

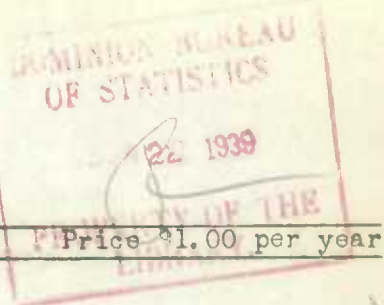
WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Weekly Review of Economic Conditions

The six factors indicating the trend of economic conditions averaged lower in the week of April 15th, recessions having been experienced in all factors with the exception of wholesale prices. Common stock prices continued on the down trend of the past month. Carloadings, bank clearings and stock market activity reached perceptibly lower levels, while a minor decline was experienced in capitalized bond yields. Three of the six factors recorded advances in comparison with the same week of 1938, capitalized bond yields, bank clearings and speculative trading rising to a higher position, but these gains were more than counterbalanced by declines in other factors, and the index consequently showed the first unfavourable reading in this comparison since the week of March 11th.

Carloadings for the week ended April 8th dropped to 38,995 cars compared with 44,692 cars for the previous week and 43,101 cars for the corresponding week of last year. After adjustment for the Easter holiday the index dropped from 76.1 for the previous week to 74.2. For the first fourteen weeks total loadings amounted to 568,516 cars and were nine per cent below the 1938 total, and 89,473 cars or 14 per cent below the 1937 cumulative figure, the miscellaneous group accounting for approximately half of the decreases. It was noteworthy that in the fourteenth week the entire decline in the index was attributable to the Western Division, while the adjusted index for the Eastern Division showed a minor gain over the previous week. The pattern of this year's trend in carloadings, while on a somewhat lower plane, resembles the general variation experienced in the same weeks of 1937. Of the commodity classification grain and grain products, coke, pulp and paper, and other forest products show the only encouraging advances.

The weighted index of general wholesale prices was firmer in the week ended April 14th, moving from 73.2 to 73.3. Only two of the eight major groups comprising the index showed changes. Vegetable products mounted from 61.3 to 61.5 due largely to increases in grains, raw sugar and potatoes, while non-ferrous metals were weaker. After declining for three successive weeks, the Bureau's index of industrial material prices staged a mild recovery and rose from 64.1 for the week ended April 7th to 64.3. The food materials group was somewhat more buoyant and advanced from 56.2 to 56.9 as higher quotations for grains, sugar and hogs outbalanced a reduction in steers. Grains were all firmer on the Winnipeg exchange, Wheat No. 1 Northern regaining the 60-cent level for the first time since March 4th. Oats, barley, flax and rye were also stronger. Bacon hogs at Toronto advanced 18 cents on the week to \$8.79 per cwt. On the American commodity markets declines were in evidence in cotton and rubber, but gasoline and raw silk registered gains during the week. Japan raw silk at \$2.50 was quoted at the highest figure for several years. London metal markets took heart at Saturday's appeal for peace which was voiced by Mr. Roosevelt, and practically all metal prices opened stronger on the 17th. Electrolytic copper was up to £48 compared with £47 15s on the previous week. Tin advanced £2 15s on the week to £216 15s. New York metal prices remained steady and a gain was shown in tin, which rose to \$46.87, a net gain of 87 cents during the week.

Canadian common stock price averages showed a net decline under heavy liquidation for the week ended April 13th despite considerable recovery in the two final days. This was the fourth week of a sharp recession which carried the general index for 95 issues downward to 93.9, a decline of over four points on the week. This low has been exceeded only once in the past three years and that at the time of Germany's annexation of Austria. In the industrial division all sub-groups registered serious losses, ranging from 20 points for industrial mines to over one point in pulp and paper and foods. The utility group was also weaker, declining over one point to 41.2. The price index of 25 Canadian mining issues joined in the general decline experienced on the industrial and utility boards and receded from 145.1 to 140.3 for the week of April 13th, the base metal section having dropped 13 points to 273.7. However, a more encouraging upturn was experienced towards the close of the week in the daily figures.

