

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Economic Activity in November

Productive operations recorded a further increase in November over the preceding month, the index of the physical volume of business rising 1.3 per cent to 181.3, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The main influence in raising the business index was the advance in manufacturing and in distribution. The index of manufacturing production rose six points in November to 191.5, an increase of 3.2 per cent over the preceding month.

A marked advance was also recorded in the distribution of commodities. The index based upon railway traffic, external and internal trade rose sharply from 168.1 to 183.6. The tons of revenue freight carried by the railways was at a greatly higher point after adjustment for seasonal tendencies. The index of tons carried rose from 135.2 to 161.5. Freight carried in November was estimated at 9,382,000 tons compared with 9,099,000 in the same month of 1945. The index of cars loaded rose from 140.7 in October to 150 in November. The index of wholesale sales in October, the latest month for which statistics are available, rose sharply over the preceding month. After the usual adjustment the index moved up 31 points to 219.6. Merchandise exports were \$235.1 million in November compared with \$206.6 million in the preceding month, the index consequently rising from 174 to 197, a gain of 13.3 per cent.

The situation was adverse in the mining and power industries, while the new business obtained by the construction industry showed a considerable decline from the high level of October. Gold receipts at the Mint were 188,605 fine ounces compared with 247,956 in the preceding month. The production of coal was not greatly changed from October, the total having been 1,574,000 tons against 1,620,000.

The production of wheat flour was slightly greater in November than in the preceding month even after seasonal adjustment. The index for the flour milling industry also showed a minor gain despite the decline in the output of rolled oats. The manufacture of refined sugar showed a marked increase in the latest four-week period. The total was 130.7 million pounds against 74.7 million in the preceding period. A minor increase was shown in the index of tobacco releases. The cigarettes made available were 1,408 million compared with 1,439 million in October, a slight gain having been shown after seasonal adjustment.

Hog slaughterings were greater in November than in any other month since last January and other classes of livestock recorded an increase after seasonal adjustment. The index of slaughterings consequently rose more than ten points to 162.9. The decline in butter and cheese production was less than normal for the season, the index of dairy production rising from 100.2 to 105.7.

The output of boots and shoes rose sharply in October, the latest month for which statistics are available. The productive activity of the textile industry was practically maintained in November despite the reduction in the primary cotton industry. The general index for the textile group receded from 145.1 to 144.5 in the month under review.

The index of production in the forestry industry was higher than in any other month of 1946. The output of newsprint was 364,304 tons against 376,436. The export of wood pulp, planks and shingles showed an increase after seasonal adjustment.

The output of steel ingots and castings rose from 116.5 to 208.0, while that of pig iron production advanced from 132.2 to 205.1. The index for steel production was greater than in any other month since July, while that of pig iron was larger than at any other time since May. The index of iron and steel including the secondary phases of the industry rose from 253 to 265. Coke production was 320,183 tons compared with 271,351 in the preceding month.

Construction contracts awarded were nearly \$45 million in November compared with the high level of \$73.3 million in the preceding month. Even after seasonal adjustment the index showed a considerable decline. Building permits in 58 municipalities were \$16.8 million against \$24.2 million. The decline in the index of building permits was about 18 per cent.

The index of electric power production dropped 0.8 per cent in this comparison.



Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts

Cheques cashed against individual accounts in November amounted to \$6,211,000,000, a considerable decline from the same month of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Heavy payments for the Ninth Victory Loan was the main influence in raising the debits in November, 1945. The total in that month was \$8,581,000,000, the indicated decline in November 1946 having been 27.6 per cent. Declines were shown in each of the five economic areas. Six only of the 33 clearing centres recorded increases in this comparison.

Despite the decline in cheques cashed in November, a slight increase was recorded in the total for the first eleven months over the same period of 1945. The amount was \$63,332,000,000 compared with \$62,300,000,000, an increase of 1.7 per cent. Gains were shown in three of the five economic areas, the exceptions having been Ontario and the Prairie Provinces.

