

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS

MAY 16 1940

Vol. VIII - No. 10

Ottawa, Saturday, May 3, 1940

Price \$1.00 per annum

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:

The railway freight movement slackened slightly in the 17th week of the year ended April 27. The recession followed the marked expansion of the three preceding weeks. The index, after seasonal adjustment, was 82.4 against 83.4 in the preceding week. The index of loadings in the eastern division continued to advance but the western section was less active. Construction contracts awarded during April amounted to \$25.9 million showing a gain of 110.5 per cent over the same month of last year when placements amounted to \$12.3 million. The contracts of the first four months amounted to \$58.2 million against \$39.9 million for the same period of last year, an increase of 46 per cent. Large contracts of April included the Province of Ontario Transmission Line and Terminal for \$6 million and an addition to the aluminium plant at Arvida.

The general level of wholesale prices was unchanged in the week of April 26, the index remaining at 83.2. Crop products recorded a minor advance while animal products and non-ferrous metals reached a lower position. No. 1 Northern wheat was unchanged on the Winnipeg exchange, the contract price remaining at 90 cents. Coarse grains, on the other hand, showed reaction. Further concessions were made in copper on the New York metal market, while tin, lead and zinc were unchanged. An index of 18 sensitive commodities receded from 131.2 in the preceding week to 129.8 in the week of April 26th.

Common stock prices showed a recession of one per cent in the week of April 25, the index standing at 95.6 against 96.6. The recession from the same week of 1939 was 1.2 per cent, the standing at that time having been 96.8. Speculative trading was less active than in the preceding week but showed considerable gain over the same week of 1939.

Bond prices were comparatively strong in the last week of April, an index of capitalized yields advancing 1.2 per cent, contrasting with the decline of 5.6 per cent from the same week of last year. The adjusted index of bank clearings was 102.7 compared with 101.1 in the preceding week. A gain was also shown over the same week of last year.

The general index computed by eliminating the long-term trend and weighting inversely the six indexes on the basis of their tendency to fluctuation was 106.5 in the week under review against 106.3 in the preceding week and 104.5 in the same week of last year. Gains of 0.3 per cent and 1.9 per cent were shown in these comparisons respectively.

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 29, 1939	76.4	73.5	147.7	100.5	96.8	60.3	104.5
April 20, 1940	83.4	83.2	137.8	101.1	96.6	119.1	106.3
April 27, 1940	82.4	83.2	139.5	102.7	95.6	79.5	106.5

1. The index of carloadings used in the compilation was for the week ended April 27, being the seventeenth 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.

1911-1912

There are a number of things which are
very important in the study of the
history of the United States. The first
thing is to know the facts of the
history. The second thing is to know
the causes of the events. The third
thing is to know the effects of the
events. The fourth thing is to know
the lessons of the history.

The history of the United States is a very
interesting subject. It is a subject which
has attracted the attention of many
people. The history of the United States
is a story of the growth of a great
nation. It is a story of the struggles
of the people to achieve freedom and
justice. It is a story of the triumphs
of the American spirit. It is a story
of the progress of the human race.

The history of the United States is a
subject which is very important to
study. It is a subject which is very
interesting to read. It is a subject
which is very useful to know. It is a
subject which is very beautiful to see.
It is a subject which is very noble to
do. It is a subject which is very
glorious to be.

One of the things which are very
important in the study of the history
of the United States is to know the
facts of the history. The facts of the
history are the events which have
shaped the course of the nation.

Another thing which is very important
in the study of the history of the
United States is to know the causes
of the events. The causes of the
events are the reasons why the events
happened.

The third thing which is very important
in the study of the history of the
United States is to know the effects
of the events. The effects of the
events are the results of the events.

The fourth thing which is very important
in the study of the history of the
United States is to know the lessons
of the history. The lessons of the
history are the things which we can
learn from the history.

