## WNEKLY BULEETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce
Ottawa, Saturday, feril 27, 19\%

## Weekly Indexes

> | There are six indexes available on a weekly |
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| 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. |

The railway traffic movement showed further gain in the 16 th weel of the year, the index rising from 82.0 to 83.4 , a gain of 1.7 per cent over the proceding week. The standing of one yoar ago was 71.9, an incroase of 16 per cont having beon indicated. After passing through a comparatively quiet period during liarch, the movemont of traffic gained momentum during the present month. The marked expansion in the Western Division is attributed to the acceleration in grain shipments, the Dominion total of grain loadings for the olapsed portion of the yoar showing an increase of 32,452 cars over the same treeks of 1939.

The rolative stability of the genoral wholesale prico level was again demonstrated in the week of hpril 19, the index remaining unchanged at 83.2. The average of wholesale prices has been relatively steady since the first of the year whilo a considerable lead has been shown over the comparable period of 1939. The index in recont woeks has corresponded closely to that of the same period of 1938. The advances in three of the oight main troups of the official classification over the preceding weok counterbalaneed rocossions in four. Idvances were recorded in whoat and oats in the wook of April 20 over the precoding week. Theat No. 1 Manitoba Northern averaged 90 cents against 89 , while oats advanced from $385 / 8$ to $393 / 8$. Copper prices wore shaded on the New York market while lead, zinc and tin were unchanged.

High-grado bond prices recoded slightly in the wock of hpril 18, an index of capitalized yiolds receding 0.4 por cent. Tho declino in this index from tho samo week of 1939 was 6.2 per cont. In adjusted index of bank clearings advanced throo points to 101.1 and an increase of 8.2 per cent was shown over the samo weok of 1939. Total cloarings during last week were estimatod at $\$ 320.5$ million against 3326.2 million in the preceding week. The recession was less than normal for the week.

Nearly all common stocks tradod on Canadian oxchanges roached a lowor level in the weok of April 18. The deoline in the index of 95 common stocks was from 98.8 to 96.6. Each of the groups used in the construction of the index roceded to a lowor level than in the proceding wook with the exception of 15 power and traction stocks, the index of which rose slightly to 62.2. The standing of the index was still 1.4 por cont above that of the same weok of 1939. Speculativo trading was considerably hoavier in the third week of ipril, an increase also boing shown over tho same weok of 1939.

The gonoral index computed by oliminating the long-torm trend and woighting inversely the six indexes on the basis of their tondency to fluctuation was 106.3 in the wook of hpril 20 against 105.6 in the preceding week, a gain of 0.6 per cent.

Weokly Index with the Six Components
$1926=100$


1. The index of carloadings used in the compilation was for the week onded $\Lambda$ pril 20 , being the sixteenth week of the year. The practice of projecting the index of carloadings has been discontinued. 2. Present value of a fixed not income in perpetuity from Dominion long-term bonds. 3. Bank clearings wore smoothed by taking a three weeks moving average for the purpose of eliminating irregular fluctuations. Totals for ottawa were eliminated for all weoks shown, owing to incomparability introducod by the operations of the Bank of Canada. 4. Tho woighting of the six major factors is determined from the standard deviation from the long-torm 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 town fluotuation. The long-tem trend determined from half-yearly dats in the post-war period was eliminatod from the composito and the resulting index expressed as a percentage of the coverago during 1926.

## Business Conditions in March

Business operations in Canada showod rocession in March from the relatively high level of the preceding month. is majority of the faotors indicating the trend of mineral production recorded accline after seasonal adjustment. While coppor exports rose from 39.8 million pounds to 41.7 million and outward shipments of nickel from 16.2 million to 20.5 million , gains were less than normal for the season. The index of gold recoipts at the Mint showed a decline of about $3 \frac{3}{2}$ points to 305.3 , and the index for silver shipments receded 11 points to 96. The decline in asbestos exports was from 15,368 tons to 13,052 . Zino exports were 39.3 million tons comparod with 19.7 in February, the index rising about 52 points to 189.8 .

