

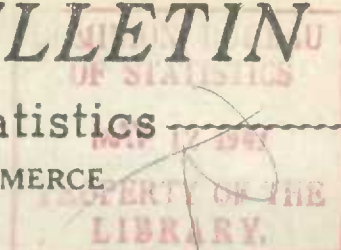


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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

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AUTOMOBILE OUTPUT IN MARCH CONTINUED RECENT EXPANSION

Flow of new motor vehicles from Canadian assembly lines, which has been steadily swelling in recent months, rose in March to a new high level of 21,830 units, more than a thousand above the February output of 20,810 units, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The March figure, which compares with 11,373 units in March last year, is the highest for a month since January, 1942, when the output was 22,644 units.

Output for the January-March period totalled 61,685 as compared with 27,352 units for the first quarter last year.

Breakdown of the March production shows 13,927 passenger cars and 7,903 commercial vehicles, of which 9,176 passenger cars and 5,301 commercial cars were intended for sale in Canada and 4,751 passenger and 2,602 commercial cars for export. Passenger cars produced for sale in Canada totalled 26,261 in the three months and commercial vehicles 14,476, the total of 40,737 comparing with 20,948 for export.

IRON AND STEEL OUTPUT ROSE IN MARCH

Output of pig iron, ferroalloys, and steel ingots and castings in March increased both over the previous month and March last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's gains also brought the first quarter output of each above that of the same 1946 period.

Production of pig iron in March amounted to 164,403 tons compared with 150,632 tons in February and 142,240 tons in March last year. The month's gain, added to increases in the two previous months, brought the total for the first quarter to 492,348 tons, roughly 50 per cent above the aggregate of 327,945 tons for the first quarter last year.

Ferro-alloy output in the month rose to 14,197 tons compared with 9,357 tons in February and 13,083 tons in March, 1946. The quarter's production totalled 33,918 tons as against 19,001 tons in 1946.

Production of steel ingots and castings was sharply higher in March, rising to the highest monthly figure since April, 1945. Output totalled 269,732 tons compared with 229,222 tons in February and 249,117 tons in March a year ago. Aggregate production for the quarter ended March was 748,752 tons compared with 727,633 tons in the same period last year. March production consisted of 263,193 tons of ingots and 6,539 tons of castings.

PRODUCTION OF SAWN LUMBER IN FEBRUARY

Sawn lumber production in Canada -- excluding sawn ties -- increased in February to 369,025,000 feet board measure as compared with 329,804,000 feet in the previous month and 348,415,000 feet in February last year, according to preliminary estimates released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Production east of the Rockies is placed at 185,427,000 feet, an increase of 7.3 per cent over February last year; and production in British Columbia at 183,598,000 feet, a gain of 4.5 per cent.

Total output for the first two months of this year is estimated at 698,829,000 feet as against 682,505,000 feet last year, an increase of 2.4 per cent. Of this total, production in British Columbia accounted for 352,293,000 feet, showing a decrease of nearly three per cent from the 1946 period, and production east of the Rockies for 346,536,000 feet, a gain of slightly more than eight per cent.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN MARCH

Expansion in productive operations continued throughout the first quarter of 1947. The index of the physical volume of business rose 1.2 per cent in March over the preceding month, advancing to 190.1 from 187.9 in February. The index of industrial production, based on mining, manufacturing, construction and electric power, showed a relatively greater advance, rising to 195.2 as against 190.8 in the preceding month, a gain of 2.3 per cent.

The March increase in the index of mineral production was 5.3 per cent, the level in the month, having been 174.1. Gold receipts at the Mint, however, were less in March than in February, totalling 206,415 against 213,245 fine ounces. Coal production also showed a decline, the total output in March being 969,167 against 1,135,349 tons.

Output of manufacturing plants recorded a minor increase in March over the second month of the year, due allowance being made for seasonal tendencies. The index was 198.3 against 197.6. The wood and paper index rose about four points to 168.2. Advances were shown in the exports of planks and boards, shingles and wood pulp, but the increase in newsprint was slightly less than normal for the season. The primary iron and steel industry was more active in March than in the previous month, after seasonal adjustment. The index of new business obtained by the construction industry rose 13.6 per cent after the usual adjustment, standing at 232.8 against 205 in February.

Retail sales showed a gain in February, while wholesale sales were at a somewhat lower level. Domestic exports rose from \$178 million in March last year to nearly \$209 million in the month under review, a considerable increase being also shown for the first quarter of the year over 1946.