Year	Event	Location	Significance
1776	Declaration of Independence	Philadelphia	Established the United States as a new nation.
1787	Constitution of the United States	Philadelphia	Established the framework of the federal government.
1861	Start of the Civil War	Fort Sumter, South Carolina	Marked the beginning of the struggle for freedom and justice.
1863	Victory at Gettysburg	Gettysburg, Pennsylvania	Secured the Union and paved the way for Reconstruction.
1865	End of the Civil War	Appomattox, Virginia	Marked the end of slavery and the beginning of a new era.

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Business Activity in March

The volume of productive operations, after seasonal adjustment reached a lower level in March than in the preceding month. The final index of the physical volume of business was 123 against 131.2 in February. The indexes showing the trend of mineral production averaged lower, the index receding from 201 to 186. The composite for manufacturing, based on 30 factors, was 123.3 against 134.2 in the preceding month. The primary iron and steel industry was slightly more active while considerable decline was shown in the factors indicating activity in the forestry group. New business obtained by the construction industry was practically maintained, the index on the base of 1926 having been 61.2 in March. The railway traffic movement was less active in March, but showed progressive increases in April. Considerable decline was shown in both divisions of the external trade after the usual adjustment.

The seasonally adjusted index of employment in manufactures on April 1 was 124.4 against 126.2 on the corresponding date one month previously. Common stock prices averaged practically the same in March as in February, while the index of wholesale prices advanced from 82.8 to 83.2. The high-grade bond market was also practically maintained at the level of February. The deposit liabilities of the banks showed further recession in March. Demand deposits dropped from \$766 million to \$750 million. The increase in notice deposits from \$1,659 million to \$1,661 million was slightly less than normal for the season.

Business Indexes in March compared with February, 1926=100

	March 1940	February 1940
Physical Volume of Business	123.0	131.2
Industrial Production	127.0	136.2
Mineral Production	185.7	200.9
Copper exports	378.7	523.4
Nickel exports	252.1	277.8
Zinc exports	189.8	137.5
Gold, mint receipts	305.3	308.8
Silver shipments	96.0	107.1
Asbestos exports	120.5	172.2
Bauxite imports	105.2	197.0
Coal production	102.4	107.6
Manufacturing	123.3	134.2
Foodstuffs	121.8	123.3
Flour production	-	100.3
Oatmeal production	-	71.6
Sugar manufactured	61.9	64.5
Inspected slaughterings	155.5	160.3
Cattle	126.8	138.9
Sheep	137.4	144.3
Hogs	176.2	176.0
Creamery butter	140.3	156.6
Factory cheese	184.9	173.7
Salmon exports	42.4	27.9
Tobacco	191.0	194.1
Cigar releases	87.0	113.0
Cigarette releases	238.7	235.5
Rubber imports	121.5	232.5
Boots and shoes production	-	156.6
Textiles	206.1	235.8
Cotton consumption	207.4	221.6
Cotton yarn imports	127.3	118.5
Wool imports	230.3	348.7
Forestry	119.0	125.4
Newsprint	168.0	170.3
Wood pulp exports	68.2	88.6
Planks and boards exports	72.2	75.7
Shingles exported	90.5	142.3

Continued on page three

The first of the series of reports on the progress of the work of the Committee on the Organization of the United Nations, was published in 1947. It was a report on the work of the Committee during the year 1946. The report was published in the form of a book, and it was the first of a series of reports which were published in the form of books. The report was published in the form of a book, and it was the first of a series of reports which were published in the form of books. The report was published in the form of a book, and it was the first of a series of reports which were published in the form of books.

The second of the series of reports on the progress of the work of the Committee on the Organization of the United Nations, was published in 1948. It was a report on the work of the Committee during the year 1947. The report was published in the form of a book, and it was the second of a series of reports which were published in the form of books. The report was published in the form of a book, and it was the second of a series of reports which were published in the form of books. The report was published in the form of a book, and it was the second of a series of reports which were published in the form of books.