The reaction in domestic high-grade security markets was extended during the week and the Bureau's index of long-term bond prices receded to 117.2. Provincials showed a mixed trend but losses predominated. Disquiet over European developments continued to exert an important influence upon world markets. The inflow of foreign capital seeking investment in North American securities was not sufficient to dispel the uneasiness of domestic traders. The average yield of the issues used in the weekly index rose from 3.00 to 3.02. Foreign currencies were subjected to increased pressure and further sharp increases in discounts on forward rates were experienced during the week. United States funds reversed their downward tendency of the previous week in terms of Canadian dollars, gaining 3/16ths

to close at \$1.00 19/32 on April 13th.

Due to the reaction in the above mentioned factors, the weekly index showed a decline of nearly two per cent in the week of April 15th, the standing having been 106.9 compared with the revised figure of 109.0 in the previous week. The index in the same week of 1938 was 107.8, a recession of 0.8 per cent having been indicated.

Weekly Index with the Six Components
1926=100

Week Ended	Car load-ings ¹	Whole-sale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields ²	Bank Clear-ings ³	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index ⁴
April 16, 1938	75.0	83.0	155.0	93.9	97.5	98.2	107.8
April 8, 1939	76.1	73.2	161.8	99.1	98.0	168.1	109.0
April 15, 1939	74.2	73.3	160.8	94.8	93.9	98.8	106.9

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.

Domestic Exports in March

Advance was shown in the value of Canada's March domestic exports, totalling \$76,149,000 as against \$61,727,000 in the previous month and \$74,219,000 in March, 1938. Foreign exports were worth \$1,050,000, comparing with \$671,000 in February and \$893,000 a year ago.

The principal items exported in March follow, with figures for March 1938 in brackets: newsprint, \$9,388,061 (\$8,685,337); gold bullion other than monetary, \$6,031,905 (nil); partially manufactured copper, \$5,392,766 (\$5,047,420); unmanufactured nickel, \$4,867,768 (\$6,178,499); wheat, \$3,987,087 (\$4,452,423); meats, \$3,396,596 (\$3,265,953); planks and boards, \$3,357,162 (\$3,129,928); automobiles and parts \$2,904,763 (\$3,302,969); wood pulp, \$2,513,609 (\$2,899,451); fish, \$2,508,141 (\$2,516,411); furs, \$1,253,460 (\$1,414,820); wheat flour, \$1,110,095 (\$1,770,784); cheese, \$137,816 (\$146,113).

Domestic exports during the fiscal year just ended aggregated \$926,962,000 in comparison with \$1,070,229,000 in 1937-38. Foreign exports were of the value of \$42,808,000 this year as against \$14,593,000 in the previous twelve-month period.

Principal commodities exported during the fiscal year 1938-39 follow, with figures for 1937-38 in brackets: newsprint, \$107,360,211 (\$120,007,550); gold bullion other than monetary, \$87,590,120 (\$86,203,736); wheat, \$84,494,433 (\$116,273,709); partially manufactured copper, \$53,061,459 (\$56,349,161); unmanufactured nickel, \$49,565,526 (\$61,918,600); planks and boards, \$37,106,863 (\$43,662,909); meats, \$35,432,212 (\$41,362,775); fish, \$26,897,947 (\$27,623,615); wood pulp, \$26,814,418 (\$39,960,178); automobiles and parts, \$25,335,461 (\$28,291,305); wheat flour, \$15,777,707 (\$23,221,366); furs, \$14,130,297 (\$14,830,397); cheese, \$12,052,703 (\$12,938,568).

March Export of Wheat and Flour

March exports of Canadian wheat aggregated 6,564,277 bushels appraised at \$3,987,087 in comparison with 3,487,449 bushels at \$4,452,423 in the corresponding month last year. The average export price fell to 61 cents per bushel from \$1.28. The amount sent to the United Kingdom was 5,175,712 bushels as against 2,170,113 a year ago.

