

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

Vol. VI - No. 52

Ottawa, Saturday, December 24, 1938

Price \$1.00 per year

Weekly Quotation

Great is truth and mighty above all things,  
It endureth and is always strong,  
It liveth and conquereth for evermore;  
The more thou searchest the more thou shalt marvel.

(Inscription over entrance of National Research Laboratories, Ottawa). - The Apocrypha.

Weekly Review of Economic Conditions

The factors indicating the trend of economic conditions averaged about the same in the week of December 17th as in the preceding week. Four of the six sub-indexes recorded gains, the exceptions being carloadings and the number of shares traded. A slight decline was shown in the average from the same week of 1937. Capitalized bond yields and common stock prices alone of the six factors recorded gains.

The index of the physical volume of business showed a gain in November over the relatively high point of the preceding month. After remaining at a reduced level during the first eight months of 1938, the index rose sharply in September and was practically maintained in October. The index recorded a further advance in the month under review.

Marked gains were shown in the movements of copper, nickel and lead. The exports of zinc dropped off sharply and silver shipments recorded decline. An increase, on the other hand, was shown in gold shipments. Asbestos exports were particularly heavy while bauxite imports recorded decline from the preceding month. The index of the manufacture of food-stuffs advanced from 109.7 to 118.4. Decline was shown in the operations of the textile industry. Owing to greater activity in the lumber industry, the index of the forestry group advanced from 107.1 to 112.8. The output of steel ingots rose sharply over the preceding month. Owing partly to the introduction of new models, the automobile industry was more active. A gain was shown in the output of electric power, the index advancing from 221 to 226.

Wholesale prices were slightly more than maintained in the week of December 16th, the index advancing from 73.3 to 73.4. Gains were recorded in crop products, non-ferrous metals and non-metallic minerals. Moderate reaction was shown in wheat prices, No. 1 Northern averaging 60 $\frac{5}{8}$  against 61 $\frac{1}{8}$ . Flax recorded a further gain while rye was maintained, slight reaction being shown in oats and barley. Electrolytic copper advanced £1 to £19 10s in the week ended December 20th. Lead and zinc were also in a higher position. Export copper in New York recorded a minor advance. Zinc was maintained, while lead recorded a gain.

Dominion Government bonds were strong in the week ended December 15th, minor advances having been shown in British Consols and high-grade United States bonds. Slight reaction was shown on December 20th as compared with the 13th, the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 's of 1947-57 dropping one-quarter to 111 $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The index of common stock prices advanced one half point, increases being shown in five of the nine industrial groups. The index of fifteen power and traction stocks dropped from 60.2 to 60.0.

The weekly index based on six factors was 104.5 in the week of December 17th against 104.6 in the preceding week. The standing in the week of December 18, 1937, was 104.9, a decline of 0.4 per cent being indicated. The economic index has fluctuated within relatively narrow limits for the last fifteen months. No important trend either in an upward or a downward direction developed during the period.

Weekly Index with the Six Components  
1926=100

Week Ended	Car-loadings <sup>1</sup>	Wholesale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields <sup>2</sup>	Bank Clearings <sup>3</sup>	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index <sup>4</sup>
Dec. 18, 1937	71.8	82.8	147.3	90.0	104.0	122.4	104.9
Dec. 10, 1938	68.3	73.3	162.3	79.2	106.3	93.0	104.6
Dec. 17, 1938	65.5	73.4	162.6	82.0	106.8	77.1	104.5







1. The index of carloadings is projected forward one week to correspond with the practice in computing the weekly index. 2. Present value of a fixed net income in perpetuity from Dominion long-term bonds. 3. Bank clearings were smoothed by taking a three weeks moving average for the purpose of eliminating irregular fluctuations. Totals for Ottawa were eliminated for all weeks shown, owing to incomparability introduced by the operations of the Bank of Canada. 4. The weighting of the six major factors is determined from the standard deviation from the long-term trend of each, based on data for the period from January 1919 to August, 1936. The weighting therefore represents, not an attempt to give the relative importance of the factors, but to place them on an equal footing by equating the tendency toward fluctuation. The long-term trend determined from half-yearly data in the post-war period was eliminated from the composite and the resulting index expressed as a percentage of the average during 1926.

