

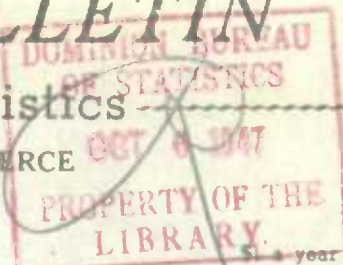


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CANADA'S MERCHANDISE EXPORTS IN AUGUST

Merchandise export trade of Canada in August was valued at \$221,300,000, showing a decline of 6.5 per cent from the July total of \$236,600,000, and a decrease of 9.9 per cent from the August 1946 figure of \$242,700,000 when exports reached a high point for the year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate value for the first eight months of this year was \$1,786,300,000, an increase of 16.4 per cent over last year's corresponding total of \$1,494,200,000.

Exports to countries of the British Empire during August were valued at \$100,340,000, a decrease of about five per cent from last year's August total of \$105,653,000. Eight-month aggregate at \$756,834,000, however, was 31 per cent ahead of last year's corresponding total of \$577,143,000. August exports to foreign countries were valued at \$120,957,000 compared with \$137,032,000 a year ago, a decline of 12 per cent, while the total for the eight-month period was \$1,029,526,000 compared with \$917,022,000 in the like period of 1946, an increase of 12 per cent.

Exports to the United States in August rose to \$81,403,000 from \$74,961,000 a year ago, bringing the eight-month total to \$645,521,000 as against \$546,161,000. Shipments to the United Kingdom during the month declined to \$66,044,000 from \$71,582,000 in August 1946, the total for the cumulative period being substantially higher at \$488,127,000 as against \$378,339,000 in the similar period of 1946. Exports to the Union of South Africa were also lower in August, amounting to \$3,061,000 against \$9,732,000, but the eight-month total remained at a higher level -- \$48,213,000 compared with \$42,333,000.

Exports to Eire moved up sharply in August, amounting to \$2,875,000 compared with \$361,000 a year ago, while shipments to Newfoundland were moderately reduced to \$4,031,000 against \$4,367,000. Exports to India in the month were valued at \$4,763,000, up sharply from last year's total of \$2,158,000. Shipments to Australia fell off to \$4,723,000 from \$5,056,000, while exports to New Zealand showed marked expansion to \$5,630,000 from \$1,358,000.

Exports to Continental Europe were reduced in August, the value being \$26,263,000 compared with \$40,967,000 a year ago. Shipments to Belgium fell from \$10,812,000 to \$4,045,000, Italy from \$3,735,000 to \$1,059,000, Norway from \$2,520,000 to \$1,323,000, Poland from \$3,491,000 to \$764,000, and Switzerland from \$1,863,000 to \$769,000. Exports to France rose from \$8,408,000 to \$8,962,000, and Netherlands from \$3,602,000 to \$4,126,000.

Exports to Latin American countries during August were valued at \$8,735,000 compared with \$9,033,000 a year ago, the eight-month total standing at \$82,060,000 as against \$57,663,000. The month's exports to Argentina were valued at \$2,598,000 compared with \$1,584,000, Brazil \$1,199,000 compared with \$2,773,000, Cuba \$982,000 compared with \$337,000, and Venezuela \$850,000 compared with \$820,000.

Trends were mixed among the nine main commodity groups, three showing increases and the remaining six, decreases. Largest gain was shown by the wood, wood products and paper group, with more moderate increases in agricultural and vegetable products and non-metallic minerals; while greatest decreases were recorded for animals and animal products, iron and products and non-ferrous metals.

The wood, wood products and paper group rose from \$59,040,000 to \$75,796,000, due in the main to advances in newsprint paper, planks and boards, pulpwood, and wood pulp. Among the agricultural products, which rose in total from \$42,697,000 to \$49,349,000, there were increases in wheat, wheat flour, sugar and products, and rubber and products, but decreases in other grains and alcoholic beverages.

The animal products group total fell sharply from \$41,623,000 to \$26,167,000, most of the principal commodities showing decreases. In the fibres and textiles group, which fell from \$4,963,000 to \$4,134,000, there were decreases in wool and products, and flax, hemp and jute, but increases in cotton, artificial silk and miscellaneous textiles.