Export shipments of wheat flour were also advanced, totalling 360,752 barrels valued at \$1,110,095 as against 301,735 at \$1,770,784 a year ago. The average export price was \$3.08 as against \$5.87. The United Kingdom took 204,122 barrels as against 179,414.

Exports of Barley and Oats

The export of barley in March amounted to 507,060 bushels worth \$221,312 as against 813,255 at \$537,624 in the corresponding month last year, the United Kingdom taking 505,774 bushels as against 812,261. The export of oats totalled 618,806 bushels valued at \$196,046 compared with 305,751 at \$161,020 a year ago, of which the United Kingdom took 380,395 bushels as against 152,187.

Canada's Position in the British Market in February with Certain Leading Commodities

The external trade of the United Kingdom in February was valued at £108,340,000, exclusive of bullion and specie, according to Board of Trade returns. In the corresponding month last year the total was £118,880,326.

Imports accounted for most of the decline, the total being £65,515,512 compared with £75,793,898, a drop of £10,278,386. Domestic exports recorded advance, totalling £38,052,216 compared with £37,558,722, while exports of imported commodities totalled £4,772,323 as against £5,527,706.

Canada was first in the United Kingdom market with wheat, supplying 2,634,497 cwt., the United States being second with 2,271,822, Australia next with 1,649,404 and Roumania 1,645,374. Canada was second last year with a total of 1,930,564.

Canada was first with barley, contributing 319,207 cwt., the United States second with 176,405 and Soviet Union next with 127,487. Last year Canada was in third place with 190,813 cwt.

The United Kingdom imported 223,048 cwt. of oats in February, of which Canada accounted for 222,967 cwt.

Canada regained first place in the United Kingdom market in wheat meal and flour, contributing a total of 330,956 cwt., France being second with 120,675 cwt. and Australia third with 104,945. Canada was second in February last year, Australia being in first place.

Canada was second in February with bacon, with a total of 82,257 cwt., Denmark being first with 255,450 and the Netherlands third with 46,422.

Canada was also second with hams, the amount being 18,381 cwt., the United States being first with 30,741.

Canada was fifth in total meats, contributing to the value of £1,091,502, Argentine Republic being first with £3,479,624, Denmark second with £2,535,918, Australia third with £1,906,520, New Zealand fourth at £1,375,771.

Canada shipped 19,603 cwt. of butter in February to the United Kingdom market against one cwt. a year ago. New Zealand was the chief contributor with a total of 207,492 cwt., Australia next with 184,981, Denmark 142,918, Netherlands 33,700, followed by Canada.

Canada was second in the British market with fresh apples, supplying 260,083 cwt. The United States was first with 282,419 cwt.

Canada was third with canned salmon, with 17,228 cwt., Japan being first with 115,987 cwt. and the United States second with 30,390. Canada shipped 12,018 cwt. in February last year.

Canada's contribution of lard amounted to 8,705 cwt., taking second place. The United States was first with 163,730 cwt.

Canada was third with stripped unmanufactured tobacco with 87,186 pounds, the United States being first with 1,136,931 and British India second with 187,154.

Canada held second place with unstripped unmanufactured tobacco with a total of 3,173,993 pounds, the United States being first with 10,011,987.

Canada was well in advance of any other country in the British market with wood and timber, the value being £506,441, the United States being second at £310,619, Sweden third with £216,837, Finland next with £173,159 and Poland £172,899.

Canada was second with undressed hides and skins, the value being £188,414, the United States being first with £217,640, Afghanistan third with £159,897 and France fourth at £83,641.

Canada was second in iron and steel and manufactures thereof with a total of £171,030, Belgium being first with £180,450, Sweden third with £144,441 and the United States fourth with £103,796.

Canada held first place in aluminium and aluminium alloys, supplying 42,750 cwt., Switzerland being second with 23,959 cwt.

Canada was first with electrolytic copper with a total of 7,258 tons, followed by Northern Rhodesia with 2,004, Chile 676 and the United States 655. Canada's share in February last year was 5,129.