### Business Conditions in November

Business conditions were more favourable in November, the index of the physical volume of business showing a further gain. It will be recalled that after having been relatively steady during the first eight months of the year a rise was recorded in September and the upward movement has now been confirmed by a further advance in the month under review. Base metals were moved in larger volume in November and a slight increase was shown in the shipments of gold. The industries engaged in the manufacture of foodstuffs were stimulated, marked increase being shown after seasonal adjustment in the output of sugar and dairy products, while the meat packing industry was considerably more active. Recession was shown in the operations of the textile industry. The index of forestry operations rose from 107 to 112.8, and a gain was recorded in the output of steel ingots. The production of automobiles rose from 5,774 to nearly 18,000. Reaction was shown in new business obtained in the construction industry and carloadings were at a somewhat lower level.

		November 1938	November 1937	Percentage Increase + or Decrease -
Physical Volume of Business	1926=100	124.7*	127.9	- 2.5
Common stock prices	"	110.4	103.1	+ 7.1
Wholesale prices	"	73.5	83.1	-11.6
Capitalized bond yields	"	162.6	145.3	+11.9
Bank deposits	"	125.1	117.8	+ 6.2
Copper exports	Cwt.	565,226	503,505	+12.3
Nickel exports	"	214,865	214,553	+ 0.1
Zinc exports	"	181,788	380,694	-52.2
Asbestos exports	Tons	30,012	20,741	+44.7
Sugar manufactured	Lbs.	158,494,897	158,865,134	- 0.2
Cheese, factory production	"	6,592,588	4,396,221	+50.0
Butter, creamery production	"	14,676,447	13,263,918	+10.6
Crude rubber imports	"	6,994,635	10,722,688	-34.8
Raw wool and yarn imports	"	1,175,792	1,244,220	- 5.5
Newsprint production	Tons	245,295	302,236	-18.8
Planks and boards exported	M. ft.	156,875	148,112	+ 5.9
Shingles exported	Squares	16,948	148,127	-88.6
Steel ingots production	L. tons	90,120	110,688	-18.6
Pig iron production	"	46,216	81,463	-43.3
Automobile production	No.	17,992	16,574	+ 8.6
Petroleum imports	Gal.	128,446,000	159,615,511	-19.5
Carloadings	No.	219,242	235,109	- 6.7
Exports	\$	94,075,188	107,817,516	-12.7
Imports	\$	63,303,669	80,669,072	-21.5

\*Preliminary.

### Canada's Leading Export Markets in November

Canada's 12 leading export markets in November were as follows: United Kingdom \$35,757,000, United States \$35,585,000, Japan \$3,324,000, Germany \$2,344,000, Australia \$2,329,000, New Zealand \$1,396,000, Newfoundland \$1,075,000, British South Africa \$1,060,000, Norway \$1,046,000, Netherlands \$969,000, France \$715,000 and Argentina \$621,000.







### Canada's November Trade

Canada's external trade in November was valued at \$157,378,857 compared with \$166,627,719 in October and \$188,458,020 in November 1937. Domestic exports totalled \$93,223,909 against \$101,633,805 in October and \$106,662,684 in November last year. The value of imports was \$63,303,669 compared with \$63,908,940 in the previous month and \$80,640,504 in the corresponding month last year. November dutiable imports totalled \$33,743,254 and those on the free list \$29,560,415.

During the eight months ended November, Canada's trade aggregated \$1,149,384,686 compared with \$1,382,225,571 in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. The value of domestic exports was \$638,562,211 in comparison with \$787,150,190 a year ago, while imports totalled \$471,438,286 compared with \$584,217,797.

### Export Markets in November

Due to a falling-off in purchases of Canadian commodities by countries of the British Empire, the value of domestic exports in November declined to \$93,223,909 from \$106,662,684 in November, 1937. The amount to British Empire countries was \$44,328,859 compared with \$61,534,342. Purchases by foreign countries were increased, totalling \$48,895,059 compared with \$45,128,342. The value of commodities shipped to the United Kingdom was \$35,756,865 compared with \$51,614,422, and to the United States \$35,584,371 against \$31,288,499.

