

# D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

----- Dominion Bureau of Statistics -----

OTTAWA - CANADA

DOMINION BUREAU  
OF STATISTICS  
\$1.50 a year

Vol. XVII - No. 38

Saturday, October 15, 1949

--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

OCT 18 1949  
PROPERTY OF THE  
LIBRARY

CANADA HAD A FAVOURABLE BALANCE ON TOTAL WORLD TRADE of \$41,900,000 in August, up sharply from \$12,800,000 for July and more than double last year's August balance of \$20,000,000. Largest since last December, the month's credit balance equalled the cumulative balance for the previous seven months, bringing the total for January-August to \$83,700,000, which compares with \$197,200,000 for the corresponding period of 1948 and \$121,600,000 for that of 1947.

. . .

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS during August were valued at \$212,100,000, down nearly nine per cent from \$230,900,000 in July, but above the 1948 August total of \$206,500,000. For the eight months ended August, imports amounted to \$1,852,400,000 as compared with \$1,701,700,000 last year, an increase of nine per cent.

. . .

EMPLOYMENT IN THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DIVISIONS showed a slightly upward movement at the beginning of August as compared with a month earlier.

. . .

NEARLY 10,000 MORE HOMES WERE BUILT IN CANADA during the first seven months this year than in 1948, an estimated 46,326 units being completed as compared with 36,601 last year. Starts were down slightly to 49,285 as compared with 49,452.

. . .

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES for each of the eight regional cities moved downward between August 1 and September 1, lower prices for foods, notably fresh vegetables, meat and fruits being mainly responsible. Eggs were easier at most centres.

. . .

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER in nine cities of Canada on October 7 amounted to 53,963,000 pounds as compared with 32,988,000 on the corresponding date last year.

. . .

PRODUCTION OF MARGARINE IN CANADA in September amounted to 6,890,000 pounds, down from the August total of 7,038,000 pounds, but well above the July total of 5,352,000 pounds. During the first nine months of this year, 51,765,000 pounds were produced. Stocks of margarine at the beginning of October totalled 2,358,000 pounds compared with 2,441,000 on September 1.

. . .

HONEY PRODUCTION IN CANADA IN 1948 is currently estimated at 31,286,000 pounds, a decrease of 31 per cent as compared with last year, when a near-record crop of 45,145,000 pounds was harvested.

. . .

CANADIAN GOLD PRODUCTION in July decreased eight per cent from the high monthly total attained in June, but was 10 per cent above the same month last year.

FOREIGN TRADE IN AUGUST  
YIELDS LARGER BALANCE

Canada had a favourable balance on total world trade of \$41,900,000 in August, up sharply from \$12,800,000 for July and more than double last year's August balance of \$20,000,000. Largest since last December, the month's credit balance equalled the cumulative balance for the previous seven months, bringing the total for January-August to \$83,700,000, which compares with \$197,200,000 for the corresponding period of 1948 and \$121,600,000 for that of 1947.

Canadian purchases from the United States declined in August for the second successive month but were moderately higher than a year ago, while exports were substantially above July and only slightly above August last year. As a result, the trade deficit with the United States dropped to \$26,600,000 from \$54,200,000 in July but was above last year's August total of \$20,300,000, and the aggregate deficit for the eight months increased to \$389,100,000 as against \$277,100,000 in 1948. These figures compare with \$644,500,000 for the first eight months of 1947.

Trade with the United Kingdom in August yielded a credit balance of \$37,100,000 as compared with \$41,700,000 in July and \$27,900,000 in August last year. Both imports and exports were lower in August than July, exports showing the greater decrease, while both were above August, 1948, with the greater gain in exports. In spite of increases in the three months from June to August, the aggregate balance for the eight months this year was lower than last year at \$253,000,000 compared with \$276,000,000.

In trade with all other countries, Canada had an increased favourable balance of \$31,400,000 as compared with \$25,300,000 in July and \$12,400,000 a year earlier, the cumulative total for the eight months amounting to \$219,800,000 as against \$198,300,000 last year.