The iron and products group fell from \$30,954,000 last year to \$20,833,000, locomotives and parts, automobiles and parts, and railway cars and parts accounting for a major part of the decrease. Farm implements and machinery, and other machinery were among the larger increases. Due mainly to reduced exports of aluminum, nickel, precious metals (except gold), and electrical apparatus, the non-ferrous metals group total fell from \$36,345,000 to \$25,589,000. Within this group, exports of copper, lead and zinc moved higher.

The non-metallic minerals group rose from \$5,836,000 to \$6,145,000. Chemicals fell from \$6,605,000 to \$6,025,000, and miscellaneous commodities from \$14,422,000 to \$7,260,000, the large decrease in the latter group being in gifts and donations which dropped from \$6,277,000 to \$880,000.

CANADA'S POPULATION NOW
EXCEEDS 12 1/2 MILLION

Canada's population now exceeds 12½ million. At June 1 this year it reached 12,582,000 as compared with 12,307,000 on June 1 last year, according to the annual estimate by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The gain of 275,000 over the 1946 estimate was the largest numerical increase for a year since Confederation. Rise in the population since the last Dominion-wide census was taken in 1941 was 1,075,000, or more than nine per cent.

Higher figures were shown in the estimates of every province in 1947 compared with 1946 with the exception of Prince Edward Island. Population of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia made the largest absolute gains over 1946. Ontario's population rose 88,000, that of Quebec 82,000, and British Columbia's 41,000. Alberta showed a gain of 19,000, Manitoba an increase of 16,000, and Saskatchewan an increase of 9,000. New Brunswick's population rose 11,000, and that of Nova Scotia by 9,000.

Estimated population in 1947 was as follows by provinces, totals for the preceding year being in brackets: Prince Edward Island 94,000 (94,000); Nova Scotia, 621,000 (612,000); New Brunswick, 491,000 (480,000); Quebec, 3,712,000 (3,630,000); Ontario, 4,189,000 (4,101,000); Manitoba, 743,000 (727,000); Saskatchewan, 842,000 (833,000); Alberta, 822,000 (803,000); British Columbia, 1,044,000 (1,003,000). Estimates for the Yukon and Northwest Territories were 8,000 and 16,000, respectively.

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
REACH POST-WAR LOW IN AUGUST

Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefits totalling 17,281 were filed in local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission during August, the lowest number in any month since July 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This indicates that the number of insured persons becoming unemployed in a period has reached a new post-war low point.

The number of ordinary claims on the live unemployment register at the end of August was 37,350 as against 41,877 at July 31, and 61,822 at August 31, 1946. This is the smallest number at any time since August 31, 1945. In addition to the ordinary claimants, there were 1,720 short-time and casual claimants on the register at August 30 compared with 1,328 at July 31. During August, 21,348 claims were adjudicated by insurance officers, of which 14,759 were considered entitled to benefit and 6,589 not entitled to benefit.

A total of 42,756 persons received benefit payments in August aggregating \$1,515,868 for 791,850 compensated unemployed days compared with 51,270 persons paid \$1,956,722 for 1,018,204 days in July and 73,138 persons paid \$2,861,278 for 1,448,399 days during August 1946. Thus, the average duration of the unemployment compensated was 18.5 days in August, 19.9 days in July and 19.8 days in August last year. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$35.45 in August, \$38.17 in July and \$39.12 during August 1946. The average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$1.91 in August, \$1.92 in July and \$1.98 in August last year.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT
AND PAYROLLS FOR 1946

Employment in Canada as a whole was maintained during 1946 at a relatively high level although there was some falling off from the wartime peak, according to the annual review of employment and payrolls by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The situation was greatly affected, directly and indirectly, by industrial disputes, which involved many workers for lengthy periods. Scarcity of materials, and in some cases, shortages of skilled labour, continued seriously to hamper reconversion and other activities in certain industries and areas. On the other hand, the pent-up demand for commodities and services at home and abroad constituted a decidedly buoyant influence to counteract the unfavourable effects of slow-downs due to reconversion operations, strikes and shortages of essential materials. As a result of these various factors, the general level of unemployment showed comparatively little change from month to month from the opening of the year until the summer.

