

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

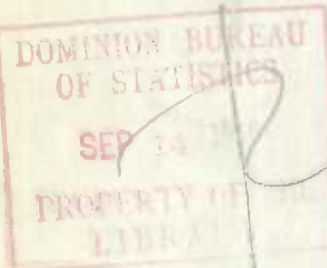
Department of Trade and Commerce

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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:

Mainly due to the congestion in the grain areas, railway traffic showed recession in the first week of September. The total movement was 55,361 cars against 60,477 in the preceding week. The seasonally adjusted index consequently receded from 85.0 to 82.4. The index was nearly maintained for the Eastern Division while a drop from 80.9 to 69.8 was shown in the West. The total traffic movement for the first thirty-six weeks of the present year was 1,859,000 cars, showing a marked gain over the same period of 1939.

Wholesale prices were relatively stable in the first week of September, the index rising slightly to 82.8. Gains were shown in crop and animal products and non-ferrous metals, while other groups were unchanged. The fluctuation in the general price level was relatively of minor proportions during the first thirty-six weeks of the year. During September 1939, subsequent to the outbreak of war, wholesale prices rose sharply and the advance was continued until the end of the year. The consequent increase in the last index from the first week of September one year ago was 9.1 p.c., the standing at that time having been 75.9.

Interest was centered in the high-grade bond market during the week under review. An increase was shown in the prices of principal issues. An index of capitalized bond yields rose 0.4 per cent, the gain over the same week of 1939 having been 7.2 per cent. The turnover, however, was light prior to the new Dominion war loan offered for public subscription on September 9. The adjusted index of bank clearings showed a recession from 97.0 to 94.1.

A significant movement of the week was the appreciable gain in common stock prices, the index advancing from 77.4 to 82.4. Gains were recorded in each of the groups in the official classification. The increase in the index of 15 power and traction stocks was from 48.8 to 50.4. Speculative trading, however, remained at a relatively low level.

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 103.9 in the week of September 7 against 104.3 in the preceding week, a decline of 0.3 per cent. The standing in the week of September 9, 1939 was 107.7, a decline of 3.5 per cent having been indicated.

A Weekly Index with Six Components  
1926-100

Week Ended	Car load-ings	Whole-salo Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields 1	Bank Clear-ings 2	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index 3
Sept. 9, 1939	89.1	75.9	131.1	125.3	102.3	90.2	107.7
Aug. 31, 1940	85.0	82.7	139.9	97.0	77.4	23.6	104.3
Sept. 7, 1940	82.4	82.8	140.5	94.1	82.4	23.0	103.9

1. Present value of a fixed net income in perpetuity from Dominion long-term bonds. 2. 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. 3. 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 the 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 the year 1926.





### Estimated Production of Principal Grain Crops

A wheat crop very little smaller than the record production of 1928 is being harvested in Canada this year. The total 1940 wheat crop is estimated at 561,104,000 bushels, of which 534,000,000 were produced in the Prairie Provinces. These estimates are close to the 544,598,000 bushels produced in the Prairie Provinces and 566,726,000 produced in the whole of Canada in 1928, making the 1940 crop readily the second largest in the annals of Canadian wheat production. The 1940 crop is 71,481,000 bushels larger than the third estimate of the 1939 crop, although the final estimate for 1939 will likely be raised in view of the unexpectedly heavy crop marketings which occurred at the end of the crop year.

The oat and barley crops are slightly larger this year than in 1939. Total oat production in 1940 is estimated at 405,095,000 bushels, an increase of 20,688,000 bushels over that of last year. The total barley crop is estimated at 110,538,000 bushels, showing an increase of 7,391,000 bushels over the 1939 production. Fall rye is estimated at 10,710,000 bushels and spring rye at 3,883,000 bushels, with the total rye crop of 14,593,000 bushels showing a reduction of 714,000 bushels from last year's production. Flaxseed production, on the other hand, shows a considerable increase resulting both from a larger acreage and a better yield per acre. The 1940 flaxseed crop amounted to 3,490,000 bushels compared with the 1939 crop of 2,169,000 bushels.

