

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Weekly Review of Economic Conditions

The factors indicating the trend of economic conditions averaged practically the same in the last week of April as in the preceding week. Gains were recorded by three factors, including carloadings, wholesale prices and common stocks. The index of capitalized bond yields receded slightly, while a considerable decline was shown in bank clearings and speculative trading. Steadiness has characterized economic conditions in Canada for the last eighteen months, no important trend either in an upward or downward direction having developed during the period. Fluctuations have occurred from time to time but reactions have been more or less counterbalanced by later improvement.

The railway freight movement recorded a gain after seasonal adjustment in both the Eastern and Western divisions, the general index of carloadings advancing from 72.1 to 75.6. Railway traffic during the first sixteen weeks of the year amounted to 654,000 cars against 709,000 in the same period of last year. Improvement was shown in grain, forest products, lumber, pulp and paper, and coke. Declines were shown by the other six commodity groups. The freight movement was considerably below that of last year during the first quarter, but a better showing was made during April.

The general level of wholesale prices was remarkably steady during the last eight months. A slight rise has been shown in recent weeks, the index moving up from 73.4 in the week of April 21st to 73.5 in the week of the 28th. Crop products and non-ferrous metals averaged slightly higher, while recessions were shown in animal products and non-metallic minerals. The level of wholesale prices was 9.8 per cent below the corresponding week of 1938, when the index stood at 81.5. Base metals were soft on the London market, electrolytic copper dropping from £48 on April 26th to £47 5s on May 2nd. Recessions were also shown in lead and zinc. Export copper was also somewhat lower on the New York metal market. Lead and zinc were unchanged, while the advance in tin continued. Grain prices on the Winnipeg exchange were higher than for some time, No. 1 Northern wheat advancing from 60 5/8 to 62.

The downward fluctuation in high-grade bond prices continued in the last week of April. This movement contrasts with the advance during the first five months of last year. For the first time in the present year average prices of Dominion issues are consequently below the level of the same week of 1938. The average yield of the issues included in the official index advanced from 3.08 to 3.09. Bid quotations for prominent issues were lower on May 2nd than on April 26th, the 3's of 1950-55 receding from 99 5/8 to 98 3/4.

Common stock prices recorded minor gain in the last week of April, extending the rally of the preceding week. The index was 96.8 against 95.3 in the preceding week. Gains were recorded in each of the groups except pulp and paper and transportation. The index of fifteen power and traction stocks moved up from 58.3 to 58.4.

The weekly index based on the six above-mentioned factors was practically maintained in the last week of April at 106.0, against 106.1 in the preceding week. The decline from the same week of 1938 was 3.2 per cent, carloadings being the only factor of the six to show an increase.

Weekly Index with the Six Components
1926=100

| Week Ended | Car loadings ¹ | Wholesale Prices | Capitalized Bond Yields ² | Bank Clearings ³ | Prices of Common Stocks | Shares Traded | Weekly Index ⁴ |
|----------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| April 30, 1938 | 74.9 | 81.5 | 160.8 | 94.5 | 101.3 | 112.0 | 113.2 |
| April 22, 1938 | 72.1 | 73.4 | 157.5 | 97.3 | 95.3 | 116.9 | 106.1 |
| April 29, 1939 | 75.6 | 73.5 | 157.2 | 93.4 | 96.8 | 60.3 | 106.0 |

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.

Department of Health and Education
Bureau of Health Statistics

Report on the Health of the People of the State of New York
for the Year 1917

The following table shows the number of deaths from various causes in the State of New York during the year 1917, as compared with the corresponding years 1916 and 1915. The figures are given in thousands of persons.

The table shows that the total number of deaths in 1917 was 112,000, as compared with 108,000 in 1916 and 105,000 in 1915. The increase in 1917 was due to an increase in deaths from various causes, particularly from pneumonia and influenza, which were the leading causes of death in that year.