During the period, January 1 to August 1, the monthly indexes of employment were uniformly lower than in the same part of 1945, there being an average decline of 4.2 per cent in the index during these months. In the latter part of 1946, this situation was reversed, and the indexes for the period, September 1 to December 1, averaged 5.2 per cent higher than in the corresponding months of 1945. On the whole, however, the annual index in the eight leading industries showed a falling off of 1.1 per cent from 1945; the loss from 1944 amounted to 5.4 per cent, while as compared with the all-time high in 1943, there was a decline of 5.9 per cent. The level of activity in 1946 nevertheless continued substantially higher than in pre-war years, there being an increase of some 52 per cent over the 1939 index.

The firms participating in the surveys of employment and payrolls during 1946 reported the disbursement of an average of \$57,409,624 in weekly salaries and wages in the eight leading industrial divisions. This would indicate an annual payroll of some \$2,985,300,000 distributed by the co-operating establishments. The firms furnishing data in 1945 had paid a weekly average of \$57,178,954 to their staffs. When adjustment is made for the increase in the number of reporting firms in the year under review, there was a decrease of 0.1 per cent in the disbursements. Based on the June 1, 1941, payrolls as 100 per cent, the index was 142.4 in 1946, as compared with 142.6 in 1945. The highest annual figure in the record of about 6½ years was that of 148.2 in 1944.

A feature of the situation in the first complete post-war year was the marked revival of activity in the non-manufacturing industries, which taken as a whole, had been adversely affected by wartime labour and material shortages. Thus a composite index for the reporting non-manufacturing classes shows an increase of 10.1 per cent in 1946 over 1945, while that in the manufacturing division declined in the same comparison by 8.5 per cent.

Within the manufacturing group, there was a small fractional decline in recorded employment in the production of non-durable manufactured goods, together with a loss of 17 per cent in plants turning out durable manufactured goods. While reconversion to peace-time production in the latter category was obviously a cause of greater dislocation than in the light manufactured goods division, it is also noteworthy that labour-management disagreements in the lumber and metal industries accounted for 53.5 per cent of the all-industries' total of working days lost through disputes during 1946; striking workers in these two branches of the heavy manufactured goods industries made up over 41 per cent of all persons directly involved in industrial disputes in the year under review.

Among the non-manufacturing industries, the most significant increase reported over 1945 was that of 18.8 per cent in construction; in building, the gain amounted to 43 per cent. Logging, mining, communications, transportation, trade, finance, and the service industries for which data are available (mainly hotels and restaurants and laundries and dry-cleaning establishments) showed generally heightened activity as compared with 1945 and immediately preceding years.

The events of the year under review had an adverse effect upon the employment of women. In 1945, statistics on sex distribution were collected semi-annually, at April 1 and October 1, while from January, 1946, the record was established on a monthly basis. A comparison of the situation at October 1 in the two years shows at that date in 1946 an increase of about 8.7 per cent in recorded employment for men, accompanied by a decline of a little more than three per cent among women workers in the covered industries. The general index at October 1, 1946, was higher by 5.6 per cent than that indicated 12 months earlier.

FRUIT CROP PROSPECTS LITTLE CHANGED SINCE AUGUST

September estimates of Canada's tree fruits and grape crops, released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, are for the most part little changed from the August estimates a month earlier.

The apple crop is estimated at 15,621,000 bushels compared with the August estimate of 15,702,000 bushels. This is 19 per cent smaller than the record harvest last year of 19,232,000 bushels but 16 per cent greater than the ten-year 1936-45 average of 13,413,000 bushels. An increase of four per cent since August brings the Nova Scotia crop to 3,603,000 bushels, which is 40 per cent smaller than the 1946 harvest of 6,020,000 bushels. The estimate for British Columbia shows a decrease of three per cent and brings production to 7,623,000 bushels, which is 23 per cent below the record 1946 harvest of 9,892,000 bushels, but still well above the ten-year 1936-45 average of 5,773,000 bushels.

As the result of a much brighter outlook in Ontario, pear prospects have improved five per cent, bringing the current estimate to 365,000 bushels. In Nova Scotia the figure still stands at 30,000 bushels or the same as in 1946. In Ontario the crop is now set at 339,000 bushels, which is 21 per cent above the August estimate and 26 per cent over the 1946 crop of 269,000 bushels. A slight decrease in the outlook for the British Columbia crop brings the estimated harvest to 590,000 bushels, 8,000 bushels less than that of a month ago and nine per cent below the 1946 level of 652,000 bushels.