The 1940 hay and clover crop at 13,716,000 tons shows a small increase of 339,000 tons over the 1939 crop. Larger hay and clover crops were harvested this year in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, while New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan experienced reduced yields.

Among the late-sown crops, potatoes and sugar beets were in somewhat better condition on August 31 than on the same date in 1939. The alfalfa crop and pastures were also in better condition. On the other hand, corn for husking, fodder corn, peas, beans and buckwheat were in poorer condition than on August 31, 1939. Both husking and fodder corn in Ontario have experienced unfavourable weather conditions. While fodder corn in the four western provinces was in better condition this year, the improvement in these provinces was not sufficient to offset declines in the condition of the corn crop in all the eastern provinces.

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### Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in store on September 6 amounted to 316,564,031 bushels as compared with 303,869,766 a week ago and 180,731,302 on the corresponding date last year. The amount of Canadian wheat in the United States on the latest date was 33,175,439 bushels in comparison with 31,509,292 at the end of the previous week and 7,330,000 a year ago.

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### Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended September 6 amounted to 16,247,504 bushels compared with 14,905,389 in the previous week and 42,560,766 in the corresponding week last year. Totals follow by provinces, with figures for 1939 in brackets: Manitoba, 1,900,499 (7,692,208) bushels; Saskatchewan, 10,729,162 (25,431,366); Alberta, 3,617,843 (9,437,192).

Receipts of wheat during the five weeks ended September 6 totalled 48,636,547 bushels in comparison with 102,176,186 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces: Manitoba, 9,824,113 (33,000,600) bushels; Saskatchewan, 28,647,190 (49,450,510); Alberta, 10,165,244 (19,725,076).

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### Production of Butter and Cheese

The Canadian production of creamery butter declined slightly in August, totalling 33,954,195 pounds as compared with 34,042,808 in August, 1939. Output during the eight months ended August aggregated 188,283,014 pounds in comparison with 186,334,057 a year ago, a gain of one per cent.

Cheese production in August rose 16.3 per cent to 23,926,523 pounds from 20,569,026 in August, 1939. This brought the eight month total to 95,750,044 pounds from 84,323,514 a year ago, a gain of 13.6 per cent.

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### Steel Ingot Production

Output of steel ingots in Canada amounted to 166,879 tons in August compared with 164,501 in July and 118,784 in August, 1939. Production during the eight months ended August totalled 1,251,942 tons against 783,509 made during the corresponding period of 1939.

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### Production of Coal and Coke

The production of coal in Canada in July totalled 1,227,967 tons as compared with 1,147,803 in June and 1,093,542 in July, 1939. Output during the seven months ended July aggregated 9,455,368 tons in comparison with 7,909,811 in the corresponding period last year.

Canada imported 2,398,461 tons of coal in July this year compared with 1,590,973 a year ago. Anthracite imports amounted to 594,562 tons, bituminous 1,804,052 and lignite 47 tons. Exports of Canadian coal rose to 73,702 tons from 18,627 in July, 1939.

Production of coke from coal amounted to 258,411 tons in July against 249,232 in June and 189,254 in July last year. Output during the seven months ended July aggregated 1,717,000 tons as against 1,312,000 in the same period last year.

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### Production of Leading Minerals

Preliminary production figures of several leading Canadian minerals for the first six months of 1940 follow, with corresponding totals for 1939 in brackets: asbestos, 156,457 (144,207) tons; cement, 2,727,804 (1,994,691) barrels; clay products, \$2,080,660 (\$1,589,425); coal, 8,227,401 (6,816,269) tons; feldspar, 9,075 (4,697) tons; gold, 2,572,042 (2,469,969) fine ounces; gypsum, 544,763 (359,170) tons; lime, 332,416 (237,983) tons; natural gas, 20,100,023,000 (19,329,927,000) cubic feet; petroleum, 3,681,029 (3,371,238) barrels; commercial salt, 105,625 (106,237) tons; silver, 11,991,734 (10,586,950) fine ounces.