Flour production showed an adjusted increase in the la test month for which statistics are available. a minor deoline was shown in the output of sugar, the index dropping from 64.5 to 61.9. The meat-packing industry was less active in March although the index of hog slaughterings rose slightly to 176.2. Thile increases were shown in the production of factory cheese and creamery butter, the incroase in the lattor was less than normal for the soason. d. marked gain was shown in the axports of oanned salmon whioh amounted to 2.5 million pounds against 1.1 million in Fobruary.

A slight gain was shown in the release of oigarottes for consumption, while a contrasoasonal dooline was shown in cigars. Raw ootton consumption was 16.1 million pounds against 17.9 million, the high level of February. Reoession was shown in each of the factors indicating the trend of forostry production, the general index dropping from 124.5 to 119. Newsprint production was 251,279 tons fgainst 231,823 , the seasonally adjusted index dropping from 170 to 168 . Pig iron production was 91,772 tons against 87,032 a moderate increase having been shown in the adjusted indox. The output of automobiles was 16,612 against 18,193 in the procoding month.

The new business obtained by the construction industry was practioally maintained after seasonal adjustmont. Carloadings showed recession in the month under review, the index dropping about ten points to 73.4. The gain in merchandise exporte was less than normal for the season, a drop of about nine points having been shown in the index. Bank debits wero 2,413 million during Maroh, a contra-seasonal deciine from the high level of 2,955 million reoorded in Fcbruary.

Economic Fuotors in March 1940 compared with
the preceding month and Maroh 1939

|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mrah } \\ & 1940 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { March } \\ 1939 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { February } \\ 1940 \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Index of Physical Volume of Business | 1926-100 | 123.0 | 113.2 | 131.2 |
| Bink cieposits | 1926-100 | 130.4 | 127.8 | 139.6 |
| Conper exports |  | 417,048 | 569,788 | 397,592 |
| Nickel exports | owt. | 204,598 | 203,290 | 161,533 |
| Zino exports ... | owt. | 393,789 | 268,183 | 196,923 |
| Susbestos exports . | tons | 13,052 | 10,190 | 15,368 |
| Sugar manufactured . Cheese, | 1 b . | 34,864,788 | 22,869,391 | 33,158,321 |
| Cheese, fractory production | 1 b . | 2,566,540 | 1,689,641 | 1,611,627 |
| Butter, oreamery production Newsprint production |  | 10,465,754 | 10,942,614 | 9,158,045 |
| Planks and boards oxportod | tons | 251,279 | 220,648 | 231,823 |
| Shingles exported ....... | squares | 145,451 | 155,338 | 117,668 |
| Carloadings |  | 195,106 | 191,010 | 199,145 |
| Cotton consumption |  | 16,060,216 | 9,381,359 | 17,927,590 |
| Contraots awarded |  | 11,726,100 | 9,002,500 | 11,768,900 |
| Bank debits | 000 | 2,412,660 | 2,428,098 | 2,955,217 |


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The rise in the production of iron c.nd steel in Conada has been speotacular in recent months, pig iron output during the first quarter of 1940 totalling 283,507 tons, a gain of 103 per oent over the 139,716 made during the same period of 1939; the production of stocl ingots and cirect stoel castings amounted to 464,165 tons, a gain of 85 por cent over the 251,074 last your.

Output of pig iron in March totalled 91,772 tons compared with 87,032 in February and 40,723 in March, 1939. Production of steel ingots and diroct steel onstings agEregated 157,326 tons compared with 140,343 in February and 95,697 in Maroh, 1939. Output of ferro-alloys at 8,298 tons oomparos with 7,711 in February and 3,526 in the corresponding month list year.

## Gold Production in January

The Canadian production of gold in January amounted to 424,381 ounces valued at § $16,338,668$. The output in Docember wes 432,896 ounces and in January last year, 411,328. Produotion from Ontario sources totalled 266,037 ounces, Quebeo 83,505 , British Columbia 43,891, Manitoba and Saskatohewan 21,625, Yukon and Northwest Territorios 6,724 and Nova Sootia 2,585. The Royal Canadion Mint reoeived jewellery and sorap containing 1,516 ounces of gols.