Domestic exports to other leading markets were as follows, with figures for November, 1937, in brackets: Japan \$3,323,720 (\$2,308,252), Germany \$2,344,313 (\$1,564,579), Australia \$2,329,236 (\$2,562,086), New Zealand \$1,396,331 (\$1,857,951), Newfoundland \$1,074,934 (\$1,270,921), British South Africa \$1,060,223 (\$1,620,030), Norway \$1,045,733 (\$465,619), Netherlands \$969,118 (\$1,726,823), France \$714,736 (\$312,050), Argentina \$620,526 (\$1,342,850), Sweden \$606,579 (\$221,839), Irish Free State \$529,406 (\$314,645), British India \$349,167 (\$140,483), Jamaica \$394,984 (\$456,243), Trinidad and Tobago \$379,572 (\$317,258), Brazil \$309,634 (\$492,687), Morocco \$2,369 (\$722,831), Mexico \$166,208 (\$531,677).

### November Exports to the United States

Exports to the United States in November amounted to \$35,584,371 compared with \$31,288,499 a year ago. Exports affected by the Canada-United States trade agreement totalled \$18,728,475 as against \$20,663,995. Amongst the leading exports were the following, the figures in brackets being those of a year ago: bran and shorts \$88,209 (\$1,434), screenings \$23,406 (\$43,996), maple sugar \$22,562 (\$17,463), alfalfa seed \$50,885 (\$132,460), seed potatoes \$273,086 (\$25,311), turnips \$124,920 (\$122,973), whiskey \$1,225,514 (\$2,357,818), dairy cattle over 700 pounds \$53,549 (\$57,650), calves \$49,716 (\$49,209), beef cattle under 700 pounds \$17,042 (\$92,573), beef cattle over 700 pounds \$977,496 (\$81,484), horses \$34,435 (\$53,360), poultry \$16,198 (\$143,698), sea herring \$53,550 (\$18,468), salmon or lake trout \$75,526 (\$70,437), lobsters \$19,472 (\$31,612), smelts \$80,530 (\$50,626), whitefish \$162,283 (\$157,766), mink skins \$47,650 (\$5,730), wolf skins \$32 (\$2,496), cheese \$25,390 (\$35,061), cream nil (\$17,941), firewood \$47,838 (\$48,222), laths \$78,550 (\$77,222), logs \$153,846 (\$259,302), softwood planks and boards \$1,070,302 (\$814,400), hardwood planks and boards \$154,649 (\$162,203), wood pulp \$2,364,174 (\$2,462,190), newsprint paper \$9,045,912 (\$9,345,553), skates \$47,327 (\$11,221), nickel in matte or speiss \$157,554 (\$291,114), artificial abrasives \$189,199 (\$367,380), asbestos \$320,579 (\$445,139), asbestos sand and waste \$217,497 (\$211,974), crude gypsum \$82,767 (\$105,956), acetic acid \$7,093 (\$69,857), cyanamid \$245,714 (\$228,523).

Domestic exports for the eleven months ending November amounted to \$320,619,312 as against \$441,968,675 in the same period last year. The export of commodities affected by the trade agreement was \$168,957,286 compared with \$237,385,974.

### October Gold Production

Gold production in October totalled 411,263 ounces compared with 409,612 in the previous month and 359,395 in October, 1937. During the first ten months of the current year, 3,871,956 ounces were produced compared with 3,380,735 in the corresponding period last year.

October output follows by provinces, with figures for September in brackets: Ontario 250,113 (246,170) ounces, British Columbia 50,765 (54,440), Manitoba and Saskatchewan 20,962 (18,676), Yukon and Northwest Territories 13,585 (14,698), Nova Scotia 2,195 (2,277),







Quebec 73,637 (73,347).

The average price of gold in October was \$35.32 per ounce in Canadian funds; valued at this price the Canadian output was worth \$14,525,809. The September average was \$35.12 and the value of the month's production was \$14,385,573.

---

#### Gypsum Production

The Canadian production of gypsum in October amounted to 96,161 tons compared with 119,221 in the previous month and 114,439 in October, 1937. Total output during the ten months ended October was 834,391 tons compared with 880,725 in the corresponding period last year.

---

#### Production of Gasoline

The output of gasoline by the petroleum refining industry in 1937 reached a new high record at 640,299,876 gallons, of which 361,900,397 gallons were made by the straight run process and 278,399,479 by cracking. This output was 13 per cent greater than in 1936. In addition, the refineries used for blending purposes a total of 47,514,563 gallons of imported casinghead gasoline which was not included in the production figures.

