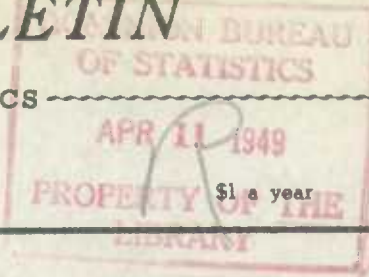




# D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

OTTAWA - CANADA



Vol. XVII - No. 14

Saturday, April 9, 1949

## --- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S OFFICIAL COST-OF-LIVING INDEX receded three-tenths of a point between February 1 and March 1. As in January, the decline was due to a further decrease in the food group.

. . .

THE INDEX NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION in January was down 6.8 points from the December level but up 1.1 points above January last year.

. . .

INCREASED NUMBER OF CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFIT were filed in local offices throughout Canada in February as compared with the same month last year.

. . .

OUTPUT OF PIG IRON, FERRO-ALLOYS AND STEEL INGOTS during February continued the gains over last year reported for January, while steel castings, slightly down in January, also advanced.

. . .

FACTORY SHIPMENTS OF CANADIAN-MADE MOTOR VEHICLES in February were substantially above the low figure for January and moderately higher than in the corresponding month last year.

. . .

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS for the week ending March 26 totalled 73,172 cars compared with 72,991 in the preceding week and 68,813 cars in the corresponding week last year.

. . .

SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES in February were valued at \$50,128,000, showing an increase of nine per cent over the corresponding month last year.

. . .

CREAMERY BUTTER STOCKS in nine cities of Canada on April 1 amounted to 6,193,000 pounds as compared with 4,371,000 on the corresponding date last year.

. . .

STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT IN STORE or in transit in North America at midnight on March 24 amounted to 134,633,000 bushels, down 3,080,000 bushels from the March 17 total.

. . .

THE WORLD BREADGRAIN HARVEST IN 1948 is estimated at an aggregate of 8.1 billion bushels of wheat and rye as compared with 7.3 billion in the preceding year. This is slightly larger than the 1935-39 average and about 10 per cent larger than in 1947.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX DOWN FOR  
THE SECOND SUCCESSIVE MONTH

Canada's official cost-of-living index receded three-tenths of a point between February 1 and March 1. The decline, the second in succession, brought the index four-tenths of a point below the index peak of 159.6. It was, however, 8.4 points above March 1 last year. The latest index stood at 159.2 as compared with 159.5 at February 1, 159.6 at January 1, and 150.8 a year ago. It was 57.9 per cent above the August, 1939 level.

As in January, the decline was due to a further decrease in the food group. Price reductions for shortening products, meats, butter and eggs were mainly responsible for the index moving down from 200.4 at February 1 to 199.1. There were moderate offsetting seasonal increases in a few vegetables. At the March 1 level, the food group index was down 6.3 points from the October peak of 205.4, but still 13.2 points above the March 1, 1948 level.

The clothing index rose nine-tenths of a point from the February standing of 182.7, and was 12.8 points above March last year. The homefurnishings and services section gained fractionally from 167.8 at February 1 to 167.9, and was 6.7 points higher than on the same date last year. Fuel and light moved up by a small amount between February 1 and March 1 -- from 130.8 to 131.0 -- but was 10 points higher than a year ago.

The miscellaneous items index held at 128.1 between February 1 and March 1, but was 5.3 points above last year's level. The rentals index continues nominally at 121.7 until returns from the March survey are completed, and 1.8 points higher than a year ago. (1)

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT  
INSURANCE BENEFIT

Increased numbers of claims for unemployment insurance benefit were filed in local offices throughout Canada in February as compared with the same month last year, all provinces recording higher totals. The month's aggregate, however, was below that of January, lower figures being shown for all regions.

Claims filed in Quebec in February totalled 31,909 compared with 24,072 a year ago, Ontario 31,201 compared with 29,550, British Columbia 19,715 compared with 12,206, Nova Scotia 7,071 (5,788), Manitoba 5,820 (5,294), Alberta 4,871 (3,845), Saskatchewan 3,202 (2,983), and Prince Edward Island 644 (493).