Production of plums and prunes is now set at 732,000 bushels or one per cent above the prospective production in August. The outlook in Nova Scotia remains unchanged at 12,000 bushels, while a four per cent increase in the prospects for the Ontario crop brings the estimate for that province to 237,000 bushels. Plum and prune production in British Columbia remains unchanged from a month ago at 483,000 bushels. The current crop is slightly smaller than that of a year ago when production was estimated at 495,000 bushels.

A sharp decline in the anticipated peach harvest as a result of unfavourable conditions in Ontario, reduces the current estimate to 1,720,000 bushels as compared with the August estimate of 1,964,000 bushels. Production last season was placed at 2,145,000 bushels. There is a decrease of 20 per cent a month ago in the expected harvest in Ontario as the result of serious losses from oriental peach moth and brown rot, the crop being now set at 959,000 bushels compared with the August estimate of 1,195,000 bushels. Production a year ago was estimated at 1,476,000 bushels. In British Columbia the estimate remains unchanged at 769,000 bushels, the crop being 15 per cent larger than that of last season when production was estimated at 669,000 bushels.

There has been no change in the anticipated harvest of grapes in Ontario or British Columbia since August and the estimate still stands at 74,223,000 pounds. This season's crop is 10 per cent greater than that of 1946 when production was estimated at 67,321,000 pounds. The great bulk of the grape crop is produced in Ontario, where the estimate stands at 71,460,000 pounds or 10 per cent above the 1946 level. The British Columbia yield is currently estimated at 2,763,000 pounds, while production last season amounted to 2,195,000 pounds.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store showed a further sharp rise during the week ending September 18, the total standing at 103,479,556 bushels, an increase of 16,737,517 bushels over the total for September 11, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible on the corresponding date last year was 97,229,224 bushels.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending September 18 amounted to 22,453,066 bushels, compared with 32,953,141 in the preceding week. Total for the first seven weeks of the current crop year was 10,143,756 bushels, compared with 34,844,177 in the similar period of the crop year 1945-46.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending September 18, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 3,385,779 (3,782,214) bushels; barley, 4,379,971 (5,333,971); rye, 775,034 (1,773,683); flaxseed, 581,146 (562,869).

STOCKS OF BUTTER, CHEESE
AND EGGS ON OCTOBER 1

Stocks of creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada on October 1 amounted to 49,555,034 pounds compared with 45,477,216 on September 1, and 43,731,856 on October 1 last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. October 1 stocks of cheese were 29,942,119 pounds compared with 32,076,525 on September 1, and 23,083,443 a year ago. Cold storage eggs were 6,223,661 dozen compared with 9,833,319 on September 1, and 4,534,786 on October 1 last year.

Creamery butter stocks on October 1 were as follows by cities, totals for October 1 last year, being in brackets: Quebec, 4,767,380 (4,720,939) pounds; Montreal, 18,789,413 (18,950,368); Toronto, 5,078,498 (5,594,392); Winnipeg, 9,632,722 (6,955,783); Regina, 616,786 (413,374); Saskatoon, 223,073 (241,162); Edmonton, 3,456,926 (1,804,273); Calgary, 1,968,161 (1,298,484); Vancouver, 4,975,012 (3,753,381).

WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTION
UP SUBSTANTIALLY IN AUGUST

Wheat flour production in August -- the opening month of the new crop year -- was substantially higher than in the corresponding month last year, amounting to 2,412,394 barrels compared with 2,158,627, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Over a period of years August has ceased to be a low production month, and in the last four years output has gone over the two million barrel mark.

Total wheat milled into flour during the month was 10,950,530 bushels against 9,564,908 in the same month last year. Following quantities of coarse grains were also ground during the month, totals for August 1946 being in brackets: oats, 2,266,393 (2,229,005) bushels; corn, 164,976 (138,886); barley, 344,173 (769,723); buckwheat, 750 (750); mixed grain, 1,322,035 (1,576,209).