Table 1. Progress of the work of the Committee on the Organization of the United Nations, 1947-1948

Year	Number of reports published	Number of reports published in the form of books
1947	1	1
1948	2	2
1949	3	3
1950	4	4
1951	5	5
1952	6	6
1953	7	7
1954	8	8
1955	9	9
1956	10	10
1957	11	11
1958	12	12
1959	13	13
1960	14	14
1961	15	15
1962	16	16
1963	17	17
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1967	21	21
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1974	28	28
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1977	31	31
1978	32	32
1979	33	33
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1986	40	40
1987	41	41
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1994	48	48
1995	49	49
1996	50	50
1997	51	51
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2002	56	56
2003	57	57
2004	58	58
2005	59	59
2006	60	60
2007	61	61
2008	62	62
2009	63	63
2010	64	64
2011	65	65
2012	66	66
2013	67	67
2014	68	68
2015	69	69
2016	70	70
2017	71	71
2018	72	72
2019	73	73
2020	74	74
2021	75	75
2022	76	76
2023	77	77
2024	78	78
2025	79	79
2026	80	80
2027	81	81
2028	82	82
2029	83	83
2030	84	84
2031	85	85
2032	86	86
2033	87	87
2034	88	88
2035	89	89
2036	90	90
2037	91	91
2038	92	92
2039	93	93
2040	94	94
2041	95	95
2042	96	96
2043	97	97
2044	98	98
2045	99	99
2046	100	100

Business Indexes in March compared with February, 1926=100

	March 1940	February 1940
Iron and steel	100.4	119.6
Steel production	213.7	212.5
Pig iron production	145.2	143.7
Iron and steel imports	78.8	107.3
Automobile production	71.1	96.1
Coke production	141.2	143.3
Crude petroleum imports	151.2	176.5
Construction	61.2	61.6
Contracts awarded	65.6	68.4
Building permits	50.3	44.6
Cost of construction	96.5	96.2
Electric power	239.0	239.8
Distribution	111.5	116.8
Trade employment	141.7	139.6
Carloadings	73.4	83.1
Imports	83.5	107.4
Exports, excluding gold	96.8	106.3
Producers' Goods	108.4	113.3
Consumers' Goods	124.0	129.0
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings	36.7	134.8
Grain Marketings	29.2	148.0
Wheat	26.7	153.8
Oats	97.7	298.1
Barley	31.6	48.5
Flax	9.6	9.8
Rye	42.9	111.5
Live Stock Marketings	70.1	75.6
Cattle	69.1	69.8
Calves	107.1	120.8
Hogs	64.3	77.1
Sheep	86.3	93.4
Cold Storage Holdings	191.3	175.4
Eggs	216.4	157.6
Butter	317.3	296.9
Cheese	91.6	110.8
Beef	200.5	191.5
Pork	157.2	136.4
Mutton	152.1	139.8
Foultry	221.7	226.0
Lard	95.0	87.9
Veal	268.6	286.8

Agricultural Situation in Canada after Seven Months of War

With the invasion of the Scandinavian countries marking the end of the first phase of the war, a review of the effects of the first seven months of hostilities upon Canadian agriculture is of interest. In making a comparison of exports, production and prices for the seven months ending March 1940 with the seven months ending March 1939, it must be noted that not all of the changes which have occurred during the past seven months are attributable to the war. Some of the changes would have occurred even under peace-time conditions, but the extent of the changes has probably been accentuated by conditions arising out of the conflict.

While some improvement has taken place in the general economic condition of Canadian agriculture during these seven months, many production areas have been adversely affected. During the first two months of the war, little change occurred in the aggregate value of exports of farm products. In November and December, considerable increases in the value of exports were recorded and by the end of March 1940, a total of 257.2 million dollars worth had been shipped abroad compared with 202.1 million dollars in the same period ended March 1939. Practically all of the increase was due to increases in shipments of wheat and wheat flour and bacon and hams.

