WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

Vol. VIII - No. 40 Ottawa, Saturday, October 5, 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 traffic movement receded momerately from the level of the third week of September. The index of carloadings, with seasonal adjustment, declined from 86.1 to 83.0 Recessions were shown in both the eastern and western divisions, the index for the latter dropping from 80.3 to 76.9. The movement of merchandise recorded an increase over the preceding week after the usual adjustment.

Minor recession was shown in the wholesale price level during the last week of September, the index dropping from 83.0 to 82.8. Advances were shown in textiles, non-ferrous metals and non-metallic minerals. Sensitive commodities also recorded recession during the week under review. Wholesale prices have mainatined a relatively steady trend since the first of the year. An advance was in progress during the last four months of last year and the standing last week was 6.3 percent higher than that of the same week of 1939.

Moderate advance was shown in common stock prices during the week ended September 26. The index for ninety five common stocks traded on Canadian Exchanges advanced from 82.7 to 83.4. A majority of the groups participated in the advance, the index of power and traction stocks advancing from 51.2 to 52.0. The adjusted index of bank clearings rose from 92.7 to 102.0, but the standing was somewhat below the same week of 1939. Trading on the Canadian Exchanges was at a relatively low position, marked declines being shown from the preceding week and from the same week of last year. The high-grade bond market showed minor recession in the week of September 26th. An index of capitalized bond yields was slightly more than 10 per cent higher than that of the same week of last year. The outbreak of hostilities led to a rapid decline in high-grade bond prices which culminated about the second week of September, considerable advance occurring in subsequent weeks.

A weekly index based on the above-mentioned factors was 105.3 in the week of September 28th against 104.5 in the preceding week. A slight gain was also shown over the same week of 1939 when the standing was 105.0.

A Weekly Index With Six Components
1926-100

Week Ended	Car loadings	Wholesale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields 1	Bank Clearings 2	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index 3
Sept. 30, 1939	93.2	77.9	127.2	104.6	100.1	210.9	105.0
Sept. 21, 1940	86.1	83.0	140.3	92.7	82.7	25.3	104.5
Sept. 28, 1940	83.0	82.8	140.1	102.0	83.4	21.3	105.3

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.

Business Expansion in August

Business operations recorded marked acceleration in August over the preceding month. The index of the physical volume of business advanced 8 points from 144.5 to 152.5. Electric power alone of the five main divisions entering into the index recorded recession in the month under review.

The index of mineral production advanced from 264 to 274, while the index of manufacturing showed an increase of 10 points to 151.7. The erection of plants for the manufacture of munitions accounted for a large increase in the new business obtained by the construction industry. The index of construction advanced 20 points to 90.7. The decline in the index of electric power was mainly due to the slackened demand for operation of electric boilers.

Marked gains were shown in the flow of commodities across our international boundaries the index of imports advancing from 112 to 121, and exports, excluding gold, from 138 to 152. The greater momentum of the metal and heavy industries was indicated by an increase in the index of producers' goods from 144 to 160, while the index of the output of consumers' goods, on the other hand, showed a minor recession from 126.4 to 126.1.

Bank Debits to Individual Accounts

The amount of cheques cashed by the chartered banks against individual accounts recorded a gain in August of nearly 3 per cent over August, 1939. The amount was $2,458, million against $2,390 million. Increases were recorded in three of the five economic areas, exceptions being Quebec and the Prairie Provinces. The total for the first eight months of 1940 was $22,082,million in comparison with $19,900 million a year ago.

Debits in August were as follows by economic areas, with figures for August, 1939 in brackets: Maritime Provinces $64,351,969($52,189,431); Quebec $724,172,589($795,118,626); Ontario $1,107,452,178($971,187,836); Prairie Provinces $383,820,777($406,649,240); British Columbia $177,908,705($164,595,823).

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices

General wholesale commodity prices moved lower during the week ended September 27, the index falling to 82.8 from 83.0 in the previous week. In the corresponding week last year it was 77.9. Indexes for the eight main groups included were as follows, with those for the previous week in brackets: vegetable products, 69.2(69.9); animals and their products 78.7(78.9); fibres, textiles and textile products, 83.8(83.6); wood, wood products and paper, 91.1(91.1); iron and its products, 106.0(106.0); non-ferrous metals and their products, 77.7(77.2); non-metallic minerals and their products, 90.8(90.6); chemicals and allied products, 90.4(90.4).