JULY SALES OF FLUID MILK AND CREAM

Sales of fluid milk and cream in July amounted to approximately 355,000,000 pounds, a decrease of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent below those of July 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Of this year's July sales, milk amounted to 236,000,000 pounds or 31 per cent, while cream sales amounted to 67,000,000 pounds or 19 per cent. Compared with July last year milk sales declined eight per cent, while cream sales (milk equivalent) advanced nearly 25 per cent.

Fluid sales in forty urban markets for which the Bureau has figures amounted to 150,000,000 pounds or 58,137,000 quarts, a decrease of eight per cent from July last year while sales of cream in the same centres advanced $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Among the forty urban markets, sales of fluid milk in July decreased for the most part when compared with the same month last year, a notable exception being Chicoutimi which increased its sales by 10 per cent. Sales of fluid cream in the same markets showed wide variations when compared with a year ago; Sydney increased by 162.2 per cent, Chicoutimi 120.1 per cent, Sherbrooke 75.6 per cent, and Charlottetown 47 per cent, while Fort William and Port Arthur showed decreases of 22.7 per cent and Three Rivers 13.7 per cent.

PRODUCTION OF SAWN
LUMBER IN JULY

Canadian production of sawn lumber, excluding sawn ties, amounted to 612,362 M feet board measure in July as compared with 550,058 M in the preceding month, and 575,440 M in the corresponding month last year, according to estimates released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first seven months of this year, 3,033,054 M feet were produced compared with 2,766,026 M in the similar period of 1946, an advance of almost 10 per cent.

Production during July was as follows by provinces in M feet, totals for the same month last year being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 1,371 (994); Nova Scotia, 32,366 (33,771); New Brunswick, 39,942 (41,036); Quebec, 204,846 (189,830); Ontario, 123,599 (100,233); Manitoba, 8,446 (8,406); Saskatchewan, 3,705 (5,156); Alberta, 12,879 (11,204); British Columbia, 135,213 (124,630).

CHEQUES CASHED AGAINST INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS

Cheques cashed against individual accounts in August amounted to \$5,236,326,000, an increase of 7.6 per cent over the \$4,866,540,000 for the same month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Twenty-eight of the 33 clearing centres showed advances, and each of the five economic areas rose to higher levels, with British Columbia showing the greatest percentage gain.

With the exception of Toronto and Ottawa, all clearing houses recorded advances for the first eight months of 1947, and the Dominion total of \$47,769,640,000 increased 6.4 per cent over the \$44,897,870,000 registered for the similar period last year.

Totals for August by economic areas were as follows, with those for the same month last year in brackets: Maritime Provinces, \$123,922,000 (\$123,407,000); Quebec, \$1,546,635,000 (\$1,525,362,000); Ontario, \$2,074,716,000 (\$2,020,122,000); Prairie Provinces, \$947,152,000 (\$801,660,000); British Columbia, \$538,901,000 (\$390,922,000).

SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES IN AUGUST

Sales of new motor vehicles in August declined 18 per cent to 16,578 units valued at \$30,306,005 from the July figure of 20,145 units for \$35,352,307, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sales for the first eight months of this year amounted to 138,342 units valued at \$241,198,728 compared with 68,930 units which retailed at \$104,779,236 in the corresponding period last year.

Passenger cars sales for August amounted to 11,767 units for a retail value of \$21,122,052 compared with 14,620 units for \$25,151,437 for the previous month, and 5,551 units valued at \$8,524,311 for August last year. Sales of trucks and buses also decreased, the total for August being 4,811 units valued at \$9,184,753 compared with 5,525 for \$10,200,870 for July, and 3,540 for \$5,923,026 for August, 1946.

Passenger car sales for the eight months ending August amounted to 95,915 having a retail value of \$163,531,626, and was more than double the 41,733 passenger cars sold for \$59,490,140 in the corresponding period of 1946. Sales of trucks and buses in the same period amounted to 42,427 which sold for \$77,667,102 compared with 27,247 for \$45,289,086 for the same period last year.