Total merchandise imports during August were valued at \$212,100,000, down nearly nine per cent from \$230,900,000 in July, but above the 1948 August total of \$206,500,000. For the eight months ended August imports amounted to \$1,852,400,000 as compared with \$1,701,700,000 last year, an increase of nine per cent. Domestic exports -- as reported earlier this month -- were valued at \$251,700,000 compared with \$241,300,000 in July and \$224,100,000 in the corresponding month last year, the aggregate for the eight months showing a smaller increase than imports at \$1,917,600,000 compared with \$1,875,100,000 in the previous year. Aggregate foreign exports in the eight-month period declined to \$18,500,000 from \$23,700,000.

Net exports of non-monetary gold rose to \$13,800,000 in August compared with \$9,400,000 in July and \$9,700,000 in August last year, reaching the highest total for a month since January, 1943, and bringing the eight-month aggregate to \$86,600,000 against \$75,600,000 last year. (1)

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS IN AUGUST

Canada's merchandise import trade in August was similar in pattern to that of July, with a decline in value from the previous month and an increase over the corresponding month of 1948. Purchases were higher than a year ago, as in July, from the United States, the United Kingdom, British West Indies and Continental Europe, and lower from Latin America and Commonwealth countries in Africa. By commodity groups, the largest increases over last year were again in iron and its products and the miscellaneous commodities group, while the non-metallic minerals group showed also the largest decrease. Changes in the remaining six groups were again small, five being higher as against three in July.

August imports from the United States were up in value to \$143,600,000 in comparison with \$136,100,000 in August last year, but sharply down from this year's July and June figures of \$160,300,000 and \$176,900,000, respectively, and the lowest for any month since August, March and February, 1948. The aggregate value of imports from the United States for the eight months was \$1,313,000,000 as against \$1,170,000,000 last year.

Purchases from the United Kingdom in the month increased moderately to \$26,200,000 compared with \$24,700,000 a year earlier, raising the total for the year to date to \$218,800,000 as compared to \$193,200,000 last year. Total imports from other Commonwealth countries in August declined to \$16,800,000 compared with \$17,400,000, but for the eight months was up slightly at \$123,300,000 against \$122,200,000.

Canadian purchases from Latin America dropped to \$15,287,000 from \$20,374,000 in August last year and for the eight months were down to \$118,500,000 from \$148,800,000. Imports from Europe maintained the advance of the previous seven months, rising in the month to \$6,195,000 from \$4,660,000 and to \$57,200,000 from \$38,000,000 in the eight months. Changes by countries were generally small for the month, gains being shown for Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland.

Among the commodity groups imports of iron and its products of \$67,500,000 were higher than last year but continued the decline from the high levels reached by this group in the earlier part of this year. In the eight months this year this group totalled \$634,400,000 against \$512,200,000 last year, accounting for the largest part of the increase in total imports. Major increases over last year, as in recent months, were in rolling mill products, pipes, tubes and fittings, farm implements and machinery, automobiles, and engines and boilers. But imports of most of these commodities in August were below this year's peaks in recent months earlier this year.

Next in value, the non-metallic minerals group declined in August to \$44,581,000 from \$61,100,000 last year, total for the eight months standing at \$343,300,000 as against \$382,200,000. The month's decline was accounted for mainly by a drop in coal to \$10,076,000 from \$18,265,000 and in petroleum products to \$7,637,000 from \$15,708,000; both items were also substantially lower in the eight months.

The agricultural and vegetable group increased slightly in August to \$27,500,000 compared with \$27,100,000, gains in fruits, nuts, grains, tea and oils being largely offset by declines in sugar, coffee and rubber. Group total for the eight months was \$232,900,000 compared with \$219,000,000. The animals and animal products group moved up to \$5,400,000 compared with \$4,600,000, but was lower in the eight months at \$48,800,000 against \$50,400,000.

Exports of fibres, textiles and products dropped off in August to \$21,700,000 compared with \$25,000,000 last year, but the January-August total remained above last year at \$239,700,000 compared with \$233,700,000. Imports of raw cotton and wool products were higher in the month, while cotton products, raw wool and artificial silk and products declined. The wood and paper group increased to \$7,000,000 in August from \$5,500,000, and in the cumulative period to \$54,900,000 from \$49,000,000.