Production from Domestic Clays

The gross value of Canadian producers' sales of domestic clays and products totalled $5,151,236 in 1939 compared with $4,536,084 in 1938 and $13,904,643, the all-time high record established in 1939. Commercial production of domestic clay products in 1939 was reported from every province except Prince Edward Island; no output of these materials has as yet been recorded for the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Of the total value of sales in 1939, Ontario and Quebec firms contributed $2,346,638 and $1,274,776 respectively.

Sales of building brick in 1939 totalled 165,024 thousand valued at $2,676,634. Sewer pipe shipments aggregated $813,208; hollow blocks, roofing and floor tile $734,488; drain tile $353,973 and pottery, including earthenware, $280,420.

Fireclay was mined in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and British Columbia and sales of this material totalled 10,045 short tons valued at $30,824. Firebrick made from Canadian clays in 1939 numbered 2,331 thousand worth $119,346. Bentonite shipments during the year under review amounted to 988 short tons valued at $3,441.

Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales averaged 10 per cent higher in August this year than last and increased 8 per cent over July. The index number on the 1935 base as 100 stood at 121.1 compared with 112.4 in July and 110.3 in August, 1939. Sales during the eight months ended August averaged 8.7 per cent higher than in the corresponding period last year.

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada at the end of August totalled 590,427 compared with 591,911 at the end of the previous month, calf and kip skins 667,665 compared with 644,661, goat and kid skins 144,260 compared with 4,190 horse hides 12,056 compared with 15,842 and sheep and lamb skins 55,292 dozen compared with 45,170.

World Wheat Situation

While the present phase of the war continues, wheat becomes less a matter of thinking in the old pattern of "world" terms and more a matter of the particular problems of individual countries. It is true, of course, that the supplies of the four major exporting countries, Canada, Argentina, the United States and Australia are within reach of the United Kingdom and non-European markets, in addition to Portugal and Greece. The Nazi-controlled European countries have access to the Danube Basin and the U.S.S.R. In this instance, however, the 1940 harvest in the Danubian exporting countries is only two-thirds the size of the 1939 crop, and is barely 30 million bushels in excess of normal domestic consumption requirements for that area.

There is no authentic information on the size of the 1940 crop in the U.S.S.R., although exports during the growing season indicated damage, and it is not believed that Russia will make any substantial exports of wheat to Germany this season. Meanwhile, the Germans have been commandeering wheat stocks in France and the Low Countries, and have been pressing for the sowing as extensively as possible of winter wheat and winter rye in the areas they now control. It is obvious that while Nazi domination of continental Europe continues, world trade in wheat and flour will be substantially reduced from its former scale.

On this side of the struggle, wheat supplies are more than ample, with the available stocks in Canada overshadowing those in the major exporting countries combined. The United Kingdom is reported well stocked with wheat and current shipping has been temporarily diverted to the carrying of other commodities. While overseas clearances of Canadian wheat have diminished accordingly, the United Kingdom has been arranging during the past month for a heavy winter movement of wheat from Canada. This has consisted of securing cash wheat through exporters at Winnipeg from supplies arranged for in the first instance through the 100 million bushel purchase on August 2 last. A substantial portion of the actual takings by the United Kingdom is in the form of flour. Apart from sales to the United Kingdom, Canada has had inquiries from Greece and Portugal, with a few cargoes already arranged for the latter country.

The United States will have available supplies of 118 million bushels in excess of "normal" carry-over requirements of 250 million bushels. A portion of the 118 million bushel surplus will be exported, largely in the form of flour to central American and eastern markets, and some wheat is being taken by Vladivostok. It is likely that more than half the surplus will be added to carry-over.