WHOLESALE SALES AND INVENTORIES
HIGHER IN MARCH THAN LAST YEAR

Wholesale sales in Canada were 10 per cent higher in dollar volume during March than in the same month of 1946, maintaining the steady margin of gain recorded for the two previous months over last year, while the value of stocks in the hands of wholesalers was 33 per cent greater at the end of March than a year earlier, according to statements received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from wholesalers in nine lines of trade.

The unadjusted general index of sales for Canada, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 256.5 for March as compared with 231.7 for February and 234.0 for March last year.

Increases for the various regions of the country showed greater variation in March than in February. The greatest gain over last year was recorded in British Columbia, where wholesalers' sales were up 18 per cent. Sales rose 12 per cent in Quebec, 10 per cent in the Maritimes, nine per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and five per cent in Ontario.

Among the individual trades, the outstanding increase over last year was in sales of dry goods, which were up 38 per cent in dollar volume. Hardware and grocery sales were 17 and 15 per cent higher respectively, while clothing wholesalers reported a gain of 10 per cent. Footwear sales, which had shown marked gains for some months, increased only three per cent. Tobacco and confectionery sales were also three per cent higher, while the automotive equipment trade reported the small increase of one per cent. Sales of drug wholesalers were three per cent below last year, while those of fruit and vegetable dealers continued to show lower dollar volume with a drop of 12 per cent.

Dry goods wholesalers reported an increase of 66 per cent in value of stocks, and clothing wholesalers a gain of 36 per cent, to maintain the lead among the different trades in inventory increases over last year. Stocks of footwear wholesalers at the end of March were also 36 per cent higher than at March 31 last year, while grocers' stocks were up 34 per cent and those of dealers in automotive equipment up 32 per cent. Hardware stocks were 29 per cent higher; fruits and vegetables, 20 per cent; tobacco and confectionery, 16 per cent; and drugs, 14 per cent higher.

RETAIL SALES INDEXES IN MARCH

Trend of consumer expenditures in Canadian retail stores, measured by dollar volume, continued upward during March, when sales were six per cent greater than in March last year, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's gain compares with like increases of 13 per cent in January and 10 per cent in February, adding to the evidence in recent months of a tendency for retail business to level off. The average gain in sales for the first quarter of this year over last amounted to nine per cent.

Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 223.2 for March as compared with 210.3 for March, 1946, and 183.2 for February this year. The adjusted index, which takes into account differences in number of business days and seasonal variations, stood at 238.6 for March, 229.2 for March a year ago, and 233.4 for February.

Five of the fourteen trades comprising the Bureau's monthly series showed sales declines in March compared with March last year. These included some of the trades which should normally benefit from Easter business, a larger part of which was attributable to March this year than last because of the earlier date of Easter. Three of the four apparel trades -- family clothing, women's clothing, and shoes -- showed a smaller volume of business, while the fourth, men's wear, enjoyed only a fractional increase. Restaurants and jewellery stores, whose sales volumes have shown signs of weakening in recent months, also reported reduced sales in March compared with last year.

Weather conditions in March last year were generally more favourable for retail shopping than was the case this year, the Bureau observes, and this factor may account in some measure for the moderation in sales expansion.

Increases in the general level of retail trading were reported for March from all economic regions except the Maritime Provinces, where the general index of sales declined one per cent below that for March, 1946. British Columbia led with an 11 per cent increase, other regions having increases in the vicinity of the overall increase of six per cent.

TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN MARCH

March sales of wholesale grocers were 15 per cent higher in value than in March last year and eight per cent above February this year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports on the basis of statements from a widespread sample of larger wholesale grocery establishments. Wholesale grocery sales showed gains in all parts of the country but increases were larger in the western provinces than in eastern Canada, advances of 25 per cent being recorded for British Columbia and 17 per cent for the Prairie Provinces as compared with 14 per cent for Quebec and 12 per cent for Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. Total sales for the first quarter of the year increased 15 per cent in dollar volume over the like period last year.

Sales of wholesale dealers in fruits and vegetables in March, while maintaining a fairly high level, were 12 per cent below the exceptionally high dollar volume of 1946, continuing the lower trend of recent months. On the other hand, the month's sales were 18 per cent higher than in February. Sales were down 19 per cent from last year in Ontario, six per cent in the Maritime Provinces, and seven per cent in the three western provinces. Cumulative sales for the quarter were nine per cent lower than for the corresponding period last year.

