

## 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:

A further gain was shown in the railway traffic movement during the week ended May 11, the index of carloadings advancing from 82.1 to 83.9. The gain reflected the expanded movement of commodities in the eastern division where the standing of the loadings index was 88.5 against 84.3 in the preceding week. The standing of the general index for the corresponding week of one year ago was 81.8, an increase of 2.6 p.c. having been indicated.

Recession<sup>-</sup> was shown in wholesale prices during the week of May 10, the index receding from 83.0 to 82.8. Farm products and textiles recorded decline, while wood and paper and non-ferrous metals reached a slightly higher position. The average of prices at wholesale was somewhat higher than in the same week of either 1939 or 1938. The index recorded an advance of 12.3 p.c. over 73.7, the standing in the same week of 1939. The price of oats and rye showed advance on the Winnipeg Exchange, while wheat, barley and flax recorded recession. Copper prices advanced on the New York Metal Exchange. While a concession was shown in lead, zinc was fully maintained at 5.75.

A minor recession was shown in bond yields during the week of May 9. The recession followed an advance of two weeks. High-grade bond prices have shown an upward trend during the present year, tending to reduce the disparity with the standing of 1939. Despite the serious nature of hostilities in Europe, recent recessions in high-grades have been of a mild character, the 4½ of 1946 having been bid at 110 on May 16 against 110½ on the 9th. The adjusted index of bank clearings rose three points to 100.5. The gain over the same week of last year was 7.1 p.c.

Common stock prices were adversely affected by events abroad, the index having been 91.8 against 92.7 in the preceding week. The decline was consequently 1 p.c., while the standing was about 8 p.c. below that of last year. Speculative trading was somewhat heavier in the latest week, a considerable advance having been shown over the same period 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 106.2 in the week of May 11, against 105.5 in the week of May 4, a gain of 0.7 p.c. The standing one year ago was 104.3, a gain of nearly 2 p.c. having been indicated.

Weekly Index with the six Components  
1926-100

Week Ended	Car-loadings <sup>1</sup>	Whole-sale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields <sup>2</sup>	Bank Clearings <sup>3</sup>	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index <sup>4</sup>
May 13, 1939	81.8	73.7	145.3	93.8	99.9	68.0	104.3
May 4, 1940	82.1	83.0	140.2	97.5	92.7	82.5	105.5
May 11, 1940	83.9	82.8	140.1	100.5	91.8	85.2	106.2

1. The index of carloadings used in the compilation was for the week ended May 11 being the nineteenth week of the year. The practice of projecting the index of carloadings has been discontinued. 2. The 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.

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Sales and Purchases of Securities Between  
Canada and Other Countries during March

No very appreciable changes occurred in the trade in securities between Canada and other countries in March. Sales of securities by Canadians exceeded purchases by \$3.5 million, about the same as in February. While the net inflow of capital was about the same as in the preceding month there was a slightly smaller movement from the United States and a somewhat larger movement from other foreign countries.

Sales by Canadians in March totalled \$14,892,873 in comparison with \$13,594,083 in February and \$42,949,384 in March, 1939. Purchases aggregated \$11,268,623 as against \$9,990,584 in the previous month and \$26,457,055 a year ago. Sales to the United States accounted for \$12,482,670 in comparison with \$11,844,742 the month before and \$32,942,417 in March a year ago. Purchases from the United States totalled \$9,243,256 compared with \$8,446,081 in February and \$19,320,244 in March, 1939. The sales to the United Kingdom amounted to \$1,592,210 as compared with \$1,385,379 in February and \$4,322,976 last year, while purchases totalled \$1,533,299 as against \$1,307,730 in February and \$5,008,967 a year ago.

Of the total net sales of \$12.7 million during the first three months of 1940, \$11.8 million were sales to the United States, about \$0.1 to the United Kingdom and \$0.7 million to other countries. Net sales of Canadian securities amounted to \$6.0 million. Sales of Canadian bonds exceeded this, however, as there were repurchases of Canadian stocks of approximately \$2 million. Most of the net sales of Canadian bonds was made up of Dominion issues although provincial, municipal and corporation issues were also sold on balance in substantial amounts. Stocks of United States companies represented most of these sales being nearly \$5 million on balance. United Kingdom bonds and foreign bonds were also sold by Canadians.

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Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Overseas export clearances and imports of Canadian wheat into the United States for consumption and milling in bond amounted to 4,745,224 bushels during the week ending May 10 as compared with 3,434,433 in the corresponding week last year. During the forty-one weeks ending May 10 the total was 128,434,316 bushels in comparison with 106,801,288 in the same period of the previous crop year.

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Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending May 10 totalled 1,668,674 bushels compared with 1,413,751 in the previous week and 1,056,368 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, with 1939 totals in brackets: Manitoba, 123,402 (197,388) bushels; Saskatchewan, 1,104,093 (526,375); Alberta, 441,179 (332,605).

Markotings for the forty-one weeks ending May 10 aggregated 389,202,852 bushels compared with 274,175,334 in the same period a year ago, the totals being as follows by provinces: Manitoba, 51,468,727 (42,359,917) bushels; Saskatchewan, 217,039,919 (109,722,269); Alberta, 120,694,206 (122,093,148).