The publication of special monthly bulletins on all minerals except coal, gold, crude petroleum and natural gas has been suspended for the duration of the war.

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### Sales of New Motor Vehicles in July

Sales of new motor vehicles in July, the first month in which the new taxation was in effect, reflect the results of heavy June buying in anticipation of higher prices. There were 6,849 new motor vehicles retailed for \$7,795,349 in July this year compared with 15,730 retailing for \$17,502,885 in June and 7,333 for \$8,495,146 in July last year.

Sales for the year to date were well above those for the same period of 1939, the total being 93,649 units valued at \$104,167,007 as compared with 75,866 units sold for \$82,497,482 in the first seven months of 1939.

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### Railway Statistics for June

Freight traffic of Canadian railways in June measured in revenue ton miles was the heaviest for the month to date, exceeding 1939 traffic by 93 per cent and 1929 traffic by 21 per cent. The average revenue per ton mile was only 0.791 cents, as against 1.08 cents in June 1929, and consequently freight revenues were less than in 1929 but greater than any other June since 1930.

Total gross revenues of \$36,913,950 were also greater than for any other June since 1930. The increase over 1939 revenues was \$10,753,544 or 41.1 per cent for the total, \$8,983,958 or 48 per cent for freight and \$1,774,214 or 152 per cent for express. The express revenue was not only the largest June revenue earned but also was larger than for any other month to date.

Operating expenses increased over 1939 by \$3,260,654 or 13 per cent and the operating income was increased by \$7,056,866.

For the first half of the year gross revenues increased from \$153,180,846 in 1939 to \$192,100,813 and the operating income increased from \$3,139,443 to \$26,472,980.

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### Canada's Domestic Exports in August

With increases being common to most of the major commodities Canada's domestic exports increased in August to \$110,548,015 from \$75,559,608 in August, 1939, a gain of \$34,988,407. The total for the first eight months of 1940 moved up to \$759,469,309 from \$554,847,365 in the corresponding period of 1939, an advance of \$204,621,944.

Foreign exports in August were valued at \$811,556 as compared with \$916,134 in August last year, while the value for the first eight months of 1940 aggregated \$7,064,464 in comparison with \$6,736,142 in the eight months of 1939.

### Commercial Failures in Canada

Commercial failures in Canada during the first six months of 1940 declined to 651 from 717 in the corresponding period of 1939. The defaulted liabilities totalled \$6,559,057 as compared with \$7,781,778 and the grand total assets \$4,318,057 as compared with \$5,402,471.

### Civil Aviation in Canada

Great strides have been made in recent years in Canada in the field of aviation and future years undoubtedly hold still further remarkable developments.

During the first three months of 1940 the mileage flown by civil aircraft in Canada totalled 2,474,662, of which 2,120,906 were revenue miles and 353,756 non-revenue miles. The total number of passengers carried was 32,001, exclusive of crews. The freight transported aggregated 3,108,083 pounds, along with 739,082 pounds of mail.

No attempt has been made to estimate the mileage for such flying as forestry patrol, fishery patrol, photography, surveying, advertising, school instruction, exhibitions, etc. The hours flown in such services, however, have been made available. The revenue hours flown by civil aircraft during the first three months of 1940 totalled 17,369, non-revenue 1,549, forestry patrol 25, fishery patrol 23, photography-surveying 142, school instruction 1,235 and exhibitions 296, making a grand total of 20,643 hours.