Ordinary claimants -- those completely separated from their employment -- on the live unemployment register at the end of February totalled 208,818 compared with 197,675 at the end of January and 146,074 at the end of February last year. In addition there were 7,066 other claimants -- mainly short-time -- on the live unemployment register compared with 5,742 at the end of January and 7,279 a year earlier.

During February, 210,681 beneficiaries were paid \$8,158,903 for 3,734,487 compensated unemployed days, compared with 163,643 persons paid \$6,727,221 for 3,056,418 compensated unemployed days in January and 138,417 persons paid \$5,017,492 for 2,544,452 unemployed days in February, 1948.

The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 17.7 days in February, 18.7 days in January and 18.4 days in February last year. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$38.73 in February, \$41.11 in January and \$36.25 in February last year. The average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$2.18 in February, \$2.20 in January, and \$1.97 in February last year. (2)

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION Canada's index number of Industrial production in January, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 178.9, a drop of 6.8 points from the December level, but 1.1 points above January last year, according to the March issue of the Canadian Statistical Review by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The sub-index for all manufactures was down to 188.5 in January from 197.2 in December and 189.3 in January last year. The non-durables group index fell to 172.7 from 180.2 in December and 175.9 in January last year, while that of durable manufactures at 215.6 was down from 226.3 in December but above the 212.3 index level for January last year.

In the non-durable manufactures group there were decreases both from December and January last year in the index levels of foods and beverages, tobacco, rubber and leather products. The textiles and clothing group sub-indexes were both below the December standing but above January a year ago, while the paper products group was higher in both comparisons.

In the durable manufactures group, the iron and steel products index moved to higher levels. The group index for motor vehicles, however, fell to 108.5 from 201.0 in December, due at least in part to temporary shut-downs for retooling during January.

In the mining section the index was slightly below that for December but was well ahead of January last year. (3)

CREAMERY BUTTER STOCKS IN NINE CITIES HIGHER ON APRIL 1 Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on April 1 amounted to 6,193,000 pounds as compared with 4,371,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cheddar cheese stocks in these centres totalled 15,658,000 pounds as against 14,329,000 a year earlier.

Creamery butter stocks on April 1 were as follows by cities, totals for the same date last year being in brackets (figures in thousands): Quebec, 652 (110) pounds; Montreal, 1,539 (1,208); Toronto, 1,659 (706); Winnipeg, 772 (602); Regina, 122 (105); Saskatoon, 166 (104); Edmonton, 353 (279); Calgary, 171 (296); Vancouver, 759 (961). (4)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 24 amounted to 134,633,000 bushels, down 3,080,000 bushels from the March 17 total, but 42,394,000 bushels higher than on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

During the week ending March 24, farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 1,653,000 bushels as compared with 1,202,000 in the same week last year. Clearances of wheat for export totalled 3,187,000 bushels as compared with 1,945,000 a year ago.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 24, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 1,081,200 (575,500) bushels; barley, 604,500 (226,400); rye, 77,700 (5,300); flaxseed, 101,200 (15,700). (5)

WORLD BREADGRAIN CROP SLIGHTLY  
ABOVE PRE-WAR AVERAGE

The world breadgrain harvest in 1948 is estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture at an aggregate of 8.1 billion bushels of wheat and rye as compared with 7.3 billion in the preceding year, according to the monthly review of the wheat situation by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This is slightly larger than the 1935-39 average and about 10 per cent larger than in 1947.

Wheat production is placed at 6.4 billion bushels compared with 5.8 billion in 1947; and rye, 1.7 billion bushels compared with 1.5 billion. Last year's wheat production was slightly above the 1935-39 period, due principally to substantial increases in the acreage and yield of wheat in the United States. Some increase was also indicated for Australia, Asia and Africa, but production in South America, Europe and U.S.S.R. was still below pre-war levels.

World production of rye in 1948, though well above the small 1947 harvest, was still below pre-war. A substantial decline in the European outturn more than offset an estimated increase in the Soviet Union. The 1948 harvest was slightly below the pre-war average in North America, the only other area of any significance in rye production.