Production of Coment and Lime
Canodian produccrs shippod 190,575 barrels of cement in Jenuary oompared with 205,603 in December and 115,533 in January, 1939. Produotion of lime in January totalled 51,863 tons as against 54,730 in Deoamber and 36,242 in Jonuary, 1939.

## Gyosum Froduction in January

Gypsum production in January amounted to 64,252 tons compared with 139,363 in the provious month and 10,463 in January, 1939. Exports of orude totalled 71,059 tons a.gainst 166,670 in Decomber and 90,683 a yoar ago.

## Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in store on hpril 19 totalled $304,357,658$ byishels oomparod with $309,534,631$ on i.pril 12 and $135,893,649$ on the oorresponding date last year. Tho amount of Canadian wheat in the United States on the latest date was 19,756,856 bushols oompared with $20,869,960$ a week ago and 1,032,000 a year ago.

## Overseas Export Clearances of wheat

Oversoas export clearances and imports of Canadian whoat into the United Statos for consumption and milling in bond durine the weok ending inpril 19 totalled $3,246,585$ bushols in comparison with $1,410,287$ in the some woek last yoar. The coccumulated totill for the thirty-0ight weeks ending april 19 was 116,639,873 bushels oompared with $100,556,135$ in the oorresponding period of the previous crop yoar.

## Frimary Movemort of Thoat

Whact recoipts in the Prairie Frovinces for the weok ending ispril 19 amounted to $1,042,492$ bushels compared with $1,380,770$ in tho previous weok and $1,418,731$ in tho corresponding wock last ycar. The totals were as follows by provinces, with figures for 1939 in brcokets: Manitoba, 124,022 (174,670) bushels; Saskatohewan, 593,053 $(678,250)$; illberta, $325,417(565,811)$.

Warketings in the threc Prairie Provinoes for the thirty-cight wocks onding april 19 aegrogatod $384,709,489$ bushels in comparison with 271, 147,537 in the samo poriod of the previous crop yoar, the totals being as follows by provincos: Manitoba, $51,065,866(42,910,100)$ bushels; Saska tohewan, 214,038,771 (108,206,442); islberta, $119,604,852(121,030,935)$.

Theat markets have continued firm through a month in winioh war developments have held the centre of interest in their effect on the potential demand for wheat, although crop developments have been of oonsiderable significance as they are gradualiy shaping up the potential supply situation for the coming orop season. The German oocupation of Demmark and invasion of Normay have placed Scandinavian sources of demand in suspense for the time being. Further possible violations of neutrality on the part of Germany may affeot Canada's wheat export trade with the remaining neutrals, although this is essontially a matter of conjecture.

The United States winter wheat orop whioh made an exceptionally poor start under oonditions of autumn drought his falled to make any great recovery to date, and it is now generally conceded that only now generclly conceded that only the most favourable weather conditions between now and harvest could result in appreolable recovery, with wide sown areas in wostern Kinsas, as well as in partsof Oklahoma and Texas alreudy a failure. In addition to the United States crop situation, reports of a possimistic nature oontinue to come from European countries, partioularly those of the Danube Basin, where flood damage has added to winter lossos, as well as from western European countries where extreme winfer temperatures followed unfavourable autumn seeding conditions.

Following two years of exceptionally high world average wheat yields, a prospective reduotion in world ylelds for the present year is already expected to lead to a closer adjustment betweon available export supplies and import requirements in the 1940-41 orop season. However, the full effects of reduced harvests will bo partly oushioned in the countries holding an average or more than average share of the world carry-over, which will be of rooord proportions on July 31 next.

In the meantime, oonsidarable progress has been made with the marketing of Canada's large surplus. Exceptionally hecvy export clearanoes including shimments from the amerioun seaboard were maintained throughout Maroh. Although the volume of clearances has slackoned somewhat to date during april, in anticipation of the opening of navigation from St. Lawrence ports, the spril clearances have been more than double those made in the corresponding weeks of the preceding year. The large export volume has continued to reflect the provisions made for incroased use of Maritime and United Statos ittantic ports during the winter period when navigation on the St. Lawrence River is olosed.