The advance in the Maritime Provinces was 3.4 per cent, the total for the first eleven months of the present year having been \$1,464,000,000. The provincial total for Quebec recorded the greatest absolute gain of any of the five economic areas. The total was \$19,052,000,000 compared with \$17,566,000,000, an increase of 8.5 per cent.

Cheques cashed in Ontario in the first eleven months were greater than in any other area but a decline of 3.2 per cent was shown from the same period of 1945. A minor decrease was recorded in the Prairie Provinces where the total was \$10,152,000,000 compared with \$10,613,000,000, a decrease of 4.3 per cent. The greatest percentage increase was recorded in British Columbia, where a gain of 22 per cent occurred. The total was \$4,885,000,000 against \$4,008,000,000.

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Production of Iron and Steel  
Sharply Higher in November

Accelerating their sharp October upswing, production of steel ingots, castings and of pig iron, rose in November to their highest levels since May last, and was above the output in the corresponding month of 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Production of steel ingots and castings for the month totalled 222,644 tons, being 80 per cent higher than that for October, three times greater than September's total when basic steel plants were strike-bound, and seven per cent in excess of November 1945 when 207,981 tons were produced. Production for the eleven months ended November aggregated 2,097,331 tons as against 2,662,042 tons in the similar period of 1945.

Pig iron production amounted to 135,269 tons, compared with 74,958 in October, and 45,078 tons in September. This output was slightly higher than in November 1945 when 134,651 tons were produced. During the eleven months ended November, 1,242,294 tons were produced as compared with 1,642,733 in the corresponding period of 1945.

November production of ferro-alloys advanced to 9,370 tons from 8,448 tons in October and 6,164 tons in September, but was substantially below November 1945 when 13,360 tons were produced. The eleven-month aggregate was 105,229 tons compared with 171,522 in the like period of 1945.

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Stocks and Marketings of  
Wheat and Coarse Grains

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat were further reduced during the week ending January 2, the total being 149,551,877 bushels as compared with 152,207,980 on December 26, and 183,113,097 bushels on the corresponding date of last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks on the latest date included 144,849,306 bushels in Canadian positions and 4,702,571 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces were lighter during the week ending January 2, totalling 2,219,766 bushels compared with 2,963,042 in the preceding week. Cumulative marketings -- August 1 to January 2 -- moved up, amounting to 235,259,056 bushels compared with 170,937,442 in the similar period of the preceding crop year. Coarse grains were also moved in lighter volume during the week ending January 2.

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### Production of Wheat Flour Reaches New Monthly Peak

Further sharp advance was recorded in the production of wheat flour in November when the output reached 2,518,555 barrels -- the heaviest in Canadian milling history, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Heavy domestic demands coupled with export commitments gave the mills a busy time, the month's output comparing with 2,285,317 barrels a year ago. Flour production for the four months ending November amounted to 9,337,805 barrels against 8,579,136 in the same period of 1945-46.

Reflecting the high level of output, mills reporting November operations had a total milling capacity of 93,235 barrels per 24-hour day and over a 26-day working period in the month, 103.9 per cent of this was effective. Wheat milled into flour during the month amounted to 11,239,067 bushels compared with 10,214,111 in the same month last year, bringing the total for the four months ended November to 41,588,913 bushels compared with 38,214,452 in the same period of the preceding crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains also were milled in November, totals for the same month last year being in brackets: oats, 2,700,088 (2,050,593) bushels; corn, 209,022 (87,433); barley, 1,010,140 (765,989); buckwheat, 15,799 (14,540); mixed grain, 2,453,840 (2,681,825).

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### Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs

Stocks of creamery butter in cold storages and dairy factories on January 1 were recorded at 43,919,807 pounds, showing a seasonal decline of 13,277,387 pounds from December 1, but an advance of 7,700,017 pounds over the amount in storage on January 1, 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks also were 6,758,000 pounds higher than the January 1 average for the five years 1942-46.