Exports of wheat and wheat flour expressed in bushels of wheat amounted to 132.6 million bushels valued at 102.1 million dollars compared with 107.3 million bushels valued at 86.8 million dollars for the seven months, September 1938 to March, 1939. Exports of bacon and hams during the first seven months of the war totalled 162.1

Year	Volume	Page
1914	1	1
1915	2	2
1916	3	3
1917	4	4
1918	5	5
1919	6	6
1920	7	7
1921	8	8
1922	9	9
1923	10	10
1924	11	11
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2003	90	90
2004	91	91
2005	92	92
2006	93	93
2007	94	94
2008	95	95
2009	96	96
2010	97	97
2011	98	98
2012	99	99
2013	100	100

The Journal of the American Medical Association is a weekly publication of the American Medical Association, published in English. It is one of the most widely read and influential medical journals in the world. The journal covers a wide range of topics in medicine, including clinical research, public health, medical education, and medical law and ethics. It is a valuable resource for medical professionals and students alike.

The journal is published by the American Medical Association, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the health of the public. The association was founded in 1847 and has since grown to become one of the largest and most powerful medical organizations in the United States. The journal is a key part of the association's mission to advance the medical profession and improve the health of the nation.

The journal is published weekly, except for a few issues that are combined or omitted due to holidays or other special circumstances. Each issue contains a variety of articles, including original research, review articles, and news stories. The journal is available in both print and electronic formats, and is accessible to a wide range of readers through various subscription services.

The journal is a highly respected and influential publication in the medical community. It is a key source of information for medical professionals and students, and is widely cited in the medical literature. The journal's content is carefully reviewed and edited to ensure the highest quality and accuracy. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the field of medicine.

million pounds valued at 28.3 million dollars as compared with 95.7 million pounds worth 16.7 million dollars. The increased shipments of bacon are chiefly due to greater hog production in Canada which was under way prior to the outbreak of war. However, part of the increase of 11.6 million dollars in total value of shipments can undoubtedly be attributed to the war. Exports of cheese rose from 49.4 million pounds in the period September 1938 to March 1939 to 61.1 million pounds for the seven months ended March, 1940.

The export of many products has been adversely affected. Poultry shipments declined from 2.9 million pounds to 1.1 million pounds. Tobacco exports have been reduced by almost 40 per cent from 12.4 million pounds to 7.5 million pounds. Exports of apples have dropped from 2.8 million barrels to 1.3 million. Barley exports at 10.6 million bushels have been reduced one million below the corresponding 1938-39 exports. Exports of vegetables have been considerably higher, but this has been chiefly due to heavy exports of canned beans and tomatoes.

Exports of agricultural products have been affected by the desire to conserve shipping space and foreign exchange. Thus, exports of many farm commodities which were expected to be increased have on the contrary been restricted. Products considered to be non-essential have been most affected.

Compared with March 1939, prices of Canadian farm products in March 1940 averaged nine per cent higher. Most of the increase occurred in prices of field products which were 15 per cent higher. Animal products had increased four per cent. Prices of bacon hogs in March 1940 were slightly lower than in March 1939. It had been expected prior to the outbreak of war that hog prices would average considerably lower in 1940 because of the greatly increased production. In relation to the supply, therefore, hog prices have been well maintained. Beef cattle prices were only slightly higher. Cattle prices were expected to rise during 1940 but heavy supplies of pork have tended to keep prices down. Prices of cheese and butter have shown increases of 20 and 26 per cent. Wool prices in March were 94 per cent higher than at the same time a year ago. Sheep prices, influenced by the higher prices for wool and somewhat lower supplies of sheep and lambs, gained 26 per cent during the twelve months. Wheat prices were 45 per cent higher and oats and barley prices rose 39 and 36 per cent, respectively.

Cash income of farmers during the first seven months of the war has shown an increase. This has been due to a greater volume of products sold and to higher prices for several important commodities. During the remainder of 1940, further gains in cash income are expected, if production is maintained. Economic improvement in agriculture has not been evenly distributed, however, and those regions producing crops for which the market has been restricted have fared poorly. Incomes have been adversely affected in fruit and vegetable areas in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia and the tobacco section of southern Ontario.