From December 15, 1939, to ipril 11, 1940, whioh does not quite complate the period of olosed navigation on the St. Lawrence, total export clearanoes of Canadian wheat have amounted to $58,080,375$ bushels. These have exceeded the overseas cloarances during the same poriod of the 1935-36 crop year, the last period of heavy winter exports. although United States import takings of Caradian wheat during tho winter of 1935-36 were oonsiderably larger than at present. On the other hand, Canadian flour exports have been considerahly hoavier than in recent yoars, amounting to $2,000,233$ barrels in the January-Narch quarter of the presont year, cos comparod with $1,131,186$ barrels in the same period of the 1935-36 crop year.

Exports of Canadian Cheese
Due to tho accoleration in shipments to the United Kingdom, Canada's March exports of oheese advanced to $\$ 1,037$ cwt. valued at $11,021,113$ from 39,519 at \% 742,444 in February and 8,904 at 137,816 in Karch, 1939. Shipments so far this yoar have been considurably higher then last year, and the total for the first three months was 110,220 cwt. velued at $\$ 2,120,956$ as compared visth 31,142 at $\$ 458,915$.

## Exports of Rubber

Canada's March expont of rubber totalled $\hat{3} 1,354,290$ compared with $31,098,723$ in February and $\$ 1,373,649$ in Maroh, 1939. Pneumatic tire casings accounted for almost half of the entire export, totalling $\quad 624,406$, going to a list of 64 countries. Boots and shoes of rubber or cart rubber were exportod to the value of $\$ 549,686$, of whioh Q 361,676 went to the United Kingdom.

March exports of paper and manufactures totalled $\$ 10,707,370$ as compared with $\$ 9,516,409$ in February and $\$ 10,102,545$ in March, 1939. The exports to the United Statos aggregated $\$ 7,342,328$ and to the United Kingdom \$1,159,900.

Newsprint exports amounted to $4,113,105$ cwt. valued at $\$ 8,984,203$ compared with 3,759,794 at $\$ 8,246,807$ in February and $4,353,015$ at $\$ 9,388,061$ in March, 1939. The United States took 3,383,610 cwt., Australia 227,623, Argentina 129,101, British South Africa 98,272 and the United Kingdom 57,209.

The export of other types of paper was valued at $\$ 1,723,167$, including wrapping paper worth $\$ 318,647$, writing paper $\$ 35,588$, wallpaper $\$ 18,348$, bags, boxés and cartons $\$ 103,532$, pulp and fibre wall board $\$ 208,758$ and other paper board $\$ 606,759$.

## Exports of Paints and Varnishes

Paints and varnishes were exported in March to the value of \$211,340 in comparison with \$131,121 in February and \$127,512 in March, 1939. The United Kingdom was the chiof purchaser with a total of $\$ 91,304$, British South Africa $\$ 22,336$, the United States © 29,086 and British India $\$ 11,251$.

## Exports of Planiks and Boards

Canada's March exports of planks and boards totalled 145,451,000 feet valued at $\$ 3,743,494$ compared with $117,668,000$ at $\$ 2,912,646$ in February and 155,292,000 at $\$ 3,351,123$ in March, 1939. Douglas fir accounted for approximately half of the total export, spruce and hemlock following with $33,154,000$ feet and $18,098,000$ feet respectively. Purchases made by the United Kingdom amounted to $84,058,000$ feet and the United States 47,124,000.

## Expo ts of Wood Pulp and Pulpwood

March exports of wood pulp and screanings were valued at $\$ 3,547,991$ in comparison with $3,398,752$ in February and $3,513,609$ in Narch, 1939. Pulpwood exports totalled $\$ 367,087$ as against 541,138 in the previous month and $\$ 387,275$ a yoar ago. The United States purchased all of the pulpwood along with wood pulp and screenings to the value of $\$ 2,742,582$. The value of the latter sent to the United Kingdom was $\$ 406,620$.