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Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in store on May 10 totalled 293,553,956 bushels in comparison with 298,450,759 on May 3 and 129,122,973 on May 12, 1939. The amount in store in the United States was 18,780,717 bushels compared with 17,104,264 a week ago and 980,000 a year ago. Wheat in transit on the lakes amounted to 6,321,846 bushels compared with 6,309,579 a year ago, while the amount in transit by rail was 13,373,246 bushels compared with 11,118,742 last year.





### Production of Tobacco in 1939

Again in 1939, for the third successive year, Canadian tobacco production set a new high record. The harvest of 109,846,000 pounds from 91,035 acres was 8 per cent greater than the crop of 101,394,600 pounds from 83,575 acres in 1938. The greatest expansion was in the area planted to flue-cured tobacco, particularly in Quebec. Increases were also shown for burley tobacco in Ontario and the pipe varieties in Quebec, while there was a decrease in the area planted to cigar leaf.

The further expansion in the production of flue-cured tobacco in 1939 was stimulated by the prospect of an increased outlet in the United Kingdom for this type, exports of which reached a peak of 26,684,733 pounds in the crop year ended September 1939. The virtual closing of this market, following the outbreak of hostilities in September, with total imports of Canadian tobacco restricted to 8 million pounds, has created an acute marketing problem for which no immediate solution is in sight. Present prospects are for a carryover into the 1940-41 crop year of an unsold surplus of approximately 30 million pounds of flue-cured tobacco.

### Export of Coarse Grains in April

April exports of barley totalled 213,628 bushels valued at \$142,858 as compared with 332,747 at \$145,149 in April, 1939. Practically all of this went to the United Kingdom. The export of oats advanced to 775,979 bushels valued at \$396,220 from 429,390 at \$134,524 a year ago, the United States taking about two-thirds of these shipments and the United Kingdom most of the remainder. Rye exports were negligible in April.

### Stocks of Unmanufactured Tobacco.

Stocks of unmanufactured tobacco on hand in Canada at the end of March totalled 115,651,643 pounds, including 109,888,229 pounds of Canadian tobacco and 5,763,414 imported tobacco. Domestic tobaccos included 81,656,675 pounds of flue-cured, 17,078,434 of burley, 2,732,043 of dark, 6,379,771 of cigar leaf, 1,597,797 of large pipe and 443,509 of small pipe. Flue-cured tobacco accounted for more than half of the imported tobacco. The stocks of unmanufactured tobacco on hand on March 31, 1939, aggregated 107,809,752 pounds.

### Estimate of Argentina's Maize Crop

Based upon present conditions of the fields as well as yields shown in the already harvested crops, the Ministry of Agriculture in Argentina estimates the volume of the 1939-40 crop of maize at 434,152,500 bushels. On the basis of official figures, the crop is heavier than that of last season by 242,666,000 bushels and it exceeds the five-year average by 123,463,000 bushels; nevertheless it is not of record proportions, falling short of the crop of the 1934-35 season which measured 451,947,000 bushels.

The official forecast of the maize crop has not gone without criticism. A high official of one of the leading exporting houses wrote to the press, expressing the opinion that the calculation was millions of tons too high. One of the most respected daily newspapers followed suit in an editorial. Then a Federation of Rural Societies addressed a memorandum to the Minister of Agriculture, calling attention to the matter and asking for an investigation of the figures on the ground that agriculturists' interests were prejudiced by the swollen figures with their depressing effect on price levels.

### Domestic exports of Wheat and Flour in April

Domestic exports of wheat rose to 5,081,736 bushels valued at \$4,771,315 in April from 2,831,612 at \$1,646,190 in April, 1939. Wheat flour exports were also heavier totalling 519,870 barrels valued at \$2,167,097 compared with 275,275 at \$825,277 a year ago. The average export price of wheat in April was 93.8 cents compared with 58 and of wheat flour \$4.17 compared with \$3.00.

### Shipments of Rigid Insulating Board

Domestic shipments of rigid insulating board advanced in April, totalling 2,857,273 square feet as compared with 2,556,368 in March and 2,683,423 in April, 1939. The total during the first four months of 1940 was 12,493,059 square feet as compared with 9,881,432 in the corresponding period last year.





#### Imports of Alumina in March

Imports of alumina including bauxite in March, although lower than in the previous month, were almost double those of March last year, amounting to 145,747 cwt. valued at \$142,203 compared with 203,793 at \$179,393 in February and 78,938 at \$46,508 in March, 1939.

#### Imports of Paper in March

March imports of paper were valued at \$747,478 compared with \$828,591 in February and \$788,414 in March, 1939. The total from the United States was \$629,899 and from the United Kingdom \$59,926. Wood pulp imports totalled \$62,970 against \$72,294 in February and \$62,150 a year ago, while the pulpwood imports were worth \$59,674 compared with \$52,536 in February and \$4,392 in March, 1939.