Grocery stocks at the end of March were 34 per cent higher than at the same date last year, but two per cent below stocks a month earlier. Inventories at the beginning of March, the Bureau observes, are normally 49 per cent in excess of sales during that month, but stocks on hand at the beginning of March this year were only 26 per cent in excess of the month's sales.

March sales of chain store units in the food retailing field were 12 per cent higher than in the corresponding month last year; all regions showing gains, with the largest in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. Independent food stores did five per cent more business, with gains in all regions except the Maritimes.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS AT MARCH 1

Industrial employment in Canada was slightly lower at the beginning of March than a month earlier, due largely to the dispute in the Maritime coal mines, but weekly salaries and wages showed an increase, according to the monthly report on employment and payrolls by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Combined working force of the 17,425 employers furnishing data for the monthly survey was 1,853,195 at March 1 as compared with 1,856,820 at February 1, a decline of 3,625 or 0.2 per cent. As a consequence of this slight recession, the index number of employment, based on the 1926 average as 100, declined from 180.7 at February 1 to 180.3. The latter figure compares with 167.0 at March 1 last year, 178.2 in 1945, 181.7 in 1944 and 181.4 in 1943. Except for the latter two, the index for March 1 this year is the highest on record for the later winter.

Employment showed a considerable contraction in coal mining and a seasonal shrinkage in logging, but there was widespread improvement in the various industrial divisions, although none of the gains was pronounced. In manufacturing there was a general increase of nearly 3,400 persons, most of whom were taken on by plants turning out durable manufactured goods. Communications, transportation, construction and maintenance, services and trade reported heightened activity.

Weekly salaries and wages distributed at March 1 by the reporting firms in the eight leading industries aggregated \$65,933,619, showing an increase of 1.4 per cent over the disbursements of \$65,048,150 reported at the beginning of February. The average earnings at March 1 were \$35.58 as compared with \$35.03 a month earlier and \$32.44 at March 1 last year.

MAN-HOURS AND HOURLY EARNINGS

Number of hourly-rated wage-earners employed in manufacturing at the beginning of March showed a fractional increase of 0.6 per cent, aggregate hours worked in the preceding week an advance of 1.1 per cent and wages paid for the latter period a rise of two per cent, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. These figures are based on data furnished to the Bureau by 6,340 employers, who reported a total of 755,658 hourly-rated employees with an aggregate of 32,799,821 hours worked, and wage payments totalling \$25,272,805.

The average hours worked in the week of March 1 was 43.4, slightly higher than the figure of 43.2 for the week of February 1, but below those of 44 and 45.8 in the week of March 1, 1946 and 1945 respectively. Average hourly earnings reached a new maximum of 77.1 cents, which compares with 76.4 cents a month earlier, and 67.9 and 70.1 cents at March 1, 1946 and 1945. The increase as compared with February 1 was due partly to seasonal movements in industry.

Weekly wages in manufacturing as a whole averaged \$33.46 as compared with \$33.00 in the week ending February 1, \$29.88 in the week of March 1 last year and \$32.11 in that of March 1, 1945.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS IN MARCH

Continuing the decrease begun in February, claims for unemployment insurance benefit filed in local offices across Canada totalled 43,675 in March as compared with 47,141 in February and 63,681 in January, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The March total was also 7,031 less than the 50,706 claims filed in March last year.

Ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register at March 31, numbered 103,291 compared with 110,062 at February 28 and 154,820 at March 31, 1946. A total of 56,683 claims was adjudicated at insurance offices during March, 40,912 being considered entitled to benefit and 15,771 not entitled to benefit.

During March, 109,625 persons were paid benefit totalling \$4,479,975 for 2,304,914 compensated days of unemployment. This compares with 102,972 persons paid \$3,916,634 for 2,006,459 days in February, and 156,180 persons paid \$7,205,264 for 3,461,000 days in March last year. The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 21.0 days in March, compared with 19.5 days in February and 22.2 days in March, 1946. Average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$40.87 as against \$38.04 in February and \$46.13 in March last year.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 1 totalled 93,996,576 bushels, a decline of 1,700,090 bushels from the previous week but substantially above the stocks of 81,561,935 bushels on the corresponding date last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The visible supply total on May 1 consisted of 93,963,576 bushels in Canadian positions and 33,000 bushels in United States positions.