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Table showing the number of deaths from various causes in the State of New York during the year 1917, as compared with the corresponding years 1916 and 1915.

| Year | Total | Pneumonia and influenza | Heart disease | Cancer | Stroke | Tuberculosis | Diabetes | Other |
|------|---------|-------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------------|----------|--------|
| 1917 | 112,000 | 35,000 | 25,000 | 15,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 5,000 | 12,000 |
| 1916 | 108,000 | 30,000 | 22,000 | 12,000 | 8,000 | 10,000 | 5,000 | 11,000 |
| 1915 | 105,000 | 28,000 | 20,000 | 10,000 | 7,000 | 10,000 | 5,000 | 10,000 |

April Employment Situation

Employment at April 1 showed considerable curtailment of a seasonal character, the 11,493 reporting establishments employing 1,015,632 persons compared with 1,031,679 in the preceding month. In the corresponding month last year 10,450 firms had a total payroll of 1,001,970. The index number in April this year was 104.9 compared with 106.5 in March and 105.0 in April last year.

The trend of employment at April 1 in sixteen of the eighteen preceding years for which statistics are available has been downward; the decline ordinarily results from the release of bushmen following the completion of the season's logging operations in the Eastern and Central Provinces, before any appreciable number of workers have been absorbed into the outdoor industries opening up in the spring and early summer. The general contraction at the latest date was very slightly less than the average recorded at April 1 in the years since 1920, and has been considerably exceeded on several occasions in recent years, notably by the reductions indicated at the beginning of April in 1938, 1935 and 1930. After adjustment for seasonal variation the index at the latest date stood at 111.1, compared with 111.0 at March 1, 1939.

There was important shrinkage in logging at April 1, 1939, when 13,046 men were released from work in the woods; this decline was substantially smaller than that recorded at the same date last spring, but approximated the average loss at April 1 in the years since 1920. Mining was also seasonally quiet, and there was a falling-off in transportation and on railway construction and maintenance. On the other hand, manufacturing showed some slight improvement and there were also additions to staffs in highway work, in services and trade.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended April 28 totalled 1,017,019 bushels compared with 1,418,731 in the previous week and 1,168,120 a year ago. The totals follow by provinces with figures for 1938 in brackets: Manitoba, 108,431 (327,552) bushels; Saskatchewan, 531,565 (266,832); Alberta, 377,023 (573,736).

Marketings in the three provinces during the thirty-nine weeks ended April 28 aggregated 272,164,556 bushels in comparison with 115,776,614 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. The amounts follow by provinces: Manitoba, 42,018,591 (36,163,820) bushels; Saskatchewan, 108,738,007 (24,657,942); Alberta, 121,407,958 (54,954,852).

Wheat Stocks in Store

The amount of Canadian wheat in store for the week ending April 28 was 134,915,765 bushels in comparison with 135,893,649 in the previous week and 41,743,988 in the corresponding week last year. Stocks of Canadian wheat in the United States totalled 831,000 bushels against 1,032,000 the week before and 715,000 a year ago. Wheat in rail transit amounted to 3,756,808 bushels and the amount in transit on the lakes was 746,723 bushels compared with 3,087,057 and 2,245,963 in the corresponding week last year, respectively.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Overseas export clearances of wheat amounted to 774,188 bushels during the week ending April 28 in comparison with 720,073 in the corresponding week last year. Imports into the United States for consumption and milling in bond for re-export in the latest week totalled 222,000 bushels as against 1,000. Overseas export clearances during the period August 1 - April 28 aggregated 94,386,536 bushels as against 58,391,672 in the same period of the previous crop year, while imports into the United States totalled 7,236,728 bushels as against 2,024,982.

World Shipments of Wheat

World shipments of wheat during the first 39 weeks of the present crop year totalled 430,464,000 bushels as compared with 388,224,000 for the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Shipments from North America amounted to 180,639,000 bushels compared with 141,336,000, Australia 74,218,000 as against 93,808,000, Danube 59,832,000 as against 46,864,000, Russia 35,904,000 compared with 39,592,000, India 3,392,000 compared with 9,216,000, and Argentina 66,839,000 as against 61,968,000.