Non-ferrous metals and products were also higher at \$13,700,000 compared with \$11,500,000 in August last year, gains being recorded for tin and electrical apparatus. Eight-month total for this group was \$111,500,000 compared with \$100,900,000 last year, with gains for all main items in the period. The chemicals group moved up to \$9,500,000 as against \$8,900,000, bringing the cumulative total to \$83,000,000 as against \$77,900,000.

The miscellaneous commodities group continued its earlier gains in August, increasing to \$15,100,000 from \$8,500,000 a year earlier, the largest increase among major items being again in Canadian tourists' purchases which were valued at \$4,200,000 as against \$19,000 in 1948. Cumulative total for this group was \$103,900,000 as against \$76,500,000 last year. (2)

ESTIMATES OF PRODUCTION OF  
POTATOES AND LATE-SOWN CROPS

Canada's 1949 potato crop is now placed at 49,600,000 hundredweight, somewhat above the September estimate of 48,900,000 hundredweight. Last year's crop, produced from a slightly smaller acreage amounted to 55,300,000 hundredweight, while the average crop for the 10 years, 1939-1948, was 43,800,000 hundredweight.

The acreage sowed to dry peas declined sharply for the second successive year, and with average yields per acre also below last year's in most provinces growing this crop, current production is placed at only 900,000 bushels compared with the 1948 outturn of 1,500,000. Only in British Columbia were more peas sowed in 1949 than in 1948.

Due largely to higher yields in Ontario, the principal growing province, 1949 production of dried beans, at 1,700,000 bushels, is up slightly from last year's 1,600,000. Despite a decrease in acreage from last year, the 1949 soy bean crop is estimated at the record level of 2,000,000 bushels. Production of this crop is currently confined to Ontario, which last year produced 1,800,000 bushels.

A record Canadian production of 876,000 tons of sugar beets is forecast for 1949. A substantial rise in acreage is the principal factor in the indicated increase over last year's outturn of 629,100 tons. The all-Canada outturn of alfalfa is placed at 2,700,000 tons and fodder corn at 5,200,000. Production in 1948 of these crops was 3,000,000 and 5,100,000 tons, respectively.

Canada's 1949 crop of shelled corn is placed at 13,800,000 bushels as compared with the September estimate of 14,300,000 and last year's crop of 12,400,000. If the present estimate is realized the 1949 corn crop will be Canada's largest since 1942, when 14,400,000 bushels were harvested. With the exception of 600,000 bushels in Manitoba, Ontario will account for the entire 1949 shelled corn crop.

Both acreage and production of buckwheat are the lowest on record since 1908. This year's crop, estimated at 3,400,000 bushels is being harvested from a sowed acreage of 169,700 acres. Production of mixed grains is placed at 55,300,000 bushels, some 6,600,000 below 1948. The 1949 production of turnips and mangels for live-stock feed, excluding the Prairie Provinces for which data are not currently available, is placed at 17,800,000 hundredweight, well below last year's crop of 22,800,000. (3)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF  
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on September 29 amounted to 162,961,000 bushels compared with 149,296,200 on September 15 and 160,846,900 on the corresponding date last year.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 19,678,800 bushels of wheat during the week ending September 29 as compared with 16,847,100 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 150,302,100 bushels against 152,418,700 in the like period of the preceding crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending September 29, totals for the same date last year being in brackets: oats, 5,414,100 (3,828,900) bushels; barley, 4,444,900 (3,720,700); rye, 480,800 (440,600); flaxseed, 268,600 (1,835,300).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending September 29 totalled 3,764,600 bushels compared with 4,099,500 in the same week last year, and in the cumulative period, 30,400,900 bushels compared with 19,771,400. (4)

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER AND  
CHEESE IN SEPTEMBER

Production of creamery butter in Canada in September increased four per cent over last year's corresponding total, all provinces except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan sharing in the rise. During the first nine months of this year, there was a decrease of two per cent in the all-Canada total.

