

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Cost of Living Drops Generally but Some, Especially Service, Costs Remain Very High

The cost of living index of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics fell from 85.9 in December, 1931 to 80.4 in December, 1932, on the base 1926=100. A noteworthy feature was a decline in rentals amounting roughly to 10 per cent. Rentals in Canada advanced from pre-war times until 1931, but recently have shown sharper reductions than other sections of the family budget. Living costs were still approximately 23 per cent above the average levels of 1913.

Cost of living group indexes for December, 1931 and December, 1932, were as follows: Foods 71.2 and 64.0, fuel 93.9 and 89.6, rent 99.3 and 90.0, clothing 76.4 and 70.7, sundries 97.1 and 96.6.

The sundries group, which contains 18 sub-group indexes, is an important factor in living cost calculations, and service costs have been chiefly responsible for its failure to respond to the general decline in prices. In other words service costs have been bearing more heavily upon the people than any other costs.

Several of these service cost indexes are still higher than the 1926 levels. Car fare in December was 106.1, telephones 107.2, amusements 108.0 hospital rates 106.7. Others in the sundries group are still close to the 1926 levels, such as doctor's fees at 99.6, laundry 98.5, medicine 98.0, tobacco 97.7, insurance 96.0, newspapers 98.0, books 99.4, motor car operating costs 93.0, toilet articles 99.0.

Dentists' fees at 97.6, household effects 85.1, furniture at 84.1, cleaning supplies at 88.0 were higher in December than the general cost of living index of 80.4 in December.

The decline of 5.5 points in the general index of December compared with one of 10 points in December, 1931.

Canada Easily First in British Imports of Wheat in 1932

British imports of wheat in the calendar year 1932 totalled 105,627,577 cwt., of which Canada supplied 46,873,559 cwt., Australia 24,159,138, Argentina 20,562,947, United States 4,627,153 and Soviet Russia 3,273,105.

In 1931 the figures were: Russia 28,930,956 cwt., Canada 27,097,560, Australia 23,299,598, Argentina 20,733,799, United States 11,241,671, British India 481,665. In 1932 British India sent none.

Canada First in British Imports of Wheat Flour in 1932

British imports of wheat meal and flour in 1932 totalled 8,516,714 cwt., the chief sources of supply being: Canada 3,971,674, Australia 2,829,641, Argentina 478,606, United States 459,841, France 437,517. Both Canada and Australia increased their supplies over the previous year. The United States supply two years ago was 3,175,752 cwt. and was second only to that of Canada.

Canada First in British Imports of Copper Ore in 1932

British imports of copper ore in 1932, including regulus, matte, precipitate, cement copper and scale, amounted to 29,070 gross tons, of which Canada supplied 12,780 tons, Spain 6,713 and other countries 9,577. Canada's supply in December was 1,360 tons, but none was received from Spain.

Canada First in British Imports of Crude Zinc in 1932

Crude zinc imported by Great Britain in 1932 totalled 87,696 gross tons. Canada supplied more than half of that, or 45,929 tons, Australia 19,948, Belgium 7,461, Germany 3,467, United States 2,356. The British requirements were considerably less than in 1931, when Canada's supply was 63,414 tons, Australia 27,698, United States 11,854 and Germany 16,463.



### Export Clearances of Wheat

Export clearances of wheat during the week ending January 20 were much less than those of the previous week but compared favorably with those of a year ago. The major export movement was from Vancouver. The following were the clearances by ports, the figures in brackets being those of last year:

Week ending January 20: Vancouver 1,674,823 (1,771,842), Montreal 200 (nil), Halifax nil (9,276), West St. John 201,809 (135,153), United States Atlantic Seaboard ports 699,000 (712,000), Total 2,575,832 (2,628,271).

Twenty-five weeks ending January 20: Vancouver 52,956,144 (31,744,094), Montreal 45,166,067 (25,061,238), United States ports 14,001,000 (15,923,000), Sorel 11,073,265 (4,601,722), St. John 2,993,526 (378,984), Churchill 2,736,030 (544,769), Quebec 1,217,904 (88,326), Prince Rupert 677,813 (nil), Victoria 596,121 (nil), Halifax 72,000 (37,215), Total 131,489,870 (78,379,348).