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Milling in March

A considerable increase was shown in the amount of wheat ground in Canadian mills during March, when the total was 5,411,833 bushels as against 4,498,940 in the corresponding month last year. The amount of oats ground was 1,112,025 bushels as against 945,541, corn 252,736 against 279,028, barley 114,985 against 115,917, buckwheat 8,074 against 6,951, and mixed grain 2,129,586 against 1,610,123.

Canada's External Trade

Canada's external trade in March was valued at \$135,580,293 in comparison with \$102,778,850 in February and \$140,167,688 in March, 1938. Domestic exports totalled \$76,149,382 against \$61,727,338 in the previous month and \$74,219,408 in the corresponding month last year. Imports were appraised at \$58,380,844 against \$40,380,234 the month before and \$65,055,628 a year ago. The balance of trade was favourable in March to the extent of \$18,818,605 compared with \$22,018,382 in February and \$10,056,432 in March, 1938.

External trade during the fiscal year 1938-39 aggregated \$1,627,998,185 as against \$1,883,891,122 in the previous fiscal year. Domestic exports totalled \$926,962,245 as against \$1,070,228,609, foreign exports \$42,807,906 against \$14,592,595 and imports \$658,228,034 in comparison with \$799,069,918. The balance of trade was favourable in the latest fiscal year to the extent of \$311,542,117 as against a favourable balance of \$285,751,286 in the previous fiscal year.

Canada's March Imports

The value of Canada's March imports was \$53,380,844 in comparison with \$65,055,628 in March, 1938. The United States was the leading contributor, with a total of \$38,364,851 as against \$42,888,102, followed by the United Kingdom with \$11,135,022 as against \$11,495,642, British India next with \$918,401 against \$716,650, Straits Settlements \$877,793 against \$819,715, and Germany \$860,751 against \$657,780.

Imports from other leading countries were as follows, with 1938 figures in brackets: Australia, \$576,031 (\$735,466); New Zealand, \$541,508 (\$1,239,513); France, \$477,728 (\$535,828); Belgium, \$425,319 (\$449,775); Japan, \$391,823 (\$498,961); China, \$301,170 (\$245,046); Colombia, \$277,206 (\$62,851); Ceylon, \$246,589 (\$323,624); Argentina, \$243,226 (\$237,741); British Guiana, \$215,091 (\$208,959); Netherlands, \$205,774 (\$424,629).

Chief commodities imported in March follow: machinery, \$3,847,000 (\$4,435,000); coal, \$3,167,000 (\$2,982,000); cotton, \$2,771,000 (\$3,163,000); automobile parts, \$2,184,000 (\$2,487,000); farm implements, \$2,108,000 (\$2,475,000); crude petroleum, \$2,081,000 (\$1,950,000); fruits, \$1,615,000 (\$1,463,000); wool, \$3,021,000 (\$3,068,000); books and printed matter, \$1,455,000 (\$1,457,000); electric apparatus, \$1,254,000 (\$1,325,000); rubber, \$1,147,000 (\$994,000); engines and boilers, \$1,055,000 (\$1,181,000); tea, \$1,053,000 (\$957,000).

Export of Meats

The March export of meats totalled \$3,385,071 as against \$2,448,011 in February and \$3,265,953 in March, 1938. During the twelve months of the fiscal year the export was \$35,375,618 compared with \$41,362,775 in the fiscal year 1938.

The March export of bacon and hams amounted to \$2,855,867, of which \$2,822,098 went to the United Kingdom alone. Poultry to the United Kingdom showed a sharp advance at \$199,193.

Rubber Exports in March

Export of rubber in March was valued at \$1,373,649 compared with \$1,315,183 in February and \$1,361,244 in March a year ago. As usual the leading item was pneumatic tire casings at \$676,949; these went to 71 countries, the largest purchasers being Sweden \$117,882, Brazil \$67,947, Colombia \$48,577, French East Indies \$35,672, New Zealand \$33,101, Netherlands \$32,522, Jamaica \$30,127, Venezuela \$27,919, British South Africa \$27,383, British India \$25,289. Rubber exports during the fiscal year 1939 were \$15,555,087 compared with \$17,088,677 the year before.