Production for September this year was 32,215,000 pounds as compared with 30,988,000 in the corresponding period last year, while in the nine months ending September 228,319,000 pounds were produced as against 231,694,000 in 1948.

Cheddar cheese production in September rose to 14,460,000 pounds from 10,658,000 a year ago, raising the cumulative total for the nine-month period to 89,855,000 pounds from 75,910,000 in the same months last year.

The month's output of concentrated milk products moved down to 33,876,000 pounds from 40,432,000 in the same month last year. In the cumulative period, production amounted to 302,057,000 pounds compared with 320,720,000 in the like 1948 period. (5)

STOCKS OF DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Stocks of creamery butter were higher on October 1, amounting to 72,222,000 pounds as compared with 66,957,000 on September 1 and 53,713,000 on the corresponding date last year. Cheese stocks amounted to 36,784,000 pounds compared with 28,910,000 on September 1 and 50,422,000 a year ago.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers on October 1 totalled 56,628,000 pounds as against 58,041,000 at the beginning of September and 27,446,000 on the same date last year, while the holdings of skim milk powder were 12,956,000 pounds compared with 12,754,000 on September 1 and 9,327,000 a year earlier.

October 1 stocks of eggs, shell and frozen, amounted to 404,000 cases compared with 731,000 on September 1 and 557,000 on October 1 last year. Holdings of poultry meat totalled 11,562,000 pounds against 8,095,000 on September 1 and 10,907,000 a year ago. (6)

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER  
IN NINE CITIES OF CANADA

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on October 7 amounted to 53,963,000 pounds as compared with 32,988,000 on the corresponding date last year. Holdings were higher in each of the nine centres except Quebec, Calgary and Vancouver.

Stocks were as follows by cities, totals for the same date last year being in brackets (figures in thousands): Quebec, 3,967 (4,886) pounds; Montreal, 20,642 (11,172); Toronto, 10,729 (3,519); Winnipeg, 10,607 (5,525); Regina, 1,170 (434); Saskatoon, 342 (234); Edmonton, 3,671 (2,798); Calgary, 1,508 (1,552); Vancouver, 1,327 (2,868).

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF MARGARINE

Production of margarine in Canada in September amounted to 6,890,000 pounds, down from the August total of 7,038,000 pounds, but well above the July total of 5,352,000 pounds. During the first nine months of this year 51,765,000 pounds were produced.

Stocks of margarine at the beginning of October totalled 2,358,000 pounds compared with 2,441,000 on September 1. Holdings were as follows by regions, revised totals for September 1 being in brackets (thousands omitted): Maritime Provinces, 179 (240) pounds; Ontario, 1,236 (1,484); Manitoba, 239 (223); Saskatchewan, 121 (142); Alberta, 256 (149); British Columbia, 327 (194). (Mem. 1)

STOCKS OF MEAT AND LARD

Stocks of meat held by packers, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses amounted to 50,550,000 pounds on October 1 as compared with 49,301,000 on September 1 and 63,732,000 on the corresponding date last year.

Holdings of frozen meat were down to 18,955,000 pounds from 20,684,000 on September 1 and 31,808,000 a year ago. Stocks of fresh meat increased to 18,026,000 pounds compared with 14,476,000 on September 1 and 16,996,000 on October 1 last year, while cured meat declined slightly to 13,569,000 pounds from 14,141,000 on September 1 and 14,928,000 a year earlier.

Lard stocks at 1,249,000 pounds were lower than the 1,806,000 held on September 1 and 1,771,000 in the same month last year. (7)

HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN  
31 PER CENT IN 1949

Honey production in Canada in 1949 is currently estimated at 31,286,000 pounds, a decrease of 31 per cent as compared with last year, when a near record crop of 45,145,000 pounds was harvested. The small crop this season is the combined result of a lighter yield which averaged 63 pounds per colony compared with 79 last year and fewer colonies, which dropped from 569,800 in 1948 to 496,150 this year. All provinces had smaller crops, the greatest reductions being recorded in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta.