Reports on this year's United States winter wheat crop continue to be relatively optimistic, while the latest available information on the winter breadgrain situation in Europe indicates that official acreage goals -- particularly of wheat -- in many countries were unduly optimistic and will not be fully met, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

While the information is not conclusive for all European areas, present indications suggest that the acreage of winter wheat seeded in the fall of 1948 for harvest in 1949 may be somewhat less than that of a year ago. The total acreage of wheat for harvest in Europe in 1949 will depend, of course, upon weather conditions this spring and the extent to which the seeding of spring wheat will offset the decline in winter wheat acreage.

In the Soviet Union the acreage planted in the fall of 1948 to winter grains -- wheat and rye -- increased by approximately 7,000,000 acres, or eight per cent, compared with the acreage seeded in the fall of 1947 for the 1948 harvest. The winter wheat acreage in the Ukraine increased by approximately 1,600,000 acres. (6)

FEWER CATTLE, SHEEP AND  
HORSES ON CANADIAN FARMS

There were fewer cattle, sheep and horses on farms in Canada on December 1, 1948 than on the corresponding date of 1947, according to estimates released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The estimate of the number of cattle on farms stands at 8,251,000, a decline of 7.7 per cent from the December 1, 1947 figure of 8,944,000. Reductions occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. The total of milk cows declined only 3.5 per cent. Favourable prices resulted in greater liquidation of other classes of cattle and calves than of milk cows.

Sheep and lambs numbered 1,322,000, down 16.7 per cent from 1,587,000 at December 1, 1947. Decreases were most marked in Quebec and Manitoba. Lambs were marketed earlier than in 1947 and a smaller proportion of the spring lamb crop was carried over. Sheep over one year old declined 13 per cent in number.

Estimated number of horses on farms was 1,842,000, down seven per cent from the same date in 1947. Decreases were common to all provinces but were greater in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Ontario than in other provinces. (7)

SALES OF FLUID MILK  
AND CREAM IN JANUARY

Combined sales of fluid milk and cream in Canada in January amounted to 349,210,000 pounds, approximately 1,000,000 or one-half of one per cent more than in the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Quantity of fluid milk sold in the month amounted to 292,337,000 pounds, nearly 1,500,000 pounds above the sales in January last year. Cream sales expressed as milk totalled 56,873,000 pounds, a decline of nearly 500,000 pounds or almost one per cent. (8)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP  
NINE PER CENT IN FEBRUARY

Sales of department stores in February were valued at \$50,128,000, showing an increase of nine per cent over the \$45,857,000 recorded in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increases occurred in all provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan showing the largest gains of 28 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively. Advances in other provinces ranged from 1.6 per cent in Quebec to 12.4 per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

The month's figures show marked expansion in the sales of women's and children's apparel, piece goods, shoes and other footwear, men's and boys' clothing and furnishings, household appliances and electrical supplies, furniture, homefurnishings, stationery, books and magazines, hardware and kitchenware. There was a substantial reduction in the sales of food and kindred products.

Sales were as follows by provinces, totals for the same month last year being in brackets (figures in thousands): Maritimes, \$3,044 (\$2,709); Quebec, \$7,657 (\$7,540); Ontario, \$20,091 (\$18,570); Manitoba, \$7,442 (\$6,679); Saskatchewan, \$2,249 (\$1,912); Alberta, \$3,207 (\$2,504); British Columbia, \$6,438 (\$5,943).