Wheat deliveries from farms in the Prairie Provinces increased sharply to 4,544,424 bushels during the week ended May 1 as compared with 2,452,764 bushels in the preceding week. During the eight months of the crop year to May 1 deliveries aggregated 271,941,423 bushels as against 206,561,633 bushels in the similar period of the 1945-46 crop year.

Marketings of coarse grains increased generally during the week ended May 1, totals for the week, with those for the preceding week in brackets, being as follows: oats, 1,496,684 (960,242) bushels; barley, 919,216 (595,140); rye, 26,171 (22,612); flaxseed, 2,698 (5,993) bushels. Cumulative deliveries of these grains during the eight months of the current and previous crop years are as follows: oats, 76,052,505 (86,539,116 in 1945-46) bushels; barley, 54,707,525 (59,366,298); rye, 5,206,378 (2,771,645); flaxseed, 4,816,620 (4,642,079) bushels.

STOCKS OF BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS

Stocks of creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada on May 1 stood at 3,974,533 pounds as compared with 6,400,379 pounds on April 1 and 1,691,242 pounds on May 1 last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Cheese stocks were 9,548,869 pounds on May 1 against 11,182,569 pounds a month earlier and 10,938,298 pounds a year ago.

Stocks of cold storage eggs on May 1 amounted to 3,527,042 dozen compared with 1,384,830 dozen on April 1 and 3,807,454 dozen on May 1, 1946. Holdings of fresh eggs totalled 3,312,034 dozen compared with 1,663,237 dozen at the beginning of April, and stocks of frozen egg meats were 4,670,571 pounds compared with 3,298,238 on April 1 and 3,748,203 pounds on May 1 last year.

SUGAR STOCKS AT REFINERIES

Refinery stocks of raw sugar on April 19 were somewhat lower than a year earlier, being recorded at 81,312,446 as compared with 85,988,723 pounds, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of refined sugar were also lower, amounting to 162,989,267 pounds as against 173,273,570 pounds.

Receipts of raw sugar at refineries from March 29 to April 19 totalled 25,942,756 pounds, showing a considerable decline from the total of 44,526,283 pounds in 1946. Meltings and sales in the four weeks amounted to 52,882,607 pounds as compared with 26,540,740 pounds.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PREPARATIONS
INDUSTRY IN 1945

Reflecting the generally adverse crop conditions, the physical volume of production of canned fruits, canned vegetables, and other products made in 1945 by Canada's fruit and vegetable preparations industry declined by 11.7 per cent, according to the annual report on the industry issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Owing to an advance in the selling value of the products, the dollar value of the output showed a smaller decline of seven per cent.

Gross value of products in 1945 was \$99,371,391 as compared with \$107,335,254 in 1944. Selling value at the factory of main groups of products, with figures for 1944 in brackets was: canned fruits, \$5,709,009 (\$6,548,931); canned vegetables, \$22,643,212 (\$26,939,478); jams, jellies and marmalades, \$11,018,413 (\$12,930,901); canned soups, \$15,868,485 (\$14,756,625); catsups and sauces, \$2,868,857 (\$3,892,780); pickles and relishes, \$5,642,044 (\$4,588,387).

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Canadian railway carloadings for the week ended April 26 increased to 76,033 cars from 72,813 cars for the preceding week, to reach the highest figure for any week this year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Loadings for the corresponding week last year were 65,183 cars.

Grain loadings continued heavier than in 1946, but were below the same period in 1945, 1944 and 1943. Coal in the eastern division was 435 cars higher than for the previous week but 1,009 cars below last year. Loadings of sand, stone and gravel continued heavy, the 17-week's total this year being 46,247 cars as against 38,304 in 1946 and 32,289 cars in 1945.

Pulpwood, wood pulp and paper, lumber, gasoline, and l.c.l. merchandise are also establishing new high records. The latter increased to 19,636 cars for the week from 19,218 cars for the previous week and 17,539 cars for the corresponding week last year. Total merchandise loadings for the year to date have totalled 293,851 cars as compared with 277,831 last year, 252,749 in 1945 and 293,664 cars in 1929.

COAL AND COKE PRODUCTION

With gains in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick exceeded by decreases in the three western producing provinces, Canada's coal production in January declined seven per cent as compared with January last year, amounting to 1,677,246 tons as against 1,808,184 tons, according to the monthly detailed figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The January total compares with 1,572,356 tons in the preceding month of December.