Production by provinces in 1949 is as follows, comparable data for 1948 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 63,000 (64,000) pounds; Nova Scotia, 96,000 (125,000); New Brunswick, 160,000 (200,000); Quebec, 3,357,000 (4,831,000); Ontario, 10,655,000 (15,736,000); Manitoba, 4,800,000 (6,525,000); Saskatchewan, 5,200,000 (6,492,000); Alberta, 6,050,000 (10,254,000); British Columbia, 905,000 (918,000). (8)

LARGER TREE FRUIT CROPS THIS YEAR Improved growing conditions in eastern Canada during the first half of September have resulted in upward revisions in the estimates of the tree fruit crops now being harvested. Grape production, on the other hand, was cut sharply as the result of the prolonged drought in Ontario.

The current estimate of the apple crop is set at 16,766,000 bushels, three per cent larger than a month earlier, and 25 per cent higher than in 1948. With abundant rains in eastern Canada during the first half of September the apples gained size rapidly, accounting for the anticipated increase in yield in that area. Continued favourable weather resulted in a further upward revision in the estimates of the crop in British Columbia.

Canada's pear harvest is now estimated at 975,000 bushels, 24 per cent larger than that of last year. The prospects increased since mid-August in both Ontario and British Columbia, while in Nova Scotia a 30 per cent decline was the result of the prolonged dry weather. The plum and prune crops will also be larger than was anticipated a month ago, with the crop now set at 795,000 bushels, or 18 per cent above the 1948 level.

Peach production is estimated at 1,989,000 bushels, an improvement of three per cent since August 15. Better growing weather in September resulted in the estimate for Ontario being raised from 1,138,000 bushels to 1,193,000, while in British Columbia the prospects remained unchanged. The grape harvest is now estimated at 34,028,000 pounds, a decline of 28 per cent since last month and is the result of the greatly reduced output in Ontario. This crop is the smallest since 1936. (9)

OVER 46,000 DWELLING UNITS COMPLETED IN SEVEN MONTHS Nearly 10,000 more homes were built in Canada during the first seven months this year than in 1948, an estimated 46,326 units being completed as compared with 36,601 last year. Starts were down slightly to 49,285 as compared with 49,452.

Completions in July were increased to 6,588 from 6,072 units a year earlier, but the starts fell to 9,086 from 9,684 units. There were 59,203 dwelling units under construction at the end of the month, an increase of 4,517 over the similar period of 1948.

Completions were more numerous in all provinces in the first seven months of this year than last, Ontario leading with a total of 16,411 as against 13,810, followed by Quebec with 12,775 as against 9,755. Total for the Prairie Provinces was up to 8,704 compared with 5,628, British Columbia to 5,709 compared with 5,590, and the Maritimes 2,727 compared with 1,818.

The number under construction in Ontario at the end of July was 22,543 compared with 19,505 a year ago, followed by Quebec with 15,227 compared with 13,175, British Columbia 7,437 compared with 8,616, the Maritime Provinces 3,852 compared with 4,501, Alberta 5,105 compared with 4,637, Manitoba 2,751 compared with 3,069, and Saskatchewan 2,298 compared with 2,083.

The average length of time under construction for dwellings completed in July was 7.3 months as compared with 6.1 a year ago. There is no appreciable difference in the percentage of dwelling units built for rental purposes, this year's figure standing at 30 per cent as compared with 25 per cent a year ago. (10)

ESTIMATES OF NATIONAL INCOME BY INDUSTRIES,  
AND PERSONAL INCOME BY PROVINCES

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has issued a revised bulletin of "National Accounts, Income and Expenditure

1941-1948" containing a number of new tables presenting information not previously published. For the first time, the bulletin shows an industrial distribution of national income for the years 1944-1947 as well as a provincial distribution of personal income for the years 1926-1948. In addition, it contains tables giving detail of personal expenditure on consumer goods and services, government revenue and expenditure, government transfer payments and subsidies.

The table on national income by industry shows that approximately 30 per cent of national income originated in manufacturing in 1947, 13 per cent in agriculture, 10 per cent in retail trade and 10 per cent in transportation, communication and storage (including public utilities). Rather less than eight per cent originated during the year in government, a marked decline from 17 per cent in the war year 1944.

