

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Canada's Position in International Trade

Canada, during the calendar year 1932, even with a material decrease in her trade, has maintained a relatively high place among the trading nations of the world, says the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in its Review of Canada's Foreign Trade in 1932.

In 1932 Canada, in export trade, once more moved into fifth position, displacing Belgium and Argentina, but occupying, as last year, eighth place in total imports, and seventh place in total trade, the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy occupying fifth, sixth and seventh positions in total imports, while Belgium and the Netherlands occupied fifth and sixth positions in total trade.

North America has Suffered Less than Europe

The trade of both Canada and the United States suffered less from the world-wide depression than the chief commercial countries of Europe. A comparison of the decline in the imports and exports of the chief trading countries of the world with that of Canada and the United States is of special interest. The trade of thirty-two representative countries for the calendar year 1932, compared with similar period in 1931, indicates that each country had a decrease in both imports and exports, except Australia in imports, and Finland, Greece, New Zealand and Norway in exports; and that fifteen of the thirty-two countries had a favorable trade balance in 1932 compared with fourteen in 1931.

Volume and Value of Trade

A calculation based on the increases and decreases in 1931 and 1932 (based on the average import and export prices in 1930) indicates that the decrease in the imports in 1932 compared with 1931 on a volume basis was 21.8 per cent, and on a declared value basis, 27.9 per cent, while the decrease in the exports on a volume basis was 6.5 per cent, contrasted with a decrease of 18.4 per cent on a declared value basis.

Trade of Canada with Empire Countries, 1932

In general it may be said that the tendency of Canada's trade, quite apart from the trade agreements, during the past two or three years has been towards a greater exchange of commodities with Empire countries, though it has been more pronounced during the calendar year 1932. The proportion of Canada's imports from Empire countries from 1929 to 1932 increased from 19.8 to 28.3 per cent, and exports to, from 33.4 to 44.0 per cent; while the proportion of imports from Foreign Countries decreased from 80.2 per cent to 71.7, and exports to, from 66.6 to 56.0 per cent. During the same period the proportion of Canada's imports from the United Kingdom increased from 15.0 to 20.7 per cent, and exports to, from 24.5 to 36.1 per cent; while imports from the United States decreased from 68.8 to 58.2 per cent, and exports to, from 44.2 to 32.9 per cent.

Trade Balance with the United States

The trade balance with the United States has been unfavorable to Canada each year since 1882. For the calendar year 1932 the unfavorable trade balance with the United States amounted to \$94,602,000, compared with an unfavorable balance in 1929 amounting to \$348,256,000, in 1930 to \$241,461,000, and in 1931 to \$127,229,000. For the year 1932 the unfavorable trade balance for the last six months amounted to \$42,053,000, compared with an unfavorable balance for the first six months of \$52,549,000. The improvement in Canada's unfavorable trade balance with the United States in 1932 compared with 1931 was \$32,627,000, and with the year 1930 it was \$146,859,000.

Settlers' Effects

The value of settlers' effects sent to the United States in February was \$86,000 and the value of the effects of settlers coming into Canada from the United States was \$265,000.

February Imports from Empire Countries

Imports from British Empire countries in February totalled in value \$7,289,906 as against \$9,395,741 in February last year. From the United Kingdom the amount was \$5,727,605, British India \$433,641, Fiji \$196,114, Jamaica \$116,096, New Zealand \$114,149, British Guiana \$104,980, Australia \$101,015, Ceylon \$97,301, British South Africa \$86,475, British East Africa \$65,060, Gold Coast \$49,203, Straits Settlements \$44,371, Smaller West India Islands \$35,927, Hong Kong \$35,214, Barbados \$21,695, Nigeria \$19,502.

Imports from Foreign Countries in February

Imports from Foreign countries in February totalled in value \$16,224,208, the leading supplying countries being: United States \$13,836,091, Germany \$459,734, France \$372,765, Italy \$199,064, Japan \$166,944, China \$164,828, Switzerland \$161,159, Russia \$156,788, Czechoslovakia \$90,610, Netherlands \$79,141, Egypt \$51,001, Sweden \$46,154, Spain \$43,439, Colombia \$37,762, Dutch East Indies \$25,970, Venezuela \$23,974, Brazil \$23,345, Argentina \$22,631.

Chief Classes of Export and Import

The chief class of export to the United Kingdom during the past eleven months was agricultural and vegetable products valued at \$106,573,649 while to the United States it was wood, wood products and paper valued at \$87,168,378.

The chief class of import from the United Kingdom in the eleven months was fibres, textiles and textile products, valued at \$23,001,927, while from the United States it was iron and its products valued at \$39,898,193.