Production in Nova Scotia during January rose to 522,849 tons as compared with 473,913 tons in January, 1946, an increase of ten per cent, and in New Brunswick to 32,048 tons as against 29,577 tons, a gain of eight per cent. On the other hand, output in Alberta declined 15 per cent to 791,058 compared with 934,140 tons; in Saskatchewan, ten per cent to 189,537 compared with 210,991 tons; and in British Columbia, 11 per cent to 141,756 as against 159,563 tons.

Imports of coal during January totalled 1,289,036 tons compared with 1,204,823 tons in January last year, while exports amounted to 66,267 tons as against 44,963 tons.

Coke production during January continued the upward trend of the two preceding months, amounting to 338,439 tons as compared with 320,514 tons in December and 315,923 tons in January, 1946. The month's output was the highest since March last year.

GOLD OUTPUT IN JANUARY

Canadian mines produced 233,825 fine ounces of gold in January compared with 227,469 fine ounces in the previous month and 238,450 fine ounces in January last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The month's output consisted of 216,831 fine ounces from auriferous quartz mines, an increase of nearly nine per cent over January last year, and of 16,994 fine ounces from base metal mines, a decrease of 57 per cent. Value of production was \$7,579,085.

FEBRUARY OUTPUT OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Continuing the advance of preceding months, output of refined petroleum products during February totalled 4,812,402 barrels as compared with 4,006,161 barrels in the corresponding month last year, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total gain over last year was due mainly to substantial increases in production of motor gasoline, light fuel oil, kerosene and stove oil, which were partly offset by declines in heavy fuel oil, aviation gasoline, tractor distillate and naphtha specialties. A breakdown of the month's output, with figures for February 1946, in brackets follows: motor gasoline, 2,127,903 (1,796,157) barrels; aviation gasoline, 21,112 (29,777); heavy fuel oil, 958,795 (1,123,880); light fuel oil, 814,924 (506,110); kerosene and stove oil, 461,867 (183,136); tractor distillate, 32,414 (42,935); naphtha specialties, 47,835 (56,295); other refinery products such as lubricating oils, asphalt, coke, etc., 347,552 (267,871) barrels.

FARM IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY INDUSTRY

Production by establishments in the farm implements and machinery industry was 5.7 per cent lower in value in 1945 than in 1944, according to the annual report on the industry compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Gross value of output, at factory prices, was \$57,621,390 in the year as compared with \$61,098,793 in 1944 and \$56,952,569 in 1943.

Output of farm equipment by the industry, which was engaged during the war years in production of munitions and other special war goods, amounted in value to \$37,751,375 in 1945, \$36,342,538 in 1944 and \$18,429,964 in 1943. In other industries there was a small production of farm machinery, amounting to \$949,000 in 1945, \$954,000 in 1944 and \$500,000 in 1943.

There were 41 factories included in the farm implements industry in 1945. Of these, 24 were in Ontario, six in Quebec and Manitoba, three in Alberta, and one each in Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island. The works in Ontario accounted for 96 per cent of the total 1945 output.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S
LUMBER INDUSTRY IN 1945

Gross value of production of the lumber industry in British Columbia amounted to \$104,972,850 in 1945 as compared with \$98,381,844 in the previous year, according to a new report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, giving separate figures on coast and interior lumber operations in British Columbia. Of these totals, coast operations accounted for \$38,742,244 in 1945 and \$35,337,190 in 1944, and interior operations for \$16,230,606 and \$12,994,654 respectively.

Production of sawn lumber of all species aggregated 2,055,082 thousand feet board measure in 1945 as against 1,962,473 thousand feet in 1944, operators on the coast producing 1,646,149 thousand feet in 1945 and 1,641,152 thousand feet in 1944. Aggregate value of sawn lumber was \$76,354,956 in 1945 compared with \$70,080,622 in the previous year.

FUR FARMS OF QUEBEC IN 1945

Quebec's fur farms in 1945 produced a total revenue of \$2,270,102 from 76,373 live and pelted animals as compared with \$1,856,416 from 66,826 animals in 1944, according to a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 1945 figures represent an increase of 22.3 per cent in value and 14.3 per cent in numbers over 1944.

Polts brought in 86.6 per cent of the total 1945 revenue. While the total sales value was higher than in 1944 the average values of all live foxes decreased, but live mink brought greater average prices.

There were 2,084 fur farms in operation in 1945 in the province. Capital value of plant and fur animals was \$4,641,303, of which animals, at \$2,962,838 represented 63.8 per cent, the remaining \$1,678,465 being for land and buildings. Both number of farms and capital value increased over 1944, when there were 2,071 fur farms and the total capital value amounted to \$4,156,648.