Estimates of personal income by provinces for 1948 show that Ontario had about 39 per cent of the Canadian total. Quebec accounted for 25 per cent, the Prairie Provinces for 20 per cent, British Columbia for nine per cent, and the Maritime Provinces for seven per cent. On a per capita basis the figures are as follows: Ontario, \$1,075; British Columbia, \$1,024; Prairie Provinces, \$959; Quebec, \$784; and the Maritimes, \$653. In connection with the latter, the Bureau points out that figures of per capita personal income by provinces do not give exact comparisons of relative standards of living. In the first place, prices vary throughout the country. In the second place, direct comparisons between highly industrialized areas and predominantly rural or domestic economies are misleading, because people do more for themselves in the latter areas and this is not completely recorded in market valuations of personal income.

The estimates of consumer goods and services show that about 28 per cent of personal expenditure in 1948 was for food as compared with 13 per cent for clothing, 10 per cent for household operations including rent, and about nine per cent for tobacco and alcoholic beverages. The expenditure on tobacco and alcoholic beverages, according to the estimates, was only slightly smaller than the bill for household operations including rent and was somewhat larger than the entire cost of operation of personal automobiles plus the purchase of new ones. (11)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

Oct. 6, 1949    Sept. 29, 1949    Sept. 8, 1949

(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

(106 Common Stocks) .....	112.4	110.5	108.9
82 Industrials .....	105.8	103.8	100.9
16 Utilities .....	120.9	120.8	124.4
8 Banks .....	138.5	135.7	134.5

Mining Stock Price Index

(30 Stocks) .....	90.7	89.8	90.0
25 Golds .....	73.9	73.6	75.4
5 Base Metals .....	123.3	121.5	118.0



COST-OF-LIVING INDEX FOR EIGHT REGIONAL CITIES LOWER AT SEPTEMBER 1

Cost-of-living indexes for each of the eight regional cities moved downward between August 1 and September 1, lower prices for foods, notably fresh vegetables, meats and fruits being mainly responsible. Eggs were easier at most centres.

Rentals rose fractionally, reflecting the results of an August survey of urban rents. Price changes for clothing were mixed while homefurnishings and services moved narrowly. Fuel costs at Montreal and Saskatoon recorded advances, while at other centres indexes remained unchanged.

Composite city index decreases between August 1 and September 1 were as follows: Halifax, 1.6 to 155.6; Edmonton, 1.5 to 156.8; Winnipeg, 1.3 to 156.6; Saskatoon, 1.0 to 162.8; Vancouver, 0.7 to 163.5; Montreal, 0.4 to 165.7; Saint John, 0.3 to 159.4; and Toronto, 0.3 to 158.2. The Dominion index fell 0.5 points to 161.0.

The city indexes show changes in living costs for each city and compare the extent of the rise or fall between cities. They do not, however, compare the actual level of living costs. Indexes shown in this table do not yet include data covering Newfoundland.

The following table lists the latest city and Dominion cost-of-living indexes:

	<u>September 1, 1948</u>	<u>August 1, 1949</u>	<u>September 1, 1949</u>
		(August 1939=100)	
Halifax .....	151.9	157.2	155.6
Saint John .....	156.0	159.7	159.4
Montreal .....	162.1	166.1	165.7
Toronto .....	154.5	158.5	158.2
Winnipeg .....	151.6	157.9	156.6
Saskatoon .....	161.3	163.8	162.8
Edmonton .....	154.2	158.3	156.8
Vancouver .....	160.6	164.2	163.5
Dominion .....	157.6	161.5	161.0

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP EIGHT PER CENT

Department store sales in Canada were up eight per cent in September over the same month last year, according to preliminary figures. All provinces participated in the month's gain. Manitoba led the Dominion with a rise of 13 per cent, followed by the Maritimes up 11 per cent, Ontario nine per cent, Saskatchewan eight per cent, Quebec and Alberta each five per cent, and British Columbia four per cent.