#### Tin Imports in March

Canada's imports of tin were heavier in March, totalling 9,154 cwt. of the value of \$468,184 in comparison with 8,276 at \$418,666 in February and 4,189 at \$193,607 in March, 1939. The Straits Settlements contributed 6,446 cwt., the United Kingdom 1,568, the United States 916 and Australia 224.

#### Production of Leather Footwear

Production of leather footwear in March totalled 2,242,756 pairs as compared with 2,279,562 in the previous month and 2,212,276 in March, 1939. Output during the first quarter of 1940 aggregated 8,595,846 pairs in comparison with 5,586,003 in the same period of 1939.

#### Production of Automobiles in April

Production of automobiles in April totalled 19,687 units compared with 16,612 in March and 16,391 in April, 1939. The output in April this year included 13,487 passenger cars and 6,200 commercial vehicles; of these totals 12,332 passenger cars and 4,496 trucks were made for sale in Canada with the remainder in each case being intended for export.

#### Department Store Sales in April

Department store sales in Canada were nine per cent higher in April than in April, 1939. This gain was recorded despite the fact that Easter business was entirely concentrated in March this year, whereas a year ago it centred principally in April. An increase of 11 per cent was also recorded over March, 1939. Unadjusted indexes on the 1930 base were 80.8 for April, 72.7 for March and 74.0 for April, 1939.

#### Exports of Asbestos in March

Exports of asbestos crude and milled fibres in March amounted to 13,052 tons valued at \$914,049 in comparison with 15,366 at \$1,054,333 in February and 10,190 at \$644,232 in March, 1939. The United States took 5,826 tons, the United Kingdom 1,893, Italy 1,492, Japan 1,287, Australia 1,190, France 799 and Sweden 450.

Exports of asbestos sand and waste totalled 9,674 tons in March valued at \$204,276 as against 9,576 at \$195,305 in February and 11,256 at \$206,590 in March, 1939. Shipments to the United States accounted for 9,132 tons, France 280 and the United Kingdom 262.

#### Mental Institutions in 1939

The total number of patients under care in Canada's fifty-seven mental institutions on December 31, 1939, was 46,389, of which number 42,687 were in residence on that date and 3,702 on parole, according to the latest annual report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of patients under care represents a 3.7 per cent increase over the figures for 1937. Of the total patients under care during the year, 25,528 were males and 20,861 were females.





First admissions to mental hospitals during the year totalled 3,561, a decrease of 122 from the previous year while re-admissions showed an increase of 12.4 per cent over the figures for 1937. Discharges totalled 6,956, an increase of 5.4 per cent over the number discharged in the previous year. The number of patients discharged as "recovered" was 1,979, an increase of 3.5 per cent over the number of "recoveries" reported in 1937.

Deaths totalled 2,504, a decrease of 6.6 per cent from the previous year. The average length of stay in mental institutions of patients who died during the year was 6.4 years for males and 6.3 years for females, while the average age at time of death was 53.9 years for males and 54.4 years for females.

Total expenditures for fifty-five of the fifty-seven mental institutions were \$16,053,872, of which sum \$14,387,405 was for direct maintenance of patients.

The total personnel of the fifty-seven institutions as on December 31, 1938, was 8,515, an increase of 4.2 per cent over the total personnel for 1937.

Copies of the report from which the above data were taken are available at twenty-five cents per copy.

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#### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Domestic Shipments of Rigid Insulating Board, April (10 cents).
  2. Exports of Canadian Grains and Flour, April (10 cents).
  3. Production and Marketing Survey of the 1939 Commercial Tobacco Crop (10 cents).
  4. Seventh Annual Report of Mental Institutions, 1938 (25 cents).
  5. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  6. Diamond Drilling Industry, 1939 (10 cents).
  7. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, March (10 cents).
  8. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
  9. Imports and Exports of Wire, March (10 cents).
  10. The Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
  11. Department Store Sales, April (10 cents).
  12. Automobile Production, April (10 cents).
  13. Stocks and Consumption of Unmanufactured Tobacco, March 31 (15 cents).
  14. Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
  15. Car Loadings (10 cents).
  16. The Polishes and Dressings Industry, 1938 (15 cents).
  17. The Stone Industry, 1938 (25 cents).
  18. Production of Leather Footwear, March (10 cents).
  19. Stocks of Canadian Fruit and Vegetables, May 1 (10 cents).
  20. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, May 1 (10 cents).
  21. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, May 1 (10 cents).
  22. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, May 1 (10 cents).
  23. The Asbestos Trade of Canada, March (10 cents).
  24. Imports of Non-Ferrous Ores and Smelter Products, March (10 cents).
  25. Imports and Exports of Pipes, Tubes and Fittings, March (10 cents).
  26. Imports of Stoves, Sheet Metal Products, Refrigerators, March (10 cents).
  27. Imports and Exports of Fertilizers, March (10 cents).
  28. Imports and Exports of Soap, March (10 cents).
  29. Imports and Exports of Toilet Preparations, March (10 cents).
  30. Imports of Pulp Wood, Wood Pulp and Paper, March (10 cents).
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