POLISHES AND DRESSINGS INDUSTRY

Production of Canadian factories occupied chiefly in the manufacture of polishes, floor wax and similar preparations had a gross selling value of \$8,091,054 in 1945 as against \$7,358,519 the previous year and \$6,382,042 in 1943, according to the annual report on the industry by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. About 65 per cent of the total production was by plants in Ontario and 34 per cent by Quebec plants.

Including small amounts from other industries, the major output of polishes and floor wax during 1945 was as follows: paste floor wax, 7,475,066 pounds valued at \$1,983,653; liquid floor wax and polish, 1,061,943 gallons at \$2,438,905; shoe polishes and dressings, \$1,390,931; furniture polishes \$321,381; auto polishes, \$100,055; stove polishes, \$91,786. Total value of all polishes, including polishing wax, was \$6,516,507 in 1945 compared with \$5,980,066 in 1944.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX
ADVANCED SHARPLY IN MARCH

Due mainly to higher prices of food, clothing and home furnishings, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index moved up 1.7 points during March, rising from 128.9 on March 1 to 130.6 on April 1. At the April 1 level the index stands 3.6 points, or somewhat more than two per cent higher than at the first of the year, and 8.6 points above the level of April 1 last year. The advance since August, 1939, when the index was 100.3, amounts to 29.6 per cent.

About one-half of the increase in the index between March and April 1, was due to higher food prices, the food index mounting from 148.7 to 151.6 as beef, sugar, vegetables and fruits recorded appreciable gains. The twelve-month rise in this index was 16.5 points. Clothing and home furnishings were together responsible for most of the remaining part of the month's advance in the index. Price increases for a broad range of clothing items raised the index for this group from 133.1 to 136.9, while commensurate increases in furniture and home furnishings led a rise in the index for the home furnishings and services group from 133.6 to 137.2.

In contrast with the marked upward movement in these three groups, the miscellaneous index rose slightly from 116.0 to 116.3, when gasoline prices were increased, and the rental, and fuel and light series remained unchanged at 113.4 and 109.1 respectively.

LEATHER FOOTWEAR PRODUCTION IN FEBRUARY

Output of leather footwear in February increased slightly over the preceding month, but like the January production, was below that of the corresponding month last year, being recorded at 3,299,531 pairs as compared with 3,132,186 pairs in January and 3,496,811 pairs in February 1946, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Aggregate production of 6,431,717 pairs for January and February compared with 6,897,248 pairs in the corresponding period last year, the decrease being spread through all classifications.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities of Canada, May 1 (10 cents).
2. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
3. Gold Production, January (10 cents).
4. Production of Leather Footwear, February (10 cents).
5. Monthly Report on Refined Petroleum Products, February (20 cents).
6. Fruit and Vegetable Preparations Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
7. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, March (10 cents).
8. Production of Iron and Steel, March (10 cents).
9. The Farm Implements and Machinery Industry in Canada, 1945 (25 cents).
10. The Polishes and Dressings Industry, 1945 (15 cents).
11. Index Numbers of Cost of Electricity, 1946 (25 cents).
12. Employment Situation, March (10 cents).
13. Advance Report on Fur Farms of Quebec, 1945 (10 cents).
14. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, January (10 cents).
15. Coal and Coke Statistics, January (10 cents).
16. The Lumber Industry in British Columbia, 1945:
 - (a) Operations on the Coast
 - (b) Operations in the Interior, (10 cents).
17. Motor Vehicle Production, March (10 cents).
18. Current Trends in Food Distribution, March (10 cents).
19. Statistical Report on the Operations of the Unemployment Insurance Act, March (10 cents).
20. Production, Shipments and Stocks of Hand of Sawmills, February (10 cents).
21. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
22. Dyeing and Finishing of Textile Goods in Canada, 1945 (15 cents).
23. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, March (10 cents).
24. Statistics of Average Hours Worked and Hourly Earnings At the Beginning of March (10 cents).
25. Primary Iron and Steel, February (10 cents).
26. Mineral Production of Canada, 1944 (detailed report) (\$1.00 a year).
27. Price Movement, April (Preliminary), (10 cents).
28. Sugar Report, March 29 to April 19 (10 cents).
29. Trade of Canada: Imports Entered for Consumption, February (detailed) (25 cents).



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