During the week ending October 1, sales were unchanged from the same week last year. There were increases of six per cent in the Maritime Provinces, five per cent in British Columbia, and two per cent in Ontario. Sales in the Prairie Provinces were lower, Manitoba being down three per cent, Saskatchewan nine per cent, and Alberta five per cent. There was no change in Quebec.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS AT AUGUST 1

Employment in the major industrial divisions showed a slightly upward movement at the beginning of August as compared with a month earlier. The increase of 0.1 per cent in the working forces reported by 20,425 leading establishments, however, was considerably below the average for midsummer in the experience of the years since 1920, being also less than the gain indicated at August 1, 1948.

The amount expended in weekly salaries and wages at August 1 exceeded by 0.3 per cent the disbursements at July 1. The reported earnings were in some instances affected by the vacation factor, by industrial disputes and by short time occasioned by extreme heat. The per capita figure was \$43.06 as compared with \$42.98 at July 1, and \$40.66 a year ago. This year's August 1 average was the highest in the record for midsummer, although it was exceeded by per capita figures for March, April and May this year.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the general index of employment at August 1 stood at 199.1 as compared with 198.9 at July 1, and 200.9 at August 1, 1948. Although the decrease of 0.9 per cent in the latter comparison is slight, it is noteworthy because it is the first decline in a 12 months' comparison since the summer of 1946, when the situation had been seriously affected by industrial disputes and other factors of the immediate post-war period. In spite of the minor reduction in the latest index number as compared with August 1, 1948, the level of industrial employment continued higher than at midsummer in any earlier year. Prior to 1948, the maximum August 1 index was that of 192.6 in 1947, while the wartime peak figure for the same month was 185.9 in 1943.

Improvement was shown in all provinces except New Brunswick and Ontario. Industrially, there was expansion in mining, communications, transportation, construction and maintenance, hotels and restaurants and wholesale trade. The largest advance was that of four per cent in construction, in which the increase was less than usual for the time of year. The gain in mining resulted from the resumption of operations in asbestos fields in Quebec following the settlement of prolonged labour-management disputes.

The trend was downward in retail trade, logging and manufacturing. The losses of 0.8 per cent and 12.1 per cent in retail stores and logging, respectively, were seasonal in character; that of 0.7 per cent in manufacturing was at variance with the movement indicated, on the average, at the beginning of August in a lengthy period, although curtailment in operations has been noted at that date in several earlier years of the record. Within the manufacturing group, reduced employment was reported in a wide range of industries, the animal food, beverage, synthetic textile and silk, railway rolling stock, automobile parts and asbestos products divisions being the exceptions. (12)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF  
SAWMILLS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled 275,901 M feet in June as compared with 214,516 in June last year, an increase of 22.3 per cent. Output of coast mills showed an advance of 14.3 per cent and interior mills a rise of 40.1 per cent.

Shipments in the month amounted to 280,184 M feet as compared with 211,925 M a year earlier, up 24.4 per cent, coast mills registering an increase of 23.5 per cent and interior mills a gain of 27.7 per cent. Stocks on hand at the end of June totalled 353,093 M feet compared with 273,975 M at the end of June last year. Coast mills reported stocks totalling 232,069 M feet, while interior mills showed 121,024 M feet. (13)

GOLD PRODUCTION IN JULY Canadian production of gold in July decreased eight per cent from the high monthly total attained in June, but was 10 per cent above the same month last year. During the first seven months of this year, output increased 15 per cent over the similar period last year. Production advanced in all producing provinces and territories except Nova Scotia and British Columbia both in the month and cumulative period.

The month's total amounted to 326,324 fine ounces as compared with 343,280 in June and 296,247 a year ago. In the cumulative period, 2,289,044 fine ounces were produced as against 1,983,772 in 1948.

July production was as follows by areas, figures for the same month last year being in brackets: Ontario, 188,714 (173,889) fine ounces; Quebec, 65,930 (63,876); British Columbia, 24,845 (25,695); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 19,615 (18,592); Northwest Territories, 16,761 (9,544); Yukon, 9,685 (4,626); Nova Scotia, nil (25). (14)

CANAL TRAFFIC DOWN  
11 PER CENT IN AUGUST Freight passing through Canadian canals in August amounted to 3,063,431 tons, down 366,457 tons or 11 per cent from the corresponding month last year, the decline being principally due to the sharp reduction in the movement of soft coal on the Great Lakes waterway. Vessels locked through in August numbered 3,348 compared with 3,410 a year earlier, while passengers were down slightly at nearly 31,000. Pleasure craft rose from 11,850 to 13,005.