Vegetable Oils

Imports of vegetable oils in March were of the value of \$671,853 compared with \$600,032 in February and \$1,494,073 in March last year. The total during the twelve months of the fiscal year was \$10,538,840 compared with \$15,828,491 the year before. Exports of vegetable oils in March were \$11,025 compared with \$11,021 in February and \$5,411 in March, 1938. Exports during the fiscal year were \$117,102 compared with \$154,890 in the fiscal year 1938.

Exports of Farm Implements and Machinery

The March exports of farm implements and machinery totalled \$430,858 compared with \$283,418 in February and \$901,765 in March last year. During the fiscal year the amount was \$6,453,042 as against \$10,705,957 in the previous fiscal year.

The largest item in the March export was ploughs and parts at \$110,658, about two-thirds of which went to the United Kingdom and the United States. Harvesters and binders totalled \$68,036, with \$52,751 going to the United Kingdom.

Production of Gold

The February production of gold in Canada amounted to 390,963 fine ounces, as against 411,328 in the previous month and 340,838 in the corresponding month last year. Based on the average price reported during the month, February output was worth \$13,759,552 as against \$14,519,056 in the previous month. Output for the first two months this year totalled 802,291 ounces as against 701,924 a year ago.

The output in February follows by provinces, with 1938 figures in brackets: Ontario, 237,049 (210,448) fine ounces; Quebec, 83,738 (70,879); British Columbia, 46,054 (40,657); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 19,450 (17,569); Nova Scotia, 2,633 (1,278); Yukon and Northwest Territories, 2,039 (7). The Royal Canadian Mint received jewellery and scrap containing 1,008 ounces of gold compared with 1,286 ounces in February, 1938.

Production of Asbestos

Advance was shown in the shipments of asbestos by Canadian producers in February, the amount being 21,224 tons in comparison with 18,780 in January and 12,177 in February, 1938. Improvement was also shown in the first two months of the year, when the total was 40,004 tons as against 29,022 in the corresponding months of 1938.

Production of Coal and Coke

The Canadian output of coal in March amounted to 1,160,964 tons compared with 1,290,383 in the previous month and 1,219,054 in the corresponding month last year. The average output for March in the past five years was 1,085,653 tons. Imports of coal were recorded at 538,554 tons in March or 8.2 per cent above the imports of a year ago but 5.9 per cent below the five-year average. Canada exported 31,328 tons during the month compared with 28,012 a year ago and the five-year average of 30,537 tons.

Production of coke in March amounted to 187,785 tons against 176,537 in February and 218,233 in March, 1938.

Consumption of Coke

The apparent consumption of coke in Canada during 1937 amounted to 3,172,892 tons compared with 3,242,823 in 1936.

Production of Poultry and Eggs

The estimated number of poultry on farms in Canada as revealed in the survey of June 1, 1938, was 57,237,000, a decline of 273,100 from the estimate for the same date of the preceding year. The numbers of the different classes of poultry are shown as follows, with values in brackets: hens and chickens, 53,774,600 (\$36,793,000); turkeys, 2,039,600 (\$3,859,000); geese, 807,000 (\$1,167,000); ducks, 615,800 (\$531,000). The total value of farm poultry was estimated at \$42,350,000, a drop of \$604,000 from June 1, 1937.

Consumption of Poultry and Eggs

The consumption of eggs and poultry in 1938 was estimated at 233,471,546 dozen and 200,839,206 pounds, respectively. The per capita consumption of eggs was 20.83 dozen in 1938 compared with 21.49 in 1937, and poultry 17.91 pounds compared with 18.14 in 1937. The per capita consumption of hens and chickens was 15.50 pounds, turkeys 1.58, geese 0.58 pounds and ducks 0.25 pounds.

Production of Commercial Tobacco

An all-time high in Canadian tobacco production was registered in 1938 when a commercial crop of almost one hundred million pounds was harvested. Revised estimates show a production of 98,400,000 pounds with a farm value of approximately \$20,000,000. This represents an increase of 26,300,000 pounds or 36.5 per cent over the 1937 production estimated at 72,000,000 pounds with a gross farm value of \$17,000,000. Production in 1938 more than doubled in volume and value the average production during the ten-year period 1927-1936. The total planted acreage is estimated at 83,745 acres as compared with 69,000 in 1937 and 55,000 in 1936.