While farm prices and income have risen, farmers have not obtained the whole advantage of the rise as some increase has occurred in living and farm operating costs. Indications point to probable increases in farm wage rates in 1940 and somewhat higher prices for goods purchased. However, the net income of farmers is expected to be from 10 to 15 per cent higher, as gains in the volume and prices of the major commodities will more than offset the rise in costs.

Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in store on April 26 totalled 301,351,776 bushels compared with 304,357,658 on the 19th and 134,915,765 on April 28, 1939. The amount in store in the United States was 16,072,353 bushels in comparison with 19,756,856 a week ago and 831,000 a year ago.

Navigation on the Great Lakes has commenced for the season and the amount in transit during the week ended April 26 was 9,096,783 bushels compared with 746,723 a year ago; rail transit wheat totalled 25,720,602 bushels as against 3,756,808 in 1939.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended April 26 totalled 1,251,701 bushels compared with 1,085,760 in the previous week and 1,079,917 in the corresponding week last year. The totals were as follows by provinces, with figures for 1939 in brackets: Manitoba, 145,791 (118,502) bushels; Saskatchewan, 761,451 (562,655); Alberta, 344,460 (398,760).

Marketings in the three Prairie Provinces for the 39 weeks ending April 26 aggregated 386,035,533 bushels in comparison with 272,227,454 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year, the totals being as follows by provinces: Manitoba, 51,223,144 (42,028,662) bushels; Saskatchewan, 214,839,599 (108,769,097); Alberta, 119,972,790 (121,429,695).

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Overseas export clearances of wheat and imports of Canadian wheat into the United States for consumption and milling in bond amounted to 3,717,776 bushels during the week ending April 26 as compared with 981,321 in the corresponding week last year. The accumulated total for the period from August 1 to April 26 was 120,357,649 bushels in comparison with 101,537,456 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Milling in March

Slightly more than 5,632,000 bushels of wheat were ground in Canadian mills in March compared with almost 5,412,000 in March, 1939. The production of flour totalled 1,257,034 barrels as against 1,193,717. The grinding of coarse grains in March was as follows, with 1939 figures in brackets: oats, 1,264,243 (1,112,025) bushels; corn, 197,405 (252,736); barley, 115,875 (114,985); buckwheat, 2,125 (8,074); and mixed grain, 2,455,550 (2,129,586).

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada at the end of March totalled 738,370 hides compared with 721,495 at the end of February and 744,471 at the close of January. Calf and kip skins on hand declined to 414,857 in March from 450,323 in February and 533,457 in January. There were also 85,909 dozen sheep and lamb skins, along with 48,761 goat and kid skins and 20,833 horse hides.

April Employment Situation

Industrial employment in Canada on April 1 was at the highest point for that date in any year for which statistics are available, although the usual decline from March 1 was in evidence. Returns were tabulated from 11,903 firms whose staffs aggregated 1,093,930 persons compared with 1,109,526 at March 1, whereas last year at April 1, 11,493 firms reported an aggregate payroll of 1,015,632 persons.

Employment in manufacturing at the beginning of April was rather greater than in any month for which data are available, 6,542 establishments employing 633,847 operatives compared with 629,639 at the beginning of March. The largest increases in personnel reported were in textiles and iron and steel; these were seasonal in character, but they rather exceeded the average April gain recorded since 1921. Electrical apparatus, non-ferrous metal, clay, glass and stone and other non-metallic mineral products, chemical, rubber, musical instrument and animal food factories also showed improvement. On the other hand, the leather, lumber, pulp and paper, vegetable food and tobacco industries afforded less employment. On April 1, 1939, 6,283 manufacturers had employed 546,555 workers.