## Exporta of Non-Ferrous Ores

Canadian non-ferrous metal products were exported to the value of $\$ 15,119,000$ in March as compared with $16,256,000$ in March, 1939. The leading items were as follows, with 1939 figures in brackets: nickel, $\$ 5,122,000$ ( $\$ 4,868,000$ ); copper, $\$ 4,113,000$ ( $\$ 5,457,000)$; aluminium, $\$ 1,845,000(\$ 2,304,000)$; zinc, $\$ 1,268,973(\$ 752,960)$; lead, \$713,000 ( $\$ 1,146,000$ ); silver, $\$ 664,000(\$ 878,000)$.

## Exports of Farm Implements and Machinery

Canada's March exports of farm implements and machinery were double those of a year ago, totalling 3860,233 in comparison with $\$ 430,852$. The total to the United Kingdom was worth 377,143 , the United States $\$ 220,468$ and British South Africa $\$ 134,522$. Expofts during the first three months of 1940 aggregated $\$ 2,020,575$ in oomparison with $\$ 1,208,802$ in the corresponding period of 1939.

## Canadian Baoon Exports

As was expected, Canadian exports of bac on and hams to the United Kingdom have inoreased very materially during the first three months of 1940 as compared with the same period of 1939. March exports to that country, totalling $29,377,000$ pounds, were 10.3 million pounds greater than the exports in Fobruary 1940, and were 13. 2 miliion pounds greater than the exports in March a yoar ā0. For the first three months of 1940 exports to the United Kingdom have amounted to 84.0 million pounds Eorth over $14 \frac{1}{2}$ million dollars as compared with exports of 43.3 million pounds worth 7.4 million dollars in the corresponding period of 1939.



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Canada is thus fulfilling the agrooment entered into with the United Kingdom last fall under the terms of which up to $5,600,000$ pounds per week were to be shipped. Further evidence that canada has ample supplies of pork products are shown by the cold storage statistics. At April 1, 1940, there were 60.9 million pounds of pork in cold storage as compared with 34.8 million pounds at April 1, 1939. In spite of the hoavy shipments to the Un1tod Kingdom, pork stocks have continued to increase.

What effect the loss of Denmark as a source of supply will eventually have is difficult to foreoast. Although Denmark supplied the United Kingdom with a very largo proportion of pork products, rationing of meat in the United Kingdam may reduce the amount imported and thus tend to reduce the gain in exports from other countries which would otherwise have occurred. Bacon is a relatively expensive food and the foreign exchange required for its purchase may be needed more for the purchase of other commodities, especially war materials. While supplies of bacon in the United Kingdom at the present time appear to be adequate, it is possible that within a few months increased imports from other sources may be necessary.

The future of Denmark as a bacon producing rogion while under German control is not very bright. The importation of feods from overseas countries will be cut off and a considorable decline in hog production will likely occur. In the meantime, of course, Germany will gain to some extent frozi the production now becoming available and for a few months will have larger supplies of meat and animal fats.

Output of Contral Electric Stations
Central electric stations produced $2,426,157,000$ kilowatt hours during March compared with 2,367,031,000 in February and 2,366,740,000 in March, 1939. Output during the first quarter of 1940 aggregated $7,319,331,000$ kilowatt hours in comparison with $6,967,893,000$ in the oorresponding period of 1939 .

Exports to the United States in March totalled 155,402,000 kilowatt hours as against 139,908,000 the month before and 165,422,000 a yoar ago, while during the first three months of 1940 the exports totalled 444,360,000 kilowatt hours as against $485,828,000$ in the same period last year.

Retall Prices, Rents and Costs of Sorvices
The index number of retail prioes, rents and costs of sorvices on the base 1926=100 rose from 85.2 in February to 85.7 for March. Retail prices have rison more than three per cent during the past year, while wholesale prices recorded an advance of almost 14 per cent during the same period.

Ln index for 46 food items was 78.6 for March, the same figure as recorded for the two previous months. Sirloin beef, mutton, milk, cheose, flour, rice, beans, potatoes, tea and coffee registored increases, while veal, lard, egas and butter showed deolinos.
is survey of clothing prices for Maroh showed an advance of 3.4 per cent during the three preceding months. Most items displayed moderate inoreases, the general olothing index advancing to 78.3 from 75.7 in Docember.