Production in Canadian refineries of fuel and gas oils, excluding any made and used for cracking purposes, totalled 544,109,039 gallons, of which 489,185,282 gallons were for sale and 54,923,757 for use as fuel in the refineries. Imports aggregated 49,315,477 gallons and exports 11,050,735. The output of tractor and engine distillate was 30,319,024 gallons and imports 1,451,292.

Refinery production of lubricating oils was 22,952,802 gallons and the output from blending plants was 914,727 gallons, making a total production in Canada of 23,867,529 gallons.

---

#### Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending December 16 amounted to 2,860,832 bushels compared with 2,402,489 in the previous week and 1,329,218 in the corresponding week last year. The totals follow by provinces, with 1937 figures in brackets: Manitoba 113,893 (167,358) bushels, Saskatchewan 912,465 (223,225), Alberta 1,834,472 (938,635).

Marketings during the twenty weeks ended December 16 totalled 251,193,334 bushels compared with 96,171,999 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals were as follows by provinces: Manitoba 40,841,709 (32,131,743) bushels, Saskatchewan 99,839,462 (20,076,149), Alberta 110,539,163 (43,964,107).

---

#### Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ended December 16 amounted to 753,707 bushels compared with 1,904,001 in the corresponding week last year. Imports of Canadian wheat into the United States for consumption and milling in bond for re-export totalled 98,000 bushels compared with 31,000 a year ago. Clearances follow by ports, with 1937 figures in brackets: Vancouver-New Westminster 693,421 (392,534) bushels, Saint John 32,459 (1,134,659), United States Ports 27,507 (368,191), Montreal 320 (8,617).

Overseas export clearances during the twenty weeks ended December 16 totalled 65,250,026 bushels compared with 39,388,589 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year, while imports into the United States were 3,419,617 bushels compared with 1,891,839. The clearances follow by ports: Montreal 31,176,898 (22,541,611) bushels, Vancouver-New Westminster 12,315,891 (4,066,413), Sorel 9,414,308 (2,476,039), Three Rivers 6,022,221 (420,811), United States Ports 5,259,270 (7,327,462), Churchill 916,913 (603,982), Fort William and Port Arthur 112,066 (114,375), Saint John 32,459 (1,837,896).

---

#### Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in store for the week ending December 16 totalled 170,668,870 bushels compared with 170,927,818 in the previous week and 60,349,518 in the corresponding week last year. The amount of Canadian wheat in the United States was 8,502,000 bushels compared with 8,601,000 the week before and 5,315,000 a year ago. Wheat in rail transit







totalled 5,353,002 as against 3,641,601 a year ago. There was no wheat in lake transit during the week; last year the total was 202,010 bushels.

---

#### Building Permits Issued in November

The value of the construction represented by the building permits issued by 58 cities during November was \$4,687,296 compared with \$9,587,462 in the previous month and \$4,925,202 in November, 1937. Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Manitoba showed increases over November last year, of which the greatest was that of \$181,655 or 93.9 per cent in Nova Scotia. Of the declines elsewhere reported, those of \$612,859, or 23.3 per cent in Ontario and \$328,300 or 46.6 per cent in British Columbia were largest.

The value of the building permits taken out in the first eleven months this year was \$57,384,055; this was greater than the aggregate of \$52,288,022 reported in the same period of 1937, and also substantially exceeded the total for the same months in any other year since 1931. However, the cumulative total in each of the last seven years has been very much lower than in preceding years since 1919.

---

#### Domestic Shipments of Rigid Insulating Board

Domestic shipments of rigid insulating board during November totalled 4,506,584 square feet compared with 4,725,997 in the previous month and 4,450,855 in the same month last year. Shipments during the first 11 months of the year totalled 45,827,854 square feet compared with 49,242,805 in the corresponding period last year.

---

#### Automobile Production in November

November production of automobiles at 17,992 units was the best reported since May and compares with 5,774 in October and 16,574 in November, 1937. Totals for November included 15,423 passenger models and 2,565 trucks, making a grand total for the first eleven months of 147,472 units compared with 186,348 in the same period last year.