Production in pounds of the various types was as follows, with 1937 figures in brackets: flue-cured, 75,395,200 (55,374,000); burley, 10,657,700 (6,371,400); dark, 3,400,000 (2,241,000); cigar leaf, 6,200,000 (5,852,000); large pipe, 2,400,000 (1,710,000); small pipe, 375,000 (545,000). The total production for all types was 98,427,900 (72,114,000).

As a result of the large crop and heavy stocks carried over from the previous season, prices of flue-cured tobacco averaged 22.4 cents per pound as compared with 27.3 cents for the 1937 crop. There will be a carry-over of flue-cured into the 1939-40 season estimated at eight to nine million pounds. In the case of burley tobacco, somewhat lower supplies than in the previous year resulted in an average price of 13.8 cents per pound as against 13.3 cents per pound for the 1937 crop. A large proportion of the crop of cigar leaf is still unsold and prices will probably average two to three cents lower than prices received for the previous year's crop.

Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables

Stocks of canned fruits held by canners, wholesale dealers and chain store warehouses on April 1 totalled 1,250,891 cases compared with 1,625,962 on January 1 and 1,352,054 on April 1, 1938. The amount of canned vegetables was 5,378,224 cases against 6,794,806 on January 1 and 4,294,711 on the corresponding date last year.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Sales

The dollar value of wholesale sales in March was maintained at the level of the corresponding month last year, the index standing at 87.4 compared with 71.2 for February and 87.8 for March, 1938. The cumulative index for the first three months of 1939 showed no change from that of the corresponding period of 1938.

March Index of Retail Sales

Dollar volume of retail sales in Canada gained 18 per cent in March over February and was one per cent lower than in March last year. Three of the twelve groups had increased sales over March 1938 -- drugs, candy and grocery and meat stores.

Production of Leather Footwear

The production of leather footwear in March recorded advance, the total being 2,212,276 pairs compared with 1,853,229 in the previous month and 2,109,456 in the corresponding month last year. The quantity manufactured in the first quarter of 1939 was 5,586,003 pairs compared with 5,348,425 in the corresponding period of 1938. Leather footwear imports in March were valued at \$253,116 compared with \$123,410 in March 1938. The exports of the Canadian-made product in March were worth \$89,025 compared with \$78,741 in March last year.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 2. Trade of Canada by Months, April, 1935, to March 1939 (10 cents).
 3. Coal and Coke Statistics, March (10 cents).
 4. The Stock and Poultry Foods Industry, 1937 (15 cents).
 5. The April Employment Situation (10 cents).
 6. Trade of Canada, Calendar Year 1938 (50 cents).
 7. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, March (10 cents).
 8. Consumption of Coke, 1937 (10 cents).
 9. Coffee, Tea, Spice and Miscellaneous Food Industries, 1937 (25 cents).
 10. Exports of Farm Implements and Machinery, March (10 cents).
 11. Exports of Rubber and Insulated Wire and Cable, March (10 cents).
 12. Exports of Meats, Lard and Sausage Casings, March (10 cents).
 13. Imports and Exports of Vegetable Oils, March (10 cents).
 14. Domestic Exports by Principal Countries, March (10 cents).
 15. Preliminary Report on the Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables on Hand on April 1, 1939 (10 cents).
 16. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
 17. Production of Poultry and Eggs, 1938 (25 cents).
 18. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities of Canada, May 1 (10 cents).
 19. Summary of Canada's Imports, March (10 cents).
 20. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, March (10 cents).
 21. Production and Marketing Survey of the Canadian Commercial Tobacco Crop of 1938 (25 cents).
 22. Prices and Price Indexes 1913-1937 (25 cents).
 23. Milling Statistics, March (10 cents).
 24. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 25. Asbestos Production, February (10 cents).
 26. Gold Production, February (10 cents).
 27. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
 28. Canadian National Railway 1923-1938 (20 cents).
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