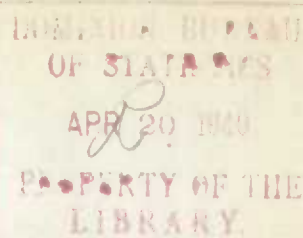


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Weekly Indexes

There are six indexes available on a weekly basis in Canada that reflect the general economic trend. These cover respectively: -
Business - carloadings and wholesale prices,
Finance - bank clearings and bond yields, and
Speculation - common stock prices and shares traded.
 Notes on the indexes follow:

Railway traffic showed acceleration in the week of April 13, following the marked expansion of the preceding week. The index, after seasonal adjustment, rose from 80.8 to 82.0. The heavier volume appertained to the Western Division where the index rose from 84.4 to 93.1. Loadings in that division, which had been 17,653 in the preceding week, rose to 19,056 in the week under review.

Wholesale prices were steady in the week of April 12, the index remaining at 83.2. Gains were recorded in crop products, wood and paper and non-ferrous metals. An index of eighteen sensitive commodities rose slightly from 130 to 130.2. The change in wholesale prices has been moderate since the first of the year. The official index has recently approximated the level of 1938. The gain in the week of April 12 over the same week of 1939 was 13.5 p.c., the standing at that time having been 73.3. No. 1 Northern wheat rose to 89 against 87 7/8 on the Winnipeg Exchange. Coarse grains also recorded advances. Cattle prices were higher on the Toronto stockyards, while recession was shown in bacon hogs. Copper was quoted at 11.50 on April 18, on the New York commodity market, unchanged from April 11. Lead prices were also maintained, while a slight advance was shown in tin.

High-grade bond prices were firm, an index of capitalized yields rising 0.8 p.c. over the preceding week. The decline in the index from the same week of 1939 was 6.9 p.c. The 4½'s of 1947-57 were bid at 108½ on April 13, against 107½ on April 11. The adjusted index of bank clearings rose from 89.5 to 93.1, an increase of 9.6 p.c. The gain over the same week of 1939 was 0.8 p.c.

Common stock prices receded slightly in the week of April 11, the index of 95 stocks dropping from 99.0 to 98.8. All sections of the composite index, with the exception of pulp and paper, textile and power issues, shared in the recession. The gain in the index of seven pulp and paper stocks was from 23.0 to 24.7. The general average of common stocks has been comparatively steady since the beginning of the year and the present standing is 5.2 p.c. above that of the same week of 1939. Speculative trading was more active in the week under review, but showed decline from the same week of 1939.

The general index computed by eliminating the long-term trend and weighting inversely the six indexes on the base of their tendency to fluctuation was 105.6 in the week of April 13, against 103.5 in the preceding week, a gain of 2 p.c.

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 15, 1939	80.0	73.3	148.6	97.3	93.9	98.8	102.4
April 6, 1940	80.8	83.2	137.2	89.5	99.0	55.9	103.5
April 13, 1940	82.0	83.2	136.3	96.1	98.3	60.2	105.6

1. The index of carloadings used in the compilation was for the week ended April 13, being the fifteenth week of the year. The practice of projecting the index of carloadings has been discontinued. 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

The United Kingdom was Canada's best customer in March, domestic exports to that country totalling \$40,412,921 as compared with \$26,076,005 in March last year, the heaviest since November 1937 when the total was \$49,099,468. The United States was in second place with a total of \$25,581,491 as against \$24,707,401. Total domestic exports in March were valued at \$82,719,395 in comparison with \$69,269,525 a year ago.

British South Africa was in third place as a purchaser of Canadian commodities in March, aggregating \$2,997,684 as against \$1,867,489 in March, 1939, followed by Australia at \$2,575,754 against \$3,309,480, France \$1,179,560 against \$535,397, Norway \$1,156,916 against \$662,010, Japan \$1,066,299 against \$2,338,866, Eire \$644,799 against \$178,793 and British India \$604,913 against \$442,138.

Exports to other leading countries were as follows, with figures for March 1939 in brackets: Brazil, \$407,806 (\$198,688); Trinidad and Tobago, \$367,359 (\$357,684); Argentina, \$347,251 (\$53,827); Newfoundland, \$336,072 (\$464,575); Straits Settlements, \$335,230 (\$290,575); Jamaica, \$310,294 (\$471,484); Italy, \$270,744 (\$155,184); Mexico, \$254,658 (\$290,595); Sweden, \$136,678 (\$742,899); Netherlands, \$87,989 (\$381,183).