---

#### Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales

After breaking above the 1937 level in October for the first time this year, financing of motor vehicle sales in Canada reacted in November, the number financed being 9,674 to the extent of \$4,065,233 compared with 11,192 for \$4,525,173 in October and 10,106 for \$4,446,651 in November, 1937. The number of new vehicles financed in the latest month was 2,645 and used vehicles 7,029. Totals for the eleven months ended November show 151,881 vehicles were financed for \$65,034,461 compared with 168,854 for \$71,459,789 in the same period of 1937, indicating decreases of 10 per cent in number and 9 per cent in value.

---

#### Retail Sales of Motor Vehicles in 1937

There were 413,043 motor vehicles retailed for \$245,277,623 in 1937. Included in these totals were 141,881 new vehicles which sold for \$157,671,890 and 271,162 used vehicles at \$87,605,733. Ontario with 33.5 per cent of the Dominion population had 47.7 per cent of all motor vehicles registered in the country in 1936 and took 49.7 of the total sales for 1937.

---

#### Production of Concentrated Milk

Combined production of all items of concentrated milk in November amounted to 8,481,505 pounds compared with 11,436,378 in October and 8,673,367 in the corresponding month last year. Evaporated milk was the principal item, totalling 5,294,978 pounds. Total production of concentrated milk in the eleven months ended November was 152,635,999 pounds compared with 129,626,076 in the corresponding period last year, increases being recorded in all items, excepting cream powder and condensed buttermilk.

---

#### Wood-Using Industries in 1936

Total production in the wood-using industries during 1936 reached a value of \$74,728,115, an increase of close to \$10,000,000 from the output of \$64,802,326 in 1935.







Births, Deaths and Marriages  
In the Second Quarter of 1937

According to preliminary calculations made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, there were 57,480 live births in Canada during the second quarter of 1938 compared with 58,815 in the same period last year. The equivalent annual rate was 20.6 per 1,000 population as compared with 21.2 for the second quarter of 1937. Deaths totalled 26,234 with a rate of 9.4 as compared with 27,937 and a rate of 10.1. The natural increase for the quarter was 31,246, giving a rate of 11.2, as against 30,877 or a rate of 11.1. There were 23,887 marriages performed, giving a rate of 8.6 as against 22,964 and a rate of 8.3 in the second quarter of 1937.

---

Births, Deaths and Marriages in November

Births registered in 67 cities and towns of Canada during November numbered 6,895, deaths 4,328 and marriages 3,419, as compared with 6,316 births, 4,057 deaths and 3,396 marriages in November last year, showing increases of 9 per cent in births, 7 per cent in deaths and one per cent in marriages.

The number of births registered during the eleven months ended November was 77,345, deaths 47,050 and marriages 38,075, as against 74,360 births, 48,934 deaths and 37,192 marriages during the corresponding eleven months last year. This comparison shows increases of 4 per cent in births and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent in marriages and a decrease of 4 per cent in deaths.

---

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, November (10 cents).
  2. Summary of Canada's Imports, November (10 cents).
  3. Trade of Canada, November (10 cents).
  4. Domestic Exports to Principal Countries, November (10 cents).
  5. Production of Concentrated Milk, November (10 cents).
  6. Miscellaneous Paper Goods, 1937 (10 cents).
  7. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, November (10 cents).
  8. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  9. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
  10. Automobile Production, November (10 cents).
  11. Wood-Using Industries, Canada, 1936 (20 cents).
  12. Motor Vehicle Retailing in Canada, 1937 (25 cents).
  13. The Awning, Tent and Sail Industry, 1937 (15 cents).
  14. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
  15. Asphalt Roofing Production, November (10 cents).
  16. Building Permits, November (10 cents).
  17. Gold Production, October (10 cents).
  18. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, November (10 cents).
  19. The Cement Industry, 1937 (15 cents).
  20. Broom, Brush and Mop Industry, 1937 (15 cents).
  21. Carriages, Sleighs and Vehicle Supplies, 1937 (10 cents).
  22. Census Monograph, Unemployment (50 cents).
  23. World Price Movements (25 cents).
  24. Gypsum Production, October (10 cents).
  25. Miscellaneous Wood Products Industry, 1937 (10 cents).
  26. Petroleum Products Industry, 1937 (25 cents).
  27. Births, Deaths and Marriages, Second quarter, 1938 (10 cents).
  28. Domestic Shipments of Rigid Insulating Board, November (10 cents).
  29. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, November (10 cents).
  30. Prices and Price Indexes, November (10 cents).
  31. Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
-





1010730084