounted for 23.8 per cent of the total estimated sales in 1945 for both chain and independent grocery and combination stores and meat markets.

Liquor stores operated by eight Provincial Governments are considered as chain organizations in this survey. In 1945 they operated a total of 538 stores, the sales from which amounted to \$211,075,300 and formed 24 per cent of the total retail chain sales. In comparison with the experience of other chain stores, they showed the greatest increase in sales over the previous year, the gain being 35.3 per cent. Variety store chains accounted for 10.9 per cent of the total chain store business, and the 19 companies operating 521 stores whose sales aggregated \$95,998,200.

Some kinds of business which were more seriously affected than others by the curtailed production of various commodities during the war years, are now making a recovery. Household appliance, radio and music stores have gains 21.6 per cent over 1944, although their sales remained 38.2 per cent below those for 1941. Office, school and store supplies and equipment dealers have surpassed the 1941 total by 2.8 per cent, a result which came about because of the 14.2 per cent gain for 1945 over 1944 sales.

Other large increases were as follows: tobacco stores and stands, 18.3 per cent; women's apparel stores, 17.2 per cent; shoe stores, 14.9 per cent; family clothing stores, 14.0 per cent, and candy and confectionery stores, 12.3 per cent. Restaurants reported the only decline in 1945 from 1944, although their volume of sales remains at a high level, being 60.4 above 1941 sales.

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### Births, Deaths and Marriages in First Quarter of 1946

Live births in Canada during the first quarter of 1946 numbered 70,377, giving an equivalent annual rate of 23.2 per thousand population as compared with 70,242 births and a rate of 23.5 for the first quarter of 1945, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Deaths totalled 27,330 with a rate of nine per thousand as compared with 29,534 and a rate of 9.9. The natural increase in the population for the first quarter was 43,047, giving a rate of 14.2 against 40,708 and a rate of 13.6.

Deaths under one year of age numbered 3,193 compared with 4,116 in the first three months of 1945, and the infant mortality rate moved sharply lower to 45 per thousand live births from 59 in the similar period of 1945. Deaths under one month of age numbered 1,777, giving a rate of 25 per thousand live births as against 2,154 and a rate of 31. There were 128 maternal deaths as compared with 183 and the rate per thousand live births fell from 2.6 to 1.8.

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Reports Issued During the Week

1. Farm Wages in Canada (10 cents).
  2. Prices and Price Indexes, January (10 cents).
  3. Price Movements, February (10 cents).
  4. Indexes of Country General Store Sales, January (10 cents).
  5. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills, December (25 cents).
  6. Grain Trade of Canada, 1944-45 (50 cents).
  7. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
  8. Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts, January (10 cents).
  9. Refined Petroleum Products, December (20 cents).
  10. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, January (10 cents).
  11. Production and Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing, January (10 cents).
  12. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
  13. Retail Chains, 1945 (25 cents).
  14. Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities,  
March 1 (10 cents).
  15. Salt, November (10 cents).
  16. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, November (10 cents).
  17. Births, Deaths and Marriages, First Quarter, 1946 (25 cents).
  18. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
  19. Live Stock Survey, December 1, 1946 (10 cents).
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