FINANCING OF MOTOR VEHICLE SALES IN AUGUST

Financing of motor vehicle sales during August declined slightly from July, but remained well above last year's August volume with increases amounting to 67 per cent for new vehicles and 214 per cent for used vehicles, according to the monthly report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

August totals show 2,040 new passenger vehicles financed for \$2,471,557 and 1,512 new commercial vehicles for \$2,624,291. New passenger car financing, the Bureau observes, has shown greater expansion during 1947 than has the financing of new commercial vehicles, and this trend was maintained through August when new passenger car financing was 107 per cent above the volume for August last year as compared with a gain of 32 per cent for new trucks and buses. On the other hand, there was an increase in the number of new commercial units financed in August as compared with July, while passenger car financing declined between these two months.

Financing of used vehicles decreased moderately in August from July, but continued the earlier large increases over 1946. During the month there were 5,169 used passenger cars financed for \$2,839,979, representing increases of 273 per cent in number and 497 per cent in financed value in comparison with August last year. The increases for used commercial vehicles were less substantial, although the volume was almost twice as great as a year ago, amounting to 1,327 units with a financed value of \$1,128,426, the gains over last year running to 84 and 99 per cent, respectively.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AT CANADIAN
BORDER POINTS IN AUGUST

International automobile traffic across the Canada-United States boundary in August surpassed the previous peak established in July with a total of nearly 1,350,000 vehicles passing through custom ports compared with 1,060,000 in August 1946, and 1,235,000 in the preceding month of the current year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Particularly warm weather and very little rain gave an impetus to tourist travel from the United States to Canada during the month. In addition, annual exhibitions and fairs at Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver and elsewhere again made their appearance after the wartime suspension and attracted many visitors. Entries for the Labour Day week-end were of record proportions. The immense volume of August traffic included 1,070,000 cars of foreign registration and 277,000 Canadian vehicles returning from the United States. Foreign entries represented 643,812 non-permit or local traffic cars, 409,433 entering on tourist permits -- an all-time peak -- and 17,204 United States commercial vehicles.

Confirming the experience that August normally brings the heaviest influx of motoring tourists, the all-important tourist permit class of foreign visitor compiled a new record total of 409,433 car entries during the month, a 23 per cent increase over the same month of last year and 46,800 cars or 13 per cent above the previous high in July of this year. During the first eight months of this year a total of 1,233,000 tourist cars entered Canada, an increase of 13 per cent over the corresponding period of 1946.

Canadian cars returning after stays of more than 24 hours in the United States totalled 40,000 compared with 29,652 in August last year. Similarly, cars returning from short visits of less than 24 hours amounted to 220,000, a gain of 25 per cent over the same month of 1946.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The general index number of wholesale prices, on the base 1926=100, was 130.8 in August, an increase of 1.7 points over the July level of 129.1, and 21.5 points over August 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. All but one of the eight sub-groups -- chemical products -- showed increases over the July figures. Principal increases were registered in the non-metallic minerals and animal products group, and were accounted for by the advances in the prices of coal, salt, milk, milk products and eggs.

Sub-group indexes for August were as follows, with the figures for the previous month in brackets: vegetable products, 115.0 (113.5); animal products, 131.6 (129.4); textile products, 134.1 (132.2); wood products, 165.3 (165.0); iron products, 136.8 (135.0); non-ferrous metals, 133.0 (132.5); non-metallic minerals, 117.3 (114.4); chemical products, 110.4 (110.8).

WEEKLY SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

The following are security price indexes of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the week ending September 25, 1947, a week and month earlier:

	<u>September 25</u>	<u>September 18</u>	<u>August 28</u>
	(Base, 1935-1939=100)		
<u>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</u>			
(100 Common Stocks)	102.8	104.7	105.0
74 Industrials	95.9	97.7	98.3
18 Utilities	115.0	117.7	116.2
8 Banks	127.4	129.2	129.7
<u>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</u>			
(27 Stocks)	87.7	88.3	89.0
23 Golds	79.8	81.0	79.7
4 Base Metals	101.1	102.0	105.2

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES IN AUGUST

Department store sales in August were four per cent higher than in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This gain was smaller than those recorded in previous months of the year, and far short of the cumulative gain of 14 per cent for the first eight months of 1947. Trading in August a year ago was exceptionally high, the Bureau points out, which may account for the moderate gain for August this year. Unadjusted indexes, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 205.0 for August as compared with 197.2 for August, 1946 and 189.4 for July this year.