During the week ending March 26, department store sales increased eight per cent over the corresponding week last year. Sales in Saskatchewan showed the largest rise of 27 per cent, followed by Alberta with a gain of 19 per cent, Manitoba and British Columbia each 12 per cent, Maritimes six per cent, Ontario four per cent, and Quebec one per cent. (9)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

March 31, 1949    March 24, 1949    March 3, 1949

(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

(106 Common Stocks) .....	107.1	106.6	105.8
82 Industrials .....	100.9	100.4	100.0
16 Utilities .....	115.5	114.1	112.3
8 Banks .....	131.3	131.8	130.5

Mining Stock Price Index

(30 Stocks) .....	83.1	83.4	82.9
25 Golds .....	67.6	67.4	66.5
5 Base Metals .....	113.4	114.8	115.2

IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION  
AGAIN ADVANCED IN FEBRUARY

Canadian output of pig iron, ferro-alloys and steel ingots during February continued the gains over last year reported for January, while steel castings, slightly down in January, also advanced.

Pig iron production for the month, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, amounted to 172,724 tons, sharply above last year's output of 151,123 tons. Cumulative output for the first two months of this year was 355,798 tons, an increase of 44,633 tons over the comparable production of 311,165 tons in 1948. Ferro-alloy output in February also rose steeply to 21,713 tons as against 11,823 tons a year earlier, making the two-month production 43,644 tons compared with 28,948 tons for January-February last year.

Production of steel ingots and castings in February aggregated 259,271 tons compared with 239,646 tons last year, and for the two months totalled 543,978 against 496,372 tons. Steel ingot output, as earlier reported, was 249,009 tons in the month as compared with 230,183 tons a year earlier, and for the two months 524,996 against 477,951 tons. Steel castings increased in February to 10,262 tons compared with 9,463 tons last year, while the cumulative output for January and February was 18,982 tons compared with 18,421 last year. (10)

SHIPMENTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles in February were substantially above the low figure for January and moderately higher than in the corresponding month last year. A greater proportion of the cars shipped during the month were destined for use in Canada, shipments for export showing a marked decline from the same month last year.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, shipments in February totalled 17,197 units as compared with 13,863 in the preceding month and 16,382 in February last year. During the first two months of 1949, shipments amounted to 31,060 units, down slightly from last year's corresponding total of 33,097.

During the month there were 9,285 passenger cars shipped as compared with 9,926 a year ago, and 7,912 commercial vehicles as compared with 6,456. Of the passenger cars, 8,529 were for sale in Canada compared with 7,845, and 756 for export compared with 2,081. Commercial vehicles intended for sale in Canada numbered 7,143 as against 5,137, while those for export totalled 769 compared with 1,319. (11)

VALUE OF STORAGE BATTERY  
SALES HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

There was a sharp rise in the value of sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers in February. The month's total was \$1,449,089 compared with \$1,148,551 in the same month last year, an increase of 26 per cent. During the first two months of this year, sales aggregated \$3,086,706 against \$2,413,929 in the same period last year, a rise of 27 per cent. Sales in February included 113,551 batteries valued at \$1,158,780 for the ignition of internal combustion engines, 50 batteries at \$485 for motorcycle starting, 3,173 cells at \$23,930 for farm lighting plants, 1,292 cells at \$65,686 for railway services, batteries valued at \$140,364 for other purposes, including those for telephone switchboards, and miscellaneous parts and supplies for batteries valued at \$59,844. (12)

PRODUCTION OF SAWN LUMBER IN JANUARY Production of sawn lumber east of the Rockies in January is estimated at 149,032,000 feet board measure, down three and one-half per cent from the January, 1948 figure of 154,469,000 feet, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increased production was shown in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba, while declines were registered in the remaining provinces.

Output for the month was as follows by provinces, totals for January, 1948 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 311,000 (71,000) feet board measure; Nova Scotia, 17,639,000 (21,472,000); New Brunswick, 12,523,000 (14,129,000); Quebec, 26,445,000 (24,002,000); Ontario, 18,489,000 (12,805,000); Manitoba, 3,788,000 (1,748,000); Saskatchewan, 13,536,000 (19,376,000); Alberta, 56,301,000 (60,866,000). (13)

STOCKS OF CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES Stocks of canned fruits and vegetables held by canners, wholesale dealers and chain store warehouses were higher on January 1 this year than last, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase in the holdings of canned fruits was comparatively small, while that of canned vegetables was substantial.