January 1 stocks of cheese, at 25,768,722 pounds, were only slightly under December 1, but were 7,973,326 pounds lower than January 1 last year. Holdings of evaporated whole milk also were reduced on January 1, the total being 12,700,131 pounds compared with 18,744,117 pounds on December 1, and 18,422,534 pounds on January 1 last year.

Shell egg stocks were increased on January 1, amounting to 2,445,733 dozen compared with 1,450,644 on December 1, and 1,953,146 a year ago. Frozen egg-meats were reduced, holdings totalling 5,442,787 pounds compared with 6,877,264 pounds on December 1, and 8,679,286 on January 1, 1946.

Stocks of poultry meat were substantially higher on January 1, the total being 30,398,570 pounds compared with 25,972,324 pounds on December 1, and 16,318,720 on the corresponding date of last year.

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### Farm Prices of Agricultural Products

Prices received by Canadian farmers for agricultural products at November 15 averaged higher than at the corresponding date in 1945, according to information received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The index number of prices received for all products, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 182.9, an increase of 6.1 points over November 1945, and a rise of three-tenths of a point over October.

By provinces, considerable variation exists in comparison with November 1945. The index numbers for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia are lower than in November 1945, due principally to marked declines in prices received for potatoes, fruits and vegetables.

The index numbers for Quebec, Ontario and the three Prairie Provinces registered substantial increases, higher prices for livestock and dairy products being chiefly responsible. Grain prices are holding, generally, at levels similar to those prevailing in 1945, with fairly minor price decreases in the Prairie Provinces, due chiefly to the lower quality of the 1946 western crop, being largely offset by somewhat higher grain prices in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.

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### Sales of Electric Storage Batteries

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers were valued at \$1,032,000 in November, bringing the total for the eleven months of 1946 to \$8,964,000, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. October sales were valued at \$1,060,000.

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Cost-of-Living Index for December

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 127.1 for December 2, 1946, unchanged from November, but seven points higher than that recorded for December, 1945. The advance in the index from August 1939 to December 2, 1946, has been 26.1 per cent.

Lower prices for eggs and some vegetables were chiefly responsible for a fractional decrease in the food index from 146.6 in November to 146.4. Small increases in several other groups balanced the loss in foods.

Fuel and light advanced from 108.6 in November to 109.2 with scattered increases occurring in western coal prices. Clothing changed from 131.1 to 131.2, and homefurnishings and services from 129.2 to 129.4. The miscellaneous group remained at 114.1, and rentals at 113.4.

December Wholesale Price Movements

Composite index of Canadian farm product wholesale prices rose 0.2 points to 113.5 between the weeks of November 29 and December 27, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Over the past year it has advanced 3.7 per cent. December changes among groups were small. The index of 30 industrial material prices rose 0.5 points to 106.3 between the weeks of November 29 and December 27, supported mainly by higher quotations for food materials. The manufacturing materials series index, at 91.1 as the month closed, recorded a net gain of 0.3 points.

Apparent Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages

Apparent consumption in Canada of alcoholic beverages was heavier during the fiscal year ended March 1946 than in the preceding year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Estimated consumption of spirituous liquor during the 12 months ended March 1946 was 5,864,000 proof gallons compared with 3,720,000 in 1945, of beer 130,086,000 gallons compared with 110,224,000, and of native and imported wine, 4,576,000 gallons compared with 3,712,000.

Production of proof spirits during the 12 months ended March 1946 was 34,625,339 proof gallons compared with 35,555,059 in the preceding year, and of beer 138,941,170 gallons compared with 122,530,269. Production of fermented wine in 1944 -- the latest year for which statistics are available -- amounted to 4,213,550 gallons compared with 3,449,726 in 1943, while the amount bottled or sold in bulk was 3,735,095 gallons compared with 3,500,525.