Particularly noteworthy gains were recorded in agricultural and vegetable products and animals and animal products, the former advancing to \$18,745,000 from \$11,347,000 and the latter to \$13,329,000 from \$10,157,000. Wheat advanced to \$8,141,000 from \$3,987,000, vegetables to \$908,000 from \$340,000, wheat flour to \$2,864,000 from \$1,110,000, cheese to \$1,021,000 from \$138,000 and meats to \$5,654,000 from \$3,385,000. Rubber showed a slight decline to \$1,354,000 from \$1,374,000.

The wood and paper group increased to \$20,543,000 from \$18,761,000, paper increasing to \$10,707,000 from \$10,103,000, planks and boards to \$3,743,000 from \$3,351,000 and wood pulp to \$3,548,000 from \$2,514,000. Shingles declined to \$567,000 from \$914,000 and pulpwood to \$367,000 from \$387,000.

Non-ferrous metal products were exported to the value of \$15,119,000 as against \$16,256,000 in March, 1939. Leading items included were nickel valued at \$5,122,000 against \$4,868,000, copper \$4,113,000 against \$5,457,000, aluminium \$1,845,000 against \$2,304,000, lead \$713,000 against \$1,146,000 and silver \$664,000 against \$878,000. The non-metallic minerals included asbestos to the value of \$1,172,000 against \$872,000, coal \$171,000 against \$131,000, petroleum \$12,000 against \$7,000 and stone and products \$679,000 against \$363,000.

The main commodities included in the iron group were automobiles valued at \$1,852,000 against \$2,517,000, automobile parts \$376,000 against \$388,000, farm implements \$860,000 against \$431,000, machinery \$735,000 against \$1,022,000, hardware and cutlery \$387,000 against \$172,000 and pigs and ingots \$791,000 against \$382,000.

Fibres, textiles and products were exported to the value of \$1,428,000 compared with \$1,220,000 and chemicals and allied products \$3,140,000 compared with \$2,593,000.

Imports of Raw Rubber in February

Raw rubber imports in February amounted to 7,515,159 pounds, of which 6,621,760 came direct from the Straits Settlements. The amount in January was 11,259,546 pounds and 3,250,104 in February, 1939. The total rubber imports were valued at \$1,983,158 compared with \$2,630,572 in January and \$736,066 in February, 1939.

Imports of Alumina in February

Imports of bauxite in February amounted to 203,794 cwt. compared with 195,533 in January and 78,983 in February last year. All the bauxite came from the United States and British Guiana. The cryolite imports were 444 cwt.

Tin Imports in February

Imports of tin in February aggregated 8,276 cwt., of which 7,186 cwt. came from the Straits Settlements and 1,062 from the United Kingdom. This was more than three times the import a year ago.

Imports of Paints and Varnishes in February

Paints and varnishes imported in February were of the value of \$348,903, of which \$248,895 came from the United States and \$97,095 from the United Kingdom. In January the imports were valued at \$393,456 and in February last year \$243,902.

Lumber and Timber Imports in February

The value of the imports of lumber and timber in February was \$291,956, practically all of it coming from the United States. In January the value was \$260,858 and in February last year, \$210,194. The imports in February this year included lignum vitae, ash, cedar, chestnut, gumwood, hemlock, hickory, mahogany, oak, redwood, walnut, etc., oak alone being \$84,886.

Imports of Farm Implements and Machinery

The imports of farm implements and machinery in February aggregated \$1,999,859 compared with \$1,627,445 in January and \$604,672 in February, 1939. The amount from the United States was \$1,902,200 and from the United Kingdom \$9,923. A very large item was cream separators from Sweden at \$84,997 and from the United States at \$23,145. The cream separators from Sweden numbered 3,977. Traction engines for farm purposes numbered 1,432 at \$984,725, of which all but one came from the United States. There have been large imports recently of these traction engines, the value in January being \$1,031,239. A year ago they numbered only 292 at \$238,400.

Imports of Pulp Wood, Wood Pulp and Paper

Imports of paper in February totalled \$828,591 as against \$720,318 in January and \$586,170 in February, 1939. The imports from the United States preponderated. Wood pulp imported amounted to \$72,294 and pulpwood \$52,536.

Asbestos Trade in February

The export of crude asbestos and milled fibres in February was very large, amounting to 15,368 tons of the value of \$1,054,333. This was nearly double the export a year ago. There were 12,437 tons exported in January. The February exports went mainly to the following countries: United States, \$417,676; France, \$200,119; Belgium, \$87,124; Japan, \$75,485; Sweden, \$71,371; Italy, \$48,577; United Kingdom, \$51,287; Australia, \$46,580; Switzerland, \$30,990. The export of asbestos sand and waste amounted to \$195,305, most of it going to the United States.