Traffic through all locks of the Sault Ste. Marie canals -- Canadian and United States -- totalled 14,761,279 tons, off 9.5 per cent or 1,543,198 tons from the volume in August, 1948. Soft coal which dropped from 2,989,000 to 1,200,000 tons accounted for the decline. East bound freight improved from 12,840,716 tons to 13,135,292, with wheat increasing nearly 300,000 tons to 848,845 tons in the month. Flour, other grains, structural steel and stone also gained over August last year. Pulpwood, scrap iron and other freight were lighter. Shipments of iron ore were fairly well maintained at 11,894,009 tons. West bound, the drop in soft coal reduced the total from 3,463,761 tons in August, 1948, to 1,625,987 tons, but structural steel and stone gained, while hard coal, oil and gasoline and other freight were down.

Freight moving through the Welland Ship canal during August aggregated 1,721,670 tons, down 13.6 per cent from the 1,969,414 tons passing in the same month last year. Recession was shown in the movement of barley, rye, gasoline down 25,000 tons to 74,628 tons, paper, soft coal at 411,178 tons compared with 834,266 tons, and in "all other freight" down 33,000 tons to 114,056 tons. Gains were recorded in corn, up sharply from 5,376 to 96,066 tons, oats up from 6,988 to 40,081 tons, wheat 68,000 to 301,285 tons, flour, petroleum, sugar, pulpwood and sand.

The sharp drop in soft coal from 445,893 to 199,772 tons resulted in a reduction of some 155,600 tons in total freight moving through the St. Lawrence canals in August as compared with August last year. Corn, oats, rye, wheat, flour, gasoline, sugar and pulpwood passed in greater volume, but barley, petroleum, paper, woodpulp and hard coal were reduced. Corn increased from 2,548 to 91,761 tons, oats from 352 to 25,807 tons, and wheat was up 43,396 tons to 122,190. Gasoline advanced from 79,760 to 105,728 tons, but petroleum was down to 64,795 from 131,223 tons. Pulpwood registered the first monthly increase over 1948 at 111,644 tons against 80,500 a year ago. (15)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Cars of revenue freight loaded in Canada during the week ended October 1 climbed to 89,594 cars from 85,993 cars in the preceding week but remained 1,167 cars below the same week last year, a decline of 1.3 per cent. The cumulative total for the 39 weeks was 2,898,710 cars, down 3.2 per cent from the similar period of 1948, but little changed from 1947 volume. (16)

RELEASED 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).

Reports and Bulletins

1. Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, August (10 cents).
2. Monthly Summary of Imports for Consumption, August (10 cents).
3. October Estimates of Production of Principal Field Crops, including Late-Sown Crops, Fodder, Roots and Potatoes (10 cents).
4. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
5. Dairy Factory Production, September (10 cents).
6. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, October 1 (10 cents).
7. Stocks of Meat, Lard and Tallow, October 1 (10 cents).
8. Honey Crop Report, No. 2 (10 cents).
9. Fruit Crop Report (10 cents).
10. Housing Bulletin No. 19 (25 cents).
11. National Accounts, Income and Expenditure, 1941-1948 and Supplementary Tables (50 cents).
12. Employment Situation at Beginning of August, Together with Payrolls (20 cents).
13. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, June (25 cents).
14. Gold Production, July (10 cents).
15. Summary of Canal Traffic, August (10 cents).
16. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
17. Canadian Statistical Review, September (35 cents).
18. Exports of Canadian and Foreign Produce -- Detailed Report -- August (25 cents).
19. Shipments and Inventories of Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds, July (25 cents).
20. Men's Factory Clothing Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
21. Traffic Report of Railways, June (10 cents).

Memorandum

1. Production and Stocks of Margarine, September (10 cents).

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010729624