Imports of proof spirits advanced from 1,043,709 in the fiscal year ended March 1945 to 1,775,935, and wine from 303,153 to 595,732; imports of beer, on the other hand, fell from 76,225 to 26,550 gallons. Exports of Canadian-made spirits rose from 3,129,788 proof gallons in the fiscal year 1945 to 4,810,848; exports of beer fell from 5,968,602 gallons to 4,567,667; and wine exports showed comparatively little change at 51,913 gallons compared with 51,167 in 1945.

Excise taxes and import duties, validation fees and licences on spirits collected by the Dominion Government during the fiscal year ended March 1946 aggregated \$70,399,161 compared with \$44,607,200 in the preceding year. Excise duties rose from \$31,576,776 to \$47,766,498, and import duties from \$12,390,526 to \$21,584,538. Excise and import duty revenues and licence fees on malt and malt products rose from \$42,507,254 in 1945 to \$48,228,671. On wines, excise taxes and import duties moved up from \$2,012,112 to \$2,607,232.

Brewing Industry of Canada in 1945

Output of the brewing industry of Canada in 1945 had a factory selling value of \$158,875,000, an increase of \$20,655,000 over the preceding year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sales tax and other excise taxes and duties paid to the Dominion and provincial governments totalled \$65,002,000 against \$55,729,000 in 1944, and the net value of products was \$93,873,000 as against \$82,492,000.

Beer, ale, stout and porter were the main items of production with a total of 128,910,000 gallons valued at \$157,568,000 in 1945 compared with 113,396,000 gallons valued at \$136,673,000 in 1944. Other products manufactured were: aerated beverages, \$602,000; wet and dried grain, \$520,000; and yeast, \$103,000.

### Producers' Sales of Radio Receiving Sets

Showing a moderate advance over preceding months, sales of radio receiving sets by Canadian producers during October totalled 46,105 units, bringing sales for the ten months ending October to 422,293 units valued at \$20,208,497, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Exports in the ten months were 12,075 units, with a value of \$356,152, while imports were more than double that number at 27,283 units valued at \$984,451.

Electric standard-broadcast table models accounted for more than half of the ten months' sales with 219,756 units. Sales of electric short-wave models totalled 69,081 units; combinations, standard and short-wave, 31,735 units; battery models of all kinds, 32,946; and portable sets, 18,775 units, of which 15,507 were for automobile use.

Imports during the ten months were almost entirely from the United States, slightly more than half being tourist purchases. South Africa was the leading single market for the 12,075 units exported, taking 5,097 of the total, and shipments to Latin American countries aggregated slightly more than 5,500 units.

### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Loadings of railway revenue freight for the 52 weeks in 1946 at 3,681,699 cars were higher than for any of the war years and exceeded the 1945 total by 1.8 per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Loadings for the Christmas week followed the usual trend and declined to 48,205 cars from 73,367 cars for the preceding week. The week's total, however, was 14 per cent higher than that recorded for the corresponding period of last year.

Increases in grain, grain products, coal, lumber, gasoline, petroleum products, automobiles, trucks and parts, and merchandise were the main factors in the increase over the corresponding week of last year.

### Births, Deaths and Marriages in 1945

Live births in Canada in 1945 totalled 288,450, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, as compared with 284,220 in 1944, and 223,423 in 1943. The birth rate per thousand population was 23.8 both for 1944 and 1945, but showed a slight drop from the high point in 1943. During the five years, 1941-45, the rate averaged 23.5, a rise of 14.6 per cent over the average for 1936-40, which was 20.5.

Compared with 1944, lower birth rates were registered in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia, while that for Ontario was unchanged; increases were recorded in the remaining provinces. Rates averaged higher for all provinces during the five years 1941-45 than in 1936-40. Provincial rates for 1945 follow, 1944 figures being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 24.5 (25.1); Nova Scotia, 25.0 (25.5); New Brunswick, 29.2 (29.1); Quebec, 29.3 (29.2); Ontario, 19.7 (19.7); Manitoba, 22.1 (21.9); Saskatchewan, 22.4 (21.4); Alberta, 24.0 (23.7); British Columbia, 19.9 (20.4).