Canada was second in lead with 8,030 tons, Australia being first with 12,786, Burma third with 3,950 and Mexico fourth with 1,100.

Canada was first with nickel, contributing 6,004 cwt. out of a total of 9,261. Norway was second with 3,154 cwt.

Canada was also first with zinc, accounting for 9,846 tons, and Belgium second with 3,406.

Canada held undisputed possession of first place in the British market with non-ferrous metals and manufactures when considered as a group, Canada's total being £911,322, Northern Rhodesia coming second with £370,295, Chile third with £326,067, United States £241,974 and Australia £204,324.

Canada was fourth in the British market in February with industrial machinery, with a total of £96,151, the United States being first with £804,987, Germany second with £432,366 and Switzerland third with £157,649.

Canada was second in manufactures of wood and timber with a total of £59,086 in February, being preceded by Finland with £128,405.

Canada was first in February with footwear, the value being £71,190, followed by Switzerland with £57,484, Czechoslovakia with £51,946, Hong Kong with £38,352 and the United States £24,583.

Canada continued to hold first place with patent leather, contributing 508 cwt. out of a total of 701.

Canada was first in newsprint paper with 265,828 cwt., Finland being second with 120,736.

Wheat Stocks in Store

The visible supply of Canadian wheat during the week ended April 14 was 137,881,813 bushels compared with 138,798,422 in the previous week and 43,759,732 in the corresponding week last year. Wheat in rail transit totalled 4,423,501 bushels compared with 3,105,869 a year ago. Canadian wheat in the United States amounted to 1,140,000 bushels compared with 1,567,000 the week before and 911,173 last year.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Overseas export clearances of wheat advanced to 971,389 bushels during the week ending April 14 from 378,329 in the corresponding week last year, while imports into the United States for consumption and milling in bond for re-export were also higher at 158,000 bushels as against 4,000. The clearances follow by ports, with figures for 1938 in brackets: Vancouver-New Westminster, 791,341 (123,417) bushels; United States Ports, 108,121 (179,094); Saint John, 71,927 (74,519); Montreal, nil (1,299).

Considerable advance was shown in the export clearances of wheat during the period August 1 - April 14, the total being 92,541,228 bushels as against 57,324,506 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Imports into the United States were also somewhat advanced, amounting to 6,675,728 bushels in comparison with 2,023,983. Clearances follow by ports: Vancouver-New Westminster, 31,280,713 (9,072,979) bushels; Montreal, 31,196,863 (22,565,340); United States Ports, 10,105,402 (12,749,835); Sorol,

9,414,308 (2,476,039); Three Rivers, 6,022,221 (420,811); Saint John, 2,937,596 (8,542,116); Churchill, 916,913 (603,982); Victoria, 555,146 (nil); Fort William and Port Arthur, 112,066 (114,375); Prince Rupert, nil (619,061); Halifax, nil (159,968).

Primary Movement of Wheat

Receipts of wheat in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended April 14 totalled 1,314,759 bushels compared with 988,796 in the previous week and 1,139,422 in the corresponding week last year. The totals for the latest week were as follows, with figures for 1938 in brackets: Manitoba, 163,242 (412,725) bushels; Saskatchewan, 607,430 (214,301); Alberta, 544,087 (512,396).

Marketings in the three provinces during the thirty-seven weeks ending April 14 aggregated 269,600,952 bushels in comparison with 113,500,451 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. The amounts follow by provinces, with figures for the same period last year in brackets: Manitoba, 41,698,866 (35,651,091) bushels; Saskatchewan, 107,452,918 (24,114,529); Alberta, 120,449,168 (53,734,831).

World Shipments of Wheat

World shipments of wheat during the first 37 weeks of the crop year totalled 407,471,000 bushels compared with 365,808,000 a year ago, and by countries, with figures for 1938 in brackets: North America, 173,381,000 (134,896,000); Argentina, 58,440,000 (48,760,000); Australia, 70,234,000 (84,336,000); Russia, 35,816,000 (38,312,000); Danube, 56,944,000 (45,456,000); India, 3,392,000 (8,864,000); other countries, 9,264,000 (5,184,000).