British Imports of Wheat in February

British imports of wheat in February totalled 7,617,524 cwt., principally from the following countries, the figures in brackets being those of a year ago: Canada 4,020,712 (2,815,477), Argentine 2,077,082 (3,107,977), Australia 1,200,473 (2,017,296), United States 5,006 (82,768), Russia/(242,093).

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British Imports of Flour in February

British imports of flour in February totalled 580,230 cwt. compared with 851,646 a year ago. The following were the chief supplying countries, the figures in brackets being those of a year ago: Canada 274,249 (129,438), Australia 135,753 (404,385), France 108,430 (67,498), Argentine 25,832 (31,553), United States 10,685 (176,996).

Numbers and Values of Live Stock

The average values per head of live stock in Canada in 1932 are estimated as follows with the averages for 1931 within brackets: Horses \$46 (\$50); milch cows \$32 (\$43); other cattle \$17 (\$25); total cattle \$24 (\$32); sheep \$3.32 (\$5.00); swine \$4.73 (\$7.00).

The total numbers and values of farm live stock in Canada for 1932 are as follows, with the figures for 1931 within brackets: Horses 3,088,630, \$141,640,000 (3,128,996, \$155,908,000); milch cows 3,624,600, \$116,349,000 (3,865,000, \$143,166,000); other cattle 4,886,500, \$83,685,000 (4,626,000, \$114,828,000); total cattle 8,511,100, \$200,034,000 (7,991,000, \$257,994,000); sheep 3,644,500, \$12,084,000 (3,608,000, \$18,596,000); swine 4,639,100, \$21,964,000 (4,716,720, \$32,773,000).

South Africa now Provides Canada's main Corn Requirements

Canada is now getting her main supply of corn from British South Africa. In 1932 the quantity from that country was 3,930,399 bushels but four years ago none came from there.

In 1928 the supply was coming from the United States and the Argentine, from the former 8,547,131 bushels and from the latter 5,385,484. In 1932 the amount imported from the United States was 3,155,601 bushels and from the Argentine only 128,354.

Silver Production in Canada

Silver production in Canada during December totalled 1,298,954 ounces. In November the output was 1,514,817 ounces and in December, a year ago, 1,512,360 ounces were produced.

Lead Production in Canada

Canadian producers reported an output of 20,543,259 pounds of lead in December as against 26,360,985 pounds in November and 20,587,221 pounds in December, 1931

Zinc Output in Canada

Zinc output in Canada during December advanced 5 per cent to 13,968,733 pounds from the November total of 13,305,200 pounds. In December, 1931, the total Canadian production amounted to 14,580,155 pounds.

Numbers and Values of Farm Poultry

The average values per head of farm poultry in 1932 are estimated as follows, the averages for 1931 being given within brackets: Hens and chickens \$0.51 (\$0.60); turkeys \$1.12 (\$1.88); geese \$1.04 (\$1.53); ducks \$0.65 (\$0.85). For Canada, the numbers and values of farm poultry in 1932 are estimated as follows, with the 1931 figures within brackets: Hens and chickens 59,842,800, \$29,838,000 (61,572,000, \$36,908,000); turkeys 2,478,300, \$2,785,000 (2,232,000, \$4,198,000); geese 948,400, \$991,000 (904,000, \$1,385,000); ducks 810,700, \$524,000 (760,000, \$647,000).

Production of Creamery Butter in February

The production of creamery butter in February amounted to 7,464,827 pounds, compared with 8,074,190 pounds in the preceding month and 7,414,403 pounds in February, 1932.

British Columbia increased its production by 15.2 per cent over February last year, Alberta 13.2 per cent, New Brunswick 8, and Ontario 0.3, but the Manitoba production decreased 9.3 per cent, Quebec 6.1, Prince Edward Island 4.7, Saskatchewan 2.7, and Nova Scotia 2.4.

Export Clearances of Wheat

Export clearances of wheat during the week ending March 17 totalled 2,855,231 bushels which was a decrease of 249,180 from the previous week and an increase of 636,689 over the corresponding week last year. Clearances by ports were as follows, the figures in brackets being those of a year ago:

Week ending March 17: Vancouver 1,960,245 (1,352,261), United States Atlantic seaboard ports 434,000 (632,000), Saint John 317,015 (234,281), Halifax 143,811 (nil), Montreal 160 (nil), Total 2,855,231 (2,218,542).

Thirty-three weeks ending March 17: Vancouver 70,451,882 (44,358,220), Montreal 45,167,413 (25,061,238), United States ports 19,128,000 (21,332,000), Sorel 11,073,265 (4,601,722), Saint John 6,191,318 (1,543,951), Churchill 2,736,030 (544,769), Quebec 1,217,904 (120,248), Victoria 1,166,721 (nil), Halifax 975,131 (37,215), Prince Rupert 677,813 (nil), Total 158,785,477 (97,599,363).