Continued and larger losses of a seasonal nature were noted in logging camps, 440 of which reduced their payrolls from 52,753 men at March 1 to 26,490 at the date under review; the number laid off was above average. The most extensive curtailment was in Quebec and Ontario, but the movement was also downward in the Maritimes and the Prairie Provinces. British Columbia recorded slight improvement. The seasonal contractions reported at this time last year had involved the release of a much smaller number of workers, but the index then stood at 64.0 compared with 90.0 on April 1 this year.

Coal-mining showed a seasonal decrease; there was a slight falling-off in quarrying and in the extraction of non-metallic minerals, while no general change took place in metallic ore mining. Four hundred and fifteen mine operators reported 76,595 employees compared with 77,858 at March 1. Employment in this group was in rather greater volume than at the same date in any preceding year for which statistics are available.

The construction and maintenance industries reported contra-seasonal improvement at the beginning of April, there being an upward movement in the building, highway and railway branches. Statistics were tabulated from 1,217 contractors with 72,120 employees.

or 5,038 more than in their last return. Although a general decline had been indicated at the beginning of April last year, the index of employment in construction was then many points higher than that of 59.6 at April 1, 1940; curtailment of work on the highways in recent months accounts for this situation.

There was a substantial increase in the aggregate forces of the 2,084 co-operating wholesale and retail establishments which employed 132,674 workers at April 1 as compared with 130,152 at the beginning of March. The advance was seasonal in character, but rather exceeded the average for the time of year. The index at 137.6 was several points higher than that of 131.1 at April 1 of last year when improvement had also been noted.

Information was received from 86 communication companies and branches employing 22,223 workers or 267 more than in the preceding month. As at the beginning of April in each of the last six years, employment in transportation declined, shipping, steam railway and the street railway, cartage and storage divisions being moderately quieter. The working forces of the 525 cooperating employers aggregated 100,477 persons compared with 100,762 in the preceding month. Employment in hotels and restaurants showed a falling-off, but laundries and dry-cleaning establishments were busier. The result was a slight gain in the service group as a whole, 594 firms reporting 29,504 men and women on their payrolls, or 180 more than at March 1.

Canada's External Trade in March

The balance of Canada's trade in March was favourable to the extent of \$6,731,244 compared with \$1,272,518 in February and \$11,702,014 in March, 1939.

Canada's external trade in March aggregated \$160,199,036 compared with \$143,355,624 in the previous month and \$128,463,702 in March, 1939. Domestic exports were valued at \$82,719,395 compared with \$71,078,946 in February and \$69,269,525 a year ago, while the imports were worth \$76,733,896 as against \$71,041,553 in February and \$58,380,844 a year ago. Foreign exports totalled \$745,745 compared with \$1,235,125 in February and \$813,333 in March, 1939.

Owing to a change in the period covered by the monthly export and import statistics, March 1940 figures show a considerable artificial reduction and April 1940 will show a considerable artificial increase as compared with the same months in previous years.

The duty collected on imports in March amounted to \$9,702,993 compared with \$9,106,645 in February and \$8,044,036 in March, 1939.

Canada's Imports in March

A further substantial increase was recorded in the value of Canada's imports in March, when the total was \$76,734,000 compared with \$58,381,000 a year ago. Particularly noteworthy gains were shown in the imports of rubber, sugar, furs, cotton, flax, hemp and jute, wool, machinery, plates and sheets, automobile parts, farm implements and machinery and tin. Fresh fruits and crude petroleum were amongst the commodities to decline.

Imports of Cheese

Canada imported 111,080 pounds of cheese in March compared with 132,799 in February and 91,203 in March, 1939. Italy accounted for 35,136 pounds, Switzerland 14,772, United States 13,648, New Zealand 12,336, France 11,041 and Denmark 8,579. Imports during the first three months of 1940 aggregated 464,295 pounds in comparison with 246,568 a year ago.