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### Canada Second in British Imports of Hams in 1932

British imports of bacon in 1932 totalled 11,405,932 cwt. (112 lb.). The leading country of origin was Denmark with 7,672,030 cwt., the chief of the others being: Poland 1,142,524, Netherlands 971,567, Sweden 430,248, Irish Free State 199,530, Canada 182,683, United States 63,318.

In the British imports of hams in 1932 the total of which was 803,353 cwt. (112 lb) the United States led with 465,210 cwt. Canada was second with 143,500 cwt.

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### Canada Second in British Imports of Barley in 1932

Canada was in second place in British imports of barley in 1932. Soviet Russia was first with 2,720,383 cwt. (112 lb), Canada 2,442,028, United States 1,591,441.

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### Canada Second in British Imports of Oats in 1932

British imports of oats in 1932 totalled 6,468,027 cwt. (112 lb). The leading country of supply was Argentina with 3,155,658 cwt., Canada 2,476,591, Soviet Russia 112,921.

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### British Imports of Cattle in 1932

No cattle for food were imported by Great Britain/ <sup>from Canada</sup> in December. The total from this country in 1932 was 16,724 animals, as compared with 26,991 in 1931. The number from the Irish Free State in 1932 was 625,906, a decrease of over one hundred thousand.

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### Canada Second in British Cheese Imports in 1932

British imports of cheese in 1932 totalled 3,006,549 cwt. (112 lb) an increase of about 120,000 cwt. New Zealand supplied 1,852,743 cwt, Canada 747,272, Netherlands 169,932, Italy 106,094, Australia 73,534. Both Canada and Australia made gains over 1931 in volume.

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### Canada Third in British Imports of Canned Salmon in 1932

British imports of canned salmon in 1932 totalled 860,851 cwt., the chief supplying countries being: Soviet Russia 397,136, United States 217,190, Canada 143,396. The volume of imports from Russia and the United States increased and from Canada decreased.

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### Canada First in British Imports of Lobster in 1932

British imports of lobster in 1932 totalled 25,377 cwt., of which Canada supplied 23,779 and Newfoundland and the Coast of Labrador 1,131.

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#### British Imports of Tobacco in 1932

British imports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1932 totalled 175,204,136 pounds, the chief sources of supply being: United States 125,290,090, Nyasaland 15,063,602, Canada 10,844,154, Southern Rhodesia 10,452,163, British India 9,188,598.

Nyasaland, Rhodesia and Canada have made heavy gains in this trade and United States has suffered very considerable losses. Two years ago the chief supplies were: United States 197,764,709 pounds, Nyasaland 12,810,101, Rhodesia 3,625,673, Canada 4,040,625. The supply from India has declined from 13,040,807.

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#### Canada Second in British Imports of Sawn Hardwood in 1932

British imports of sawn hardwood in 1932 totalled 26,031,692 cubic feet, of which 13,016,758 went from the United States, 3,966,683 from Canada, 2,165,474 from Poland, 1,281,843 from Japan, 816,605 from British India, 536,703 from Finland and 3,745,038 from other countries. There should also be added 502,588 cubic feet of sawn mahogany.

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#### Canada Second in British Imports of Hewn Hardwood in 1932

British imports of hewn hardwood in 1932 totalled 3,226,887 cubic feet, 1,000,455 being mahogany. Of the other kinds 433,079 cubic feet went from the United States, 352,645 from Canada, 194,198 from Poland, 34,840 from British India and 1,211,670 from other countries.

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#### Canada Second in British Imports of Lead in 1932

British imports of lead, pig and sheet, in 1932 totalled 265,922 gross tons, of which Australia supplied 129,909 tons, Canada 54,877, United States 20,807, Mexico 5,576, Spain 5,201. The supply from Canada in 1931 was 39,139 tons, United States 55,177, Spain 13,930, and Australia 109,907.

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#### Export of Butter in 1932

The export of butter in 1932 amounted to 3,505,700 pounds valued at \$656,364, which was only about one-third of the 1931 export. Domestic production in 1932 was less also. The December export was only 79,400 pounds compared with 285,500 in December, 1931.

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#### Superiority of Canadian Stone

From month to month there appear in the Daily Bulletin references to the Canadian stone industry. To many people the mention of it may not convey very much, but it is of exceeding importance nevertheless, and is destined to grow in strength and greatness. It is giving employment to some thousands of people to whom wages of some four or five millions are given.