Automobile Imports in February

Imports of automobiles and other vehicles of iron in February, along with parts totalled \$4,473,266 compared with \$4,064,282 in January and \$2,409,111 in February, 1939. The amount from the United States was \$4,395,009 and the imports from the United Kingdom have dropped to the low figure of \$77,528; yet amongst these were 91 cars at \$42,849 and one truck at \$974.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales

The upswing in financing of motor vehicle sales in evidence in recent months was continued in March. The number financed was 12,692 with a financed value of \$5,468,912 compared with 9,517 for \$4,188,923 in February and 10,476 for \$4,350,526 in March, 1939.

First-quarter totals indicate gains of 26 per cent in number and 31 per cent in amount of financing over the same period last year, 30,130 units being financed for \$13,219,010 so far this year compared with 23,908 vehicles financed for \$10,080,376 in the January to March period of 1939.

Production of Automobiles in March

Production of motor vehicles in March totalled 16,612 units compared with 18,193 in February and 17,549 in March, 1939. This month's total included 12,025 passenger cars and 4,587 commercial vehicles. For the three months ending March, the cumulative output was 52,018 units, a gain of 11.5 per cent over the 46,643 reported for the first quarter of 1939.

Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries in February

The inflow of capital to Canada, characteristic of the international trade in securities for a period of months, continued in February. The excess of sales of securities by Canada over purchases was \$3.6 million, a somewhat smaller amount than in January. Most of the inflow was from the United States as transactions with both the United Kingdom and other countries virtually balanced.

Sales in February to all countries totalled \$13,594,083 in comparison with \$13,793,570 in January and \$27,964,335 in February, 1939. Purchases from all countries totalled \$9,990,584 in comparison with \$10,359,248 in January and \$18,796,457 in February, 1939.

Sales to the United States in February amounted to \$11,844,742 as against \$14,809,985 in January and \$20,154,555 in February, 1939, while purchases from that country totalled \$8,446,081 compared with \$9,278,902 in January and \$14,210,684 in February, 1939. Sales to the United Kingdom amounted to \$1,385,379 in February compared with \$843,347 in January and \$4,928,421 in February, 1939, while purchases from that country totalled \$1,307,780 against \$867,435 in January and \$3,785,244 a year ago.

Price Movements in March

The general level of wholesale prices continued to edge gradually upward in March, as indicated by indexes of 82.8 and 83.2 at the beginning and end of the month. The moderate nature of the rise in the first quarter of 1940 is evident from a comparison of the December 1939 index of 81.7 with the closing March figure of 83.2. This increase of 1.8 per cent in the first three months of 1940 compares with one of 12.8 per cent in the final four months of 1939.

There was no change between February and March in a Dominion retail price index of 46 staple foods, which remained at 78.6. The fuel index also was unchanged at 86.8. However, incomplete returns from a quarterly survey of clothing and household furnishings prices pointed to increases over average December 1939 levels in these groups.

Following the pattern of the two previous months, Canadian common stock prices continued to fluctuate within relatively narrow limits during March. A daily index for 95 stocks closed the month 0.3 per cent lower at 98.3, while a similar index for 25 mining issues finished 0.8 per cent below the final February figure of 134.1. Both of those series, however, showed moderate gains over mid-month lows which were bottom levels for the current year. Dominion of Canada long-term bond prices on the other hand showed strength, a daily index for this series finishing the month 0.6 points higher at an index level of 114.3.

Production of Crude Petroleum in January

Production of crude petroleum in January totalled 486,859 tons as compared with 502,920 in December and 533,166 in January, 1939. Alberta wells totalled 471,050 barrels in January, made up of 468,754 barrels from the Turner Valley field, 1,062 from the Red Coulee field, 988 from the Wainwright and 246 from the Del Bonita field.

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Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in store on April 12 totalled 309,534,631 bushels in comparison with 310,995,452 on April 5 and 135,893,649 on April 14, 1939. The amount of Canadian wheat in the United States on the latest date was 20,869,960 bushels as compared with 21,637,306 a week ago and 1,032,000 on the corresponding date last year.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending April 12 totalled 1,346,436 bushels compared with 1,364,939 in the previous week and 1,442,613 in the corresponding week last year. The totals follow by provinces, with figures for 1939 in brackets: Manitoba, 125,775 (199,866) bushels; Saskatchewan, 794,516 (682,704); Alberta, 426,145 (560,043).

Marketings in the three Prairie Provinces during the thirty-seven weeks ending April 12 aggregated 383,755,465 bushels in comparison with 269,728,806 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year, the totals being as follows, by provinces: Manitoba, 51,035,725 (41,735,490) bushels; Saskatchewan, 213,470,498 (107,528,192); Alberta, 119,249,242 (41,735,490).