Grain Situation in Argentina

The correspondent of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in Buenos Aires reports under date of April 4 that the second official estimate of the maize area reduces the total by 247,100 acres to 13,096,300. It is estimated that 30 per cent will prove a total loss, leaving only 9,167,410 acres to be harvested. The revised total area is lower than that of last year by $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. During the month of March there were frequent rains, abundant in quantity and general in distribution.

March Production of Automobiles

Production of motor vehicles in Canada during March totalled 17,549 units compared with 14,300 made in the previous month and 16,802 in March, 1938. This month's total was made up of 12,689 passenger cars and 4,860 trucks, including 9,063 passenger cars and 2,973 trucks intended for sale in Canada and 3,626 passenger cars and 1,887 trucks for export. For the three months ending March, 46,643 cars were produced against 50,492 in the first quarter of last year.

Building Permits in March

The value of building permits issued by 58 cities during March was \$3,351,194, compared with \$1,894,161 in February and \$3,561,517 in March, 1938. The building represented by the construction permits taken out in the first three months of the present year was valued at \$6,951,985, compared with \$7,885,100 in the first quarter of 1938 and \$10,527,992 in 1937. The average total in the first three months of the years from 1920 to 1938 was \$17,593,858.

Cost of Living in March

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of the cost of living for Canada was unchanged at 82.9 for March. Moderate decreases in the prices of butter, lard, cheese, flour, bread, fish, canned vegetables, veal, fresh pork, cooked ham and tea were counterbalanced by gains for eggs, potatoes, beef, mutton, salt pork and bacon, resulting in an unchanged index at 74.5 for foods. Compared with March, 1938, food costs had declined five per cent. Other budget price indexes were the same as for February.

Rigid Insulating Board

Domestic shipments of rigid insulating board in March totalled 3,778,540 square feet compared with 3,124,540 a year ago. During the first three months of 1939 the total was 9,553,011 as against 8,705,276 square feet last year.

Printing Trades in 1937

Production of the printing trades had a total value in 1937 of \$117,826,142, showing an increase of 6.6 per cent over the corresponding figure of \$110,574,825 reported in 1936. Total finished printed matter and other products amounted to \$109,089,727 as against \$102,802,121 the year before. Trade work done during the year totalled \$8,736,415 compared with \$7,772,704 in 1936.

Periodicals accounted for \$51,680,713 of the total production, daily newspapers alone contributing \$38,287,222. Printed and bound books were valued at \$5,336,059, other printed advertising at \$13,401,517, bound blank books \$3,449,534, miscellaneous printed goods and printed stationery \$32,204,226 and other products at \$3,017,678.

Cooking and Heating Apparatus

Sixty-eight establishments in the cooking and heating apparatus industry made products worth \$15,976,000 at factory prices in 1937, compared with \$13,032,554 in 1936. These concerns employed an average of 5,239 workers throughout the year, paid out \$5,860,623 for salaries and wages, \$353,941 for fuel and electricity and \$6,040,819 for manufacturing materials. Forty-five of the establishments were in Ontario, eight in British Columbia, six in Quebec, three in New Brunswick, three in Nova Scotia, two in Alberta and one in Manitoba.

Reports Issued Today

1. Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, February (10 cents).
 2. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
 3. Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents). ✓
 4. Domestic Shipments of Rigid Insulating Board, March (10 cents).
 5. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 6. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 7. Prices and Price Indexes (10 cents).
 8. The Cooking and Heating Apparatus Industry, 1937 (25 cents). ✓
 9. Building Permits for March, 1939 (10 cents).
 10. Report on the Printing Trades, 1937 (25 cents).
 11. Production of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
 12. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
 13. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
 14. Automobile Production, March (10 cents).
 15. Summary of Exports of Canadian Grains and Flour, March (10 cents).
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