Deaths from all causes and at all ages showed a further decline in 1945, the total being 113,142 compared with 116,052 in 1944, and 118,531 in 1943. Reflecting the decrease, the general mortality rate -- per thousand population -- fell from 9.7 in 1944 to 9.3 in 1945; in 1941-45 the death rate averaged 9.8. Rates were lower in 1945 than in the preceding year in all provinces except Saskatchewan and Alberta, the former being unchanged and the latter only slightly higher.

Deaths of children under one year of age numbered 14,775 in 1945 compared with 15,539 in the preceding year, and the rate fell from 55 per thousand live births in 1944 to a new annual low of 51 in 1945. In 1936-40 the infant mortality rate averaged 64 per thousand live births, and in 1931-35 it was 75. Further improvement was also shown in maternal mortality in 1945, when the rate per thousand live births fell from 2.7 in 1944 to 2.3. The rate for 1945 was the lowest annual figure so far recorded and shows a decrease of 50 per cent from the 1936-40 average rate of 4.5 per thousand live births.

Marriages increased from 101,496 in 1944 to 108,035 in 1945, and the rate per thousand population increased from 8.5 to 8.9. The average marriage rate for the five years 1941-45 was 9.7 compared with 8.7 in 1936-40.



Traffic on Electric Railways and Motor Buses

More passengers were carried by electric railways and motor bus companies in August than in the corresponding month of 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In urban service, 117,783,969 passengers were carried compared with 117,376,511 in August 1945, and in interurban service, 9,461,822 compared with 8,523,080. Urban traffic was lower in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec, but higher in all other provinces, while interurban traffic was higher in all provinces except Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Alberta.

Loadings of Railway Revenue Freight

Revenue freight loaded at stations in Canada and received from foreign connections during September, at 12,587,125 tons, showed an upward trend both over the preceding month and the same month of 1945, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase over August was 8.3 per cent and over September last year, 7.7 per cent. The increase in tonnage resulted from heavier shipments of mine and forest products, including coal, iron ore, sand and gravel, stone, logs, pulpwood and lumber. Grain tonnage was down 21 per cent from September, 1945. Cumulative total for the nine months ended September was 100,357,416 tons, a decrease of 11,001,542 tons from the corresponding period of 1945.

Production of Asphalt Roofing in November

Production of asphalt shingles and rolled roofing was further increased in November, amounting to 492,793 squares as compared with 341,659 in the corresponding month of 1945, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output for the eleven months of 1946 aggregated 4,568,141 squares compared with 3,544,466 in the similar period of 1945. Production of tar and asphalt felts and sheathing in November amounted to 3,789 tons compared with 4,214 tons, and a cumulative total of 47,824 tons compared with 39,272 tons.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Price Movements, December (10 cents).
2. Traffic Report of Railways, September (10 cents).
3. Transit Report, August (10 cents).
4. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
5. Canadian Milling Statistics, November (10 cents).
6. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
7. Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities of Canada, January 1 (10 cents).
8. Radio Receiving Sets, October (10 cents).
9. Prices and Price Indexes, November (10 cents).
10. Cheques Cashed and Money Supply, November (10 cents).
11. Births, Deaths and Marriages, October (10 cents).
12. Preliminary Annual Report Vital Statistics, 1945 (25 cents).
13. Production of Iron and Steel, November (10 cents).
14. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
15. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products (10 cents).
16. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, January 1 (10 cents).
17. Production and Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing, November (10 cents).
18. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, October (10 cents).
19. Copper and Nickel Production, October (10 cents).
20. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, November (10 cents).
21. Brewing Industry, Canada, 1945 (25 cents).
22. Control and Sale of Liquor (50 cents).



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