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Overseas export clearances and imports of Canadian wheat into the United States for consumption and milling in bond during the week ending April 12 totalled 2,533,887 bushels in comparison with 1,119,138 in the corresponding week last year. The accumulated total for the period from August 1 to April 12 was 113,393,288 bushels in comparison with 99,145,848 in the same period of the previous crop year.

Flour and Feed Milling

The flour and feed milling industry, which has existed to meet the domestic needs for more than 300 years, is one of the Dominion's oldest manufactures, but it is only within recent times that its progress has become spectacular. The Great War and the demand it created gave a great impetus to this trade, reaching a peak in 1928. Since then the industry has been adversely affected by the difficulties which beset the Canadian grain trade and the decline in the prices of grains. Gross value of products of this industry in 1938 totalled \$122,598,168, including \$103,886,310 for flour mills and \$18,711,858 for feed and chopping mills. In 1937 the total value was \$133,634,179.

Building Permits in March

The total value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in March was \$5,257,260, new construction accounting for \$3,538,929 and additions, alterations and repairs \$1,718,331. Permits issued in February totalled \$3,847,157, while the total in the first quarter of 1940 was \$12,442,014.

Department Store Sales in March

Retail sales in Canadian department stores in March were up nine per cent over the corresponding month of 1939 and were 10 per cent higher than in the previous month. Unadjusted indexes on the base 1930=100 stood at 71.6 for March this year, 65.6 for March last year and 64.8 for February.

Commercial Failures in 1939

Increases in the number of commercial failures were recorded in 1939 over 1938 in all provinces with the exception of Prince Edward Island, with the result that the total number reported under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding Up Acts advanced to 1,329 from 1,219. The defaulted liabilities in 1939 totalled \$15,098,166 as compared with \$14,017,061 in 1938.

Failures of trading establishments in 1939 numbered 664 as compared with 667 in 1938, in manufactures 210 compared with 200, in agriculture 108 compared with 101, in services 197 compared with 109, construction 60 compared with 50, transportation and public utilities 22 compared with 9, mining 18 compared with 11 and finance 12 compared with 4.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. The Sand and Gravel Industry, 1938 (25 cents).
 2. Sales of Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Financing, 1939 (25 cents).
 3. Department Store Sales, March (10 cents).
 4. Commercial Failures in Canada, 1939 (10 cents).
 5. The Cement Industry, 1938 (25 cents).
 6. The Leather Footwear Industry, 1938 (25 cents).
 7. Operating Results of Miscellaneous Kinds of Retail Trade, 1938 (15 cents).
 8. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
 9. Production of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
 10. Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
 11. Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
 12. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 13. Summary of Domestic Exports, March (10 cents).
 14. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, March (10 cents).
 15. Building Permits, March (10 cents).
 16. Canada's Domestic Exports by Principal Countries, March (10 cents).
 17. The Flour and Feed Milling Industries, 1938 (25 cents).
 18. The Paints, Pigments and Varnishes Industry, 1938 (25 cents).
 19. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, March (10 cents).
 20. Automobile Production, March (10 cents).
 21. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, January; and Gasoline Sales, December (10 cents).
 22. Price Movements, March (10 cents).
 23. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, February (10 cents).
 24. The Automobile Parts Industry, 1938 (25 cents).
 25. Stocks of Grain in Canada, March 31 (10 cents).
 26. Car Loadings (10 cents).
 27. Imports and Exports of Toilet Preparations, February (10 cents).
 28. Imports and Exports of Soap, February (10 cents).
 29. Imports and Exports of Wire, February (10 cents).
 30. Imports of Stoves, Sheet Metal Products, Refrigerators, February (10 cents).
 31. Imports and Exports of Pipes, Tubes and Fittings, February (10 cents).
 32. Imports of Vehicles of Iron, February (10 cents).
 33. Imports and Exports of Pickles and Preserved Vegetables, February (10 cents).
 34. Imports and Exports of Fertilizers, February (10 cents).
 35. Imports and Exports of Vegetable Oils, February (10 cents).
 36. The Asbestos Trade of Canada, February (10 cents).
 37. Exports of Grains and Flour, March (10 cents).
 38. Imports of Pulp Wood, Wood Pulp and Paper, February (10 cents).
 39. Imports of Farm Implements and Machinery, February (10 cents).
 40. Imports of Lumber, February (10 cents).
 41. Imports of Paints and Varnishes, February (10 cents).
 42. Imports of Non-Ferrous Ores and Smelter Products, February (10 cents).
 43. Imports of Rubber, February (10 cents).
 44. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
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