Production of Concentrated Milk
The production of concentrated milk products moved higher in March, totalling 12,461,304 pounds, a gain of 34 per cent over the provious month and 29 por cent over the corresponding month last year. Output during the first three months of 1940 advanoed to $31,650,676$ pounds in comparison with $22,728,059$ in the corresponding period of 1939 .

## Marriages, Births and Doaths in March

The sharp increase in the registration of marriages during the past few months was augnented in March when 3, 192 ceromonies were rogistered in 67 cities and towns having a population of 10,000 and over as compared with 1,686 in March last year, a gain of 89 per cent. This brought the total number of rogistrations in these cities during the seven war months to 35,058 as compared with 22,331 in the seme period a yoar ago. In making comparisons, it should bo remembered that the Lenten period onded this year on March 23. whereas last yoar it extended into April. Births registered in the 67 citios in March numbered 7,944 against 7,316 in March 1939, a gain of $8 \frac{7}{2}$ per cent. Deaths numbered 4,606 as compared with 5,422 a year afo, a decline of 15 per cent.

Recent yunrs heve witnessed an inoreasing demand for information to serve as a basis for estimating the relativo valuos of different seotions of the country as markets for verious commodities or sorvioes. It is a commonplace the t marketing effort should be distributed geographionlly in cocordenoe with the purohasing power of the markets ooncornod. sny ostimste of the capcoity of a market to absorb a oommodity must be founded on a number of factors such c.s the oharcotor and the buying habits of the population, their souroe and $81 z 0$ of inoome, cocessibility, oompetition to be met and other incicstors of the markut in question.

To meet these demands for information a large body of statistioal data exists. Population statistics are of long standing. Figuros covering industrial production date baok to 1870. Statistios of distribution are of more recent origin, the first complete oensus of 0.11 merohandising ostablishments having beon taken os part of the Docennial Consus of 1931 and oovered the businoss transactod in tho prooeding year.

The Dominion Burenu of Statistios has just relcased a handbook in which are brought together some of the salient facts of population, produotion and dstribution, broken down into small geographioal units conveniont for the market investigator. Copies of this publication, entitled "Consumer Market Data" may be purchased from the Bureau at 50 oents per copy.

## Roports Issued during the Woek

1. Weakly Index Numbers of Wholesale frioes (10 oents).
2. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, January ( 10 cents).
3. Consumer Market Data (50 oents).
4. Elemontary and Secondary Education in Canada, 1936-38 (50 cents).
5. Fisheries Statistios of Ccnada, 1938 ( 35 cents).
6. Statistics of Dairy Factories, 1938 ( 25 cents).
7. Exports of Paints and Varnishes, March (10 cents).
8. Exports of Lumber, March (10 oents).
9. Exports of Iulp Wood, Wood Fulp and raper, Maroh ( 10 oents).
10. Gold Produotion, January ( 10 cents).
11. Cement, Clay Products and Lime, January (10 oents).
12. Gypsum Production, January ( 10 cents).
13. Output of Central Electrio Stations, March (10 cents).
14. The Medicinal and Thamaceutical Preparations Industry, 1938 (25 cents),
15. Car Loadings (10 oents).
16. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation ( 10 oonts).
17. Exports of Farm Implements and Machinery, March (10 oents).
18. Exports of Living inimals, Maroh ( 10 cents).
19. Exports of Tetroleum and Its Products, March (10 oents).
20. Exports of Rubber and Insulated Wire and Cable, Maroh ( 10 oents).
21. Exports of Non-Ferrous Ores and Smelter Produots, Maroh (10 oonts).
22. Exports of Milk, Milk Iroducts and Eggs, Maroh (10 oents).
23. Exports of Moats, Lard and Sausage Casings, Maroh (10 oents).
24. Canadian Grain Statistios (10 cents).
25. Frices and Frice Indexes, Maroh (10 cents).
26. Births, Deaths and Marriages, March (10 oents).
27. Iroduction of Iron and Steel, Maroh (10 cents).
28. Froduction of Conoentrated Milk, Maroh (10 cents).
29. Seourity Trioes and Foreign Exchange (10 oents).