Overall stocks of canned fruits amounted to 4,166,726 dozen cans as compared with 3,942,882 on January 1, 1948. Stocks of peaches -- largest in quantity of the different fruits -- amounted to 1,558,168 dozen compared with 1,193,282; pears, 653,013 dozen compared with 974,161; plums, gages, etc., 672,416 dozen compared with 739,624; cherries, 395,676 dozen compared with 143,199; applesauce, 158,089 dozen compared with 330,287; and apricots, 112,784 dozen compared with 160,520.

Stocks of canned vegetables totalled 18,466,731 dozen cans compared with 11,595,907 a year earlier. There were large increases in the inventories of several of the different kinds. Stocks of peas rose to 6,593,661 dozen cans from 3,607,447; tomatoes to 4,151,913 dozen from 1,570,277; corn to 2,451,016 dozen from 1,252,813; baked beans to 1,571,700 dozen from 1,206,100; and green or wax beans to 1,928,950 dozen from 1,766,125.

Inventories of apple juice were down to 875,789 dozen containers from 1,020,020, other fruit juices to 357,577 dozen from 662,450, but jams were up to 493,665 dozen from 460,839, and marmalades to 196,140 dozen from 174,211. Canned foods for infants were higher, vegetables amounting to 1,843,062 dozen compared with 1,495,117, and fruits to 1,620,540 dozen compared with 1,527,129.

Stocks of canned soups were lower, totalling 9,433,545 dozen cans compared with 10,126,625, but tomato juice rose sharply to 6,204,120 dozen from 2,537,034, and tomato catsup to 2,951,989 dozen from 680,510. (14)

CHART BOOK OF EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has published its second annual chart book of employment and payrolls in certain industries. The present volume brings forward the series established during the war by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and continued by the Department of Reconstruction and Supply until 1946, when they were transferred to the Bureau.

In most cases, the graphs, of which there are 40, trace the course of employment in the larger industrial establishments in the period from 1939 to September 1, 1948; the curves for the payrolls go back to June 1, 1941, the date on which the monthly record of weekly salaries and wages was commenced.

Copies of this chart book may be obtained on application to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa -- price, 50 cents per copy. (15)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended March 26 totalled 73,172 cars compared with 72,991 in the preceding week and 68,813 cars in the same week last year. The gain over 1948 was 4,359 cars or 6.3 per cent. Grain loadings featured the advance, increasing from 4,643 cars to 7,894. Ores and concentrates were up 287 cars over last year at 2,374 cars, and gasoline and oils from 3,207 to 4,469 cars. Iron and steel products advanced 416 cars to 1,974, and autos moved in greater volume this year, up 286 cars. L.C.L. merchandise registered a gain from 16,840 to 18,396 cars. Considerable declines, however, were shown in loadings of pulpwood, lumber, wood-pulp and paper. Receipts from foreign connections receded from 39,906 cars in the 12th week of 1948 to 31,278 cars. (16)

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK -- (The numbers in this list correspond with those at the end of news items, indicating the report on which an item is based).

1. Preliminary Price Movements, March 1 (10 cents).
2. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, February (10 cents).
3. Canadian Statistical Review, March (35 cents).
4. Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Nine Cities, April 1 (10 cents).
5. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
6. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
7. Live Stock Survey, December 1 -- Cattle, Sheep and Horses (10 cents).
8. Fluid Milk Trade, January (10 cents).
9. Department Store Sales and Inventories, February (10 cents).
10. Production of Iron and Steel, February (10 cents).
11. Motor Vehicle Shipments, February (10 cents).
12. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, February (10 cents).
13. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, January (25 cents).
14. Quarterly Report on the Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables on Hand, January 1, 1949 (25 cents).
15. Chart Book of Employment and Payrolls in Canadian Industries (50 cents).
16. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
17. Breakfast Foods Industry, 1947 (15 cents).
18. The Sand-Lime Brick Industry, 1947 (10 cents).
19. Trade of Canada: Exports of Canadian and Foreign Produce, February (25 cents).
20. Power Laundries and Cleaning and Dyeing Establishments, 1947 (25 cents).

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



STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010729597