August increases in western Canada surpassed those in eastern parts of the country and remained close to the margin of increase prevailing in earlier months of the year, sales in the Prairie Provinces advancing 12 per cent and in British Columbia 10 per cent. Sales in Quebec advanced two per cent, while small decreases were registered in Ontario and the Maritimes.

Increases over a year ago for the various departments were confined to food and home equipment departments, while decreases were registered in most others. In comparison, increases were noted in July for all departments but hosiery and gloves. A decline of 11 per cent in women's apparel was the sharpest reduction recorded, while radio and music departments, which have heretofore shown extensive sales gains, fell off nine per cent compared with August last year.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

Registration of births during the month of July in cities, towns and villages having a population of 10,000 or over increased 12 per cent to 15,833 over July 1946 figure of 14,134, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Deaths totalled 4,341 as against 4,955, a decrease of two per cent, while marriages increased one per cent from 7,575 to 7,617.

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended September 20 declined to 81,344 cars from 85,703 cars for the preceding week, but were slightly above the total of 80,689 cars for the corresponding week last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Grain loadings declined from 10,989 cars for the preceding week to 9,598 cars. Live stock decreased to 1,085 cars from 1,690 cars for the previous week and 2,560 cars a year ago, and fresh meats and packing house products were down to 199 cars as against 433 cars for the previous week and 571 cars in 1946. Pulpwood declined to 2,925 cars from 3,596 cars in 1946 but coal increased from 5,956 last year to 6,484 cars, ores and concentrates from 2,851 to 3,694 cars, gasoline and oils from 3,940 to 4,345 cars, sugar from 243 to 437 cars, iron and steel products from 946 to 1,406 cars, autos, trucks and parts from 689 to 1,107 cars and l.c.l. merchandise from 17,564 to 18,400 cars.

PRODUCTION OF CONCRETE BUILDING
BLOCKS AND BRICK IN JULY

Production of concrete building blocks increased in July by 16 per cent over the previous month, while concrete bricks decreased 19 per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

July output of concrete building blocks, solid, hollow and cinder, amounted to 3,109,869 compared with 2,622,020 in June and 1,956,756 for July last year. Total for the seven months amounted to 12,565,802 compared with 9,525,041 for last year.

Production of concrete bricks was 1,364,515 in July compared with 1,690,350 for the previous month and 1,009,395 for July, 1946. Aggregate for the seven months ending July amounted to 7,565,032 compared with 6,264,522 last year.

Output of cement drain pipe, sewer pipe, water pipe and culvert tile increased sharply to 24,358 tons from the June figure of 11,376 and 3,762 for July, 1946. Seven months' production amounted to 78,711 tons compared with 46,401 for 1946.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Domestic Exports, August (10 cents).
2. Fluid Milk Trade, July (10 cents).
3. Prices and Price Indexes, August (10 cents).
4. Concrete Building Blocks and Cement Pipe, July (10 cents).
5. Sales of New Motor Vehicles, August (10 cents).
6. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, August (10 cents).
7. Machine Shops Industry, 1945 (15 cents).
8. Cheques Cashed and Money Supply, August (10 cents).
9. Labour Force Bulletin No. 6 (25 cents).
10. Highway Traffic at Canadian Border Points, August (10 cents).
11. Estimates of Canada's Population, 1947 (10 cents).
12. The Mica Mining Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
13. Survey of Production in Canada, 1945-1945 (25 cents).
14. Brass and Copper Products Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
15. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, July (25 cents).
16. Canadian Milling Statistics, August (10 cents).
17. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, August (10 cents).
18. Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Nine Cities, October 1 (10 cents).
19. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, August (10 cents).
20. Fruit Crop Report, September 29, 1947 (10 cents).
21. Department Store Sales, August, 1947 (10 cents).
22. Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages, July 1947 (10 cents).
23. Consumption of Petroleum Fuels in Canada, 1945 (25 cents).
24. Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, April - June, French (\$1.00 a year).
25. List of Public Secondary Schools, (50 cents).
26. Primary Iron and Steel Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
27. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January, February and March, 1947 (25 cents).
28. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
29. Paper Box and Bag Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
30. Annual Review of Employment and Payrolls, 1945 (\$1.00).
31. Area, Products and Value of Field Crops, Manitoba, 1945 (10 cents).

Copies of these and other Bureau reports may be obtained on application to the Dominion Statistician, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

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