The foregoing information is taken from the first report on Civil Aviation compiled on a quarterly basis by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

### Motion Pictures in 1939

War conditions prevailing during the last four months of 1939 apparently had but little effect upon theatre attendance. Patrons to moving picture houses paid a total of \$34,010,115 for general admission, exclusive of amusement taxes in 1939, the highest amount recorded since 1931 and up by 1.1 per cent over the \$33,635,052 reported for 1938. The number of admissions was 138,497,043, or 0.4 per cent above the number reported for the preceding year. The average price of admission was 24.5 cents in 1939 compared with 24.4 in 1938, and 24.2 in 1937. Per capita expenditure on motion picture shows averaged \$3.03 in 1939, \$3.02 for 1938 and \$2.93 for 1937.

Amateur stage performances presented along with motion picture entertainment declined in popularity in 1939 compared with 1938, while professional performances recorded an increase. There were 101 theatres which held amateur performances together with motion picture entertainment for a total of 1,107 days in 1939. In the preceding year 126 theatres gave amateur performances for a total of 1,552 days. Professional vaudeville acts were shown in 108 theatres for 4,514 days in 1939 compared with 99 theatres showing such acts for 3,171 days in 1938. Stock companies or road shows giving stage performances without motion picture entertainment played in 65 theatres for 472 days in 1939 compared with 55 theatres for 426 days in 1938.

### Births and Deaths in 1939

A slight decline was recorded in the number of births registered in Canada in 1939 when compared with 1938, but was considerably higher than in 1937 and also greater than the 1931-35 average. The total in 1939 was 229,063, compared with 229,446 in 1938, 220,235 in 1937 and 228,352, the 1931-35 average.





The decrease from 1938 lowered the rate per 1,000 population to 20.3 from 20.5, but compared favourably with 19.8 in 1937. The 1931-35 average rate was 21.4. New Brunswick had the highest birth rate at 25.0, followed by Quebec at 24.8, Prince Edward Island 22.3, Nova Scotia 21.3, Alberta 20.7, Saskatchewan 19.0, Manitoba 18.7, Ontario 17.1 and British Columbia 15.9.

The number of deaths reported during 1939 was 108,874 as against 106,817 in 1938 (exclusive of stillbirths). The rate per 1,000 population was 9.6 compared with 9.5 in 1938 and 10.2 in 1937. Prince Edward Island had the highest death rate, being 11.8 followed by Nova Scotia at 11.4, New Brunswick 11.3, Quebec 10.4, Ontario 10.0, British Columbia 9.7, Manitoba 8.5, Alberta 7.3 and Saskatchewan 6.3.

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#### Telegrams and Cables

The total number of telegrams handled in Canada by the telegraph departments of the Canadian National, Canadian Pacific, Northern Alberta and Tomskaming and Northern Ontario Railways, the North American Telegraph Company which operates north and West of Kingston, the Dominion Government Telegraph Department which operates lines in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Northern Quebec, and the Western provinces up to the Yukon Territory and a small mileage in Ontario, and the Canadian operations of the Canadian Marconi wireless system and of the several cable companies with stations in Canada was 12,462,912 in 1939. Cablegrams, exclusive of wireless messages to vessels at sea totalled 1,492,389.

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#### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Telegraph and Cable Statistics, 1939 (10 cents).
  2. Preliminary Annual Report, Vital Statistics, 1939 (25 cents).
  3. Canada's Leading Mineral Products, June (10 cents).
  4. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  5. Car Loadings (10 cents).
  6. Coal and Coke Statistics, July (10 cents).
  7. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
  8. Civil Aviation, January, February, March, 1940 (10 cents).
  9. Motion Picture Theatres, 1939 (25 cents).
  10. Commercial Failures, First Half-Year, 1940 (25 cents).
  11. Stocks of Canadian Fruit and Vegetables, September 1 (10 cents).
  12. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, September 1 (10 cents).
  13. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, September 1 (10 cents).
  14. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, September 1 (10 cents).
  15. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, June (10 cents).
  16. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
  17. Monthly Review of Dairy Production, August (10 cents).
  18. Sales of New Motor Vehicles, July (10 cents).
  19. First Estimate of Production of Principal Grain Crops and Hay and Clover. Condition of Late-Sown Crops, Canada (10 cents).
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