All the way from building stone to poultry grit the men of the quarry produce things that we need. There are monumental stone for our dead, ornamental stone for the decoration of our great halls and legislative buildings, marble, granite, limestone and sandstone, stone for road material and mill stone.

Limestone of fine quality we get principally from St. Marc, near Quebec City, near Queenston in the Niagara Peninsula and at Garson, close to Winnipeg. The Queenston stone is a beautiful silver grey, St. Marc is also grey and from the Garson quarries we get the mottled Tyndall limestone which is commonly used as a decorative interior stone, a prominent example of its use for this purpose being the interior of the House of Parliament at Ottawa. Limestone is produced in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan.

The Mines Branch of the Dominion Government intimates that from the limestone deposits of Canada, building stone can be produced which is superior in strength and durability to any limestone imported into the country.

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### Imports of Lumber and Timber in 1932

Imports of lumber and timber in 1932 totalled 42,970 M feet at \$1,926,175 compared with 94,195 M feet at \$4,127,135 in 1931. Most of it came from the United States and consisted largely of woods not indigenous to Canada. The December import was 2,577 M feet at \$116,328, all of it except 10 M feet coming from the U.S. There was a small consignment of Australian blackwood veneer last month valued at \$390.

### Tea Imports Grow and Coffee Imports Decline

Imports of tea in 1932 totalled 40,417,747 pounds compared with 33,115,482 in 1931, an increase of 22 per cent. The larger 1932 importation was valued at \$5,878,277 while the smaller 1931 importation was valued at \$6,478,644.

Imports of chicory and coffee in 1932 amounted to 31,433,805 pounds valued at \$3,955,643 compared with 33,226,638 pounds at \$4,163,273 in 1931, a decline of over 5 per cent.

When it is remembered that a pound of tea goes much further than a pound of coffee in the economics of the kitchen it will be realized that the number of cups of tea absorbed by Canadians is overwhelmingly greater than the number of cups of coffee.

### Raw Sugar Imports by Countries in 1932

Ten times more raw sugar came to Canada in 1932 from British Empire countries than from foreign countries. The amount from the Empire was 614,465,200 pounds and from outside the Empire 60,170,700 pounds. The Empire countries which supplied it were as follows, the figures in brackets being those of 1931: British Guiana 156,652,300 (192,786,400), Barbados 91,251,200 (76,001,000), British East Africa 81,055,200 (84,040,000), Trinidad 78,027,700 (128,297,800), Fiji Islands 75,611,000 (108,275,000), Jamaica 66,678,200 (86,736,900), Australia 33,757,000 (13,928,500), other British West Indies 31,422,600 (43,180,600). From foreign countries: Cuba 43,913,200 (10,773,800), San Domingo 16,257,400 (40,855,300), United States 100 (nil).

### Coal Production in December

Coal production in Canada during December totalled 1,160,355 tons, a decline of 27.1 per cent from the 1927-1931 average for the month of 1,475,336 tons. The December output consisted of 669,746 tons of bituminous coal, 61,590 tons of sub-bituminous coal and 429,019 tons of lignite coal.

Alberta's production amounted to 527,783 tons as compared with 509,432 tons a year ago. Nova Scotia mines produced 330,691 tons, a 12.6 per cent falling-off from the December 1931 total of 378,435 tons. British Columbia's output in December declined 20.2 per cent to 152,905 tons as against 191,681 tons in the corresponding month of 1931. An increase of 14.5 per cent was recorded in Saskatchewan's production in December when 121,256 tons were produced as compared with 105,915 tons in December, 1931. New Brunswick mines produced 26,795 tons during December; a year ago the output was 20,028 tons.

### December Imports of Butter

Imports of butter in December totalled 37,873 pounds valued at \$7,093, compared with 3,422 in November and 1,469 in December, 1931. The largest consignment came from New Zealand, 22,860 pounds. Great Britain sent 8,424 pounds, Australia 5,992 and United States 597. The 1932 imports totalled 238,145 pounds compared with 2,821,317 in 1931.

### Cheese Imports

Cheese imports which were very heavy in November at 222,666 pounds dropped to 74,488 pounds in December, the value being \$19,201. Nine countries supplied it as follows: Italy 21,711 pounds, Switzerland 18,449, United Kingdom 14,508, France 8,392, United States 5,208, Netherlands 4,838, Sweden 1,106, Norway 210, Finland 66.



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