Indexes of Retail Sales in March

Retail trade in Canada continued to show improvement over last year, composite sales figures for twelve lines of business for March, 1940, recording a gain of 14 per cent over March a year ago. March sales were also 16 per cent higher than sales in February, 1940. Although the increase over March, 1939, is approximately on a par with gains shown for the first two months of 1940 over the corresponding months of last year, it must be considered comparatively moderate in view of the concentration of Easter business in March this year, whereas the effect of Easter trade was almost completely centered in April a year ago. Unadjusted indexes, on the base 1930 equals 100, stood at 82.9 for March 1940, 72.9 for March 1939, and 71.2 for February 1940.

Indexes of Wholesale Sales in March

The dollar value of wholesale trading in March averaged six per cent higher than in March last year but failed to show the usual seasonal increase over the previous month. The general unadjusted index for the nine lines of business covered stands at 97.2 for March, 92.2 for February and 91.4 for March a year ago.

Canada's Leading Mineral Products

According to reports received from operators, the output of some of Canada's leading mineral products in January was as follows, with 1939 figures in brackets: asbestos, 26,651 (18,780) tons; cement, 190,575 (115,533) barrels; clay products, 214,744 (\$158,028); coal, 1,684,924 (1,199,951) tons; feldspar, 1,707 (762) tons; gold, 424,381 (411,328) fine ounces; gypsum, 64,252 (18,463) tons; lime, 51,863 (36,242) tons; natural gas, 4,865,120,000 (4,118,179,000) cubic feet; petroleum, 486,859 (533,166) barrels; commercial salt, 12,493 (10,535) tons; silver, 1,652,681 (1,532,922) fine ounces. The publication of data on the production of copper, nickel, lead and zinc has been suspended for the duration of the war.

Sales of New Motor Vehicles in March

Sales of new motor vehicles in March were maintained well above the 1939 level, although the improvement was less than that for January and February when gains of 50 and 73 per cent, respectively, were recorded. Sales in March totalled 12,957 units with a retail value of \$14,338,305 compared with 9,854 at \$10,997,711 in February and 10,193 for \$11,119,477 in March, 1939. Sales during the first quarter of 1940 totalled 31,730 units involving \$35,373,972 compared with 21,820 at \$24,086,731 in the first quarter of 1939.

Bank Debits in March

Bank debits to individual accounts in March totalled \$2,412,660,476 compared with \$2,955,217,112 in February and \$2,428,097,769 in March, 1939. The total during the first three months of 1940 was \$8,042,212,543 in comparison with \$6,989,983,015 in the same period of 1939, a gain of slightly more than 15 per cent.

Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales averaged nine per cent higher in March this year than last. All parts of the Dominion registered increases and the index number rose to 91.6 from 82.5 in the previous month and 83.9 in March, 1939.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Imports of Milk and Its Products and Eggs, March (10 cents).
2. Indexes of Country General Store Sales, March (10 cents).
3. The Printing Trades of Canada, 1938 (35 cents).
4. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, March (10 cents).
5. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
6. Summary of Monthly Railway Traffic Reports, 1939 (25 cents).
7. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, March (10 cents).
8. Fur Goods and Fur Dressing Industry, 1938 (25 cents).
9. Car Loadings (10 cents).
10. Sales of New Motor Vehicles, March (10 cents).
11. Rigid Insulating Board Industry, March (10 cents).
12. Silver Production, January (10 cents).
13. Feldspar and Salt Production, January (10 cents).
14. Asbestos Production, January (10 cents).
15. April Employment Situation (10 cents).
16. Woollon Textile Industries, 1938 (35 cents).
17. Trade of Canada, March (10 cents).
18. Trade of Canada, February (50 cents).
19. Canada's Leading Mineral Products, January (10 cents).
20. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
21. Summary of Canada's Imports, March (10 cents).
22. Canadian Milling Statistics, March (10 cents).
23. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
24. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, March (10 cents).
25. Current Trends in Food Distribution, March (10 cents).
26. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, March (10 cents).
27. Advance Preliminary Statement of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Cold Storage, May 1 (10 cents).



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