Remaining export stocks in Argentina are reported to be only nominal, the official figure being 13.7 million bushels on September 14. Shipments since that date would reduce the remainder below 10 millions, although the surplus may be somewhat understated. Very tentative forecasts are being made on the size of the crop to be harvested next December and January ranging from 180 to 200 million bushels, and current weather conditions are helping to overcome a mediocre start. Should a crop in the neighbourhood of 200 million bushels be realized, Argentina would have an export surplus for the 1941 season of 100 million bushels. Of this surplus, Argentina has a market in Brazil for 38 millions, while the balance will be competing for United Kingdom and other accessible markets.

With an unusually large crop to market in the present season of restricted outlets, Australia is expected to end the year with an unsold carry-over close to 50,000,000 bushels. The heavy drought this year has materially reduced crop prospects in the four main producing states, and a total production of only 100 million bushels has been predicted. A production of 100 million bushels would make available 45 million bushels of new-crop wheat for export which added to the carry-over, would make a total available export supply of 95 million bushels for 1941.

The Canadian situation is characterized by the conjuncture of a record carry-over with a near-record new crop. Against the total available supplies, domestic utilization for all purposes is not likely to exceed 130 million bushels. Exports for the 1941 season present a hazardous problem of estimation, although inthis connection it may be pointed out that of the total Canadian clearances of wheat and flour of 192.7 million bushels during the 1939-40 season, 158.6 millions went to countries where Canada at the present time can ship wheat. With the possibility that the United Kingdom and other markets may take some additional amounts during the present crop year, total exports of wheat and flour could quite conceivably reach 180 million bushels in the 1940-41 season.

Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on September 27 was 390,292,610 bushels in comparison with 357,896,037 on the previous reporting date and 286,426,861 on the corresponding date last year. The wheat stocks in the elevators in Canada totalled 352,981,708 bushels and the amount in store in the United States was 37,310,902 bushels.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending September 27 the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 1,143,545 bushels compared with 2,696,100 for the corresponding week in 1939. The accumulated total from August 1 to September 27 was 13,460,906 bushels compared with 21,600,859 a year ago.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending September 27 amounted to 34,008,990 bushels compared with 28,850,531 in the previous week and 45,909,713 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, figures in brackets being those for 1939: Manitoba, 4,027,009 (2,887,312) bushels; Saskatchewan, 19,779,981 (26,351,552); Alberta, 10,202,000 (16,670,849).

Marketings in the three Prairie Provinces for the eight weeks ended September 27 aggregated 128,617,073 bushels in comparison with 228,567,731 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces: Manitoba, 22,534,635 (43,677,321) bushels; Saskatchewan, 78,173,347 (130,014,377); Alberta, 27,909,091 (54,876,033).

Flour Production in August

Flour production for August, the commencement of the new crop year, was slightly in advance of the previous month, amounting to 1,291,451 barrels compared with 1,222,975 for July. However, this did not equal the quantity milled for the opening month a year ago when 1,382,158 barrels were manufactured. The percentage of output to capacity for the month under report was 53.8 compared with 59.7 for the same month last year. Exports in August totalled 575,756 barrels compared with 379,276 in August, 1939.

Grains ground in August were as follows, with figures for August 1939 in brackets: wheat, 5,898,846 (6,383,258) bushels; oats, 1,235,109 (1,095,328); corn, 242,973 (213,394); barley, 297,513 (119,095); buckwheat, 1,120 (3,314); and mixed grain, 1,754,276 (1,361,999).

Fruit Production Estimates

With the exception of plums and prunes, the prospects for all tree fruits now being harvested have declined since the August report. The greatest reduction is in the apple crop. Serious losses as a result of a gale in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and below-normal development and damage from insects and disease in Quebec and Ontario have substantially lowered the crop prospects. The British Columbia crop also shows a slight drop in outlook.

The total Canadian apple crop is at present estimated to be 3,722,400 barrels, which is 698,600 less than the August conditions indicated and 2,069,500 barrels less than the crop of 5,791,900 barrels produced in 1939. A slight reduction in the prospects for the pear crop is reported in Ontario, lowering the Canadian total to 547,500 bushels as compared with 577,100 in 1939.

The plum and prune crop, on the other hand, is now estimated at 222,700 bushels which is slightly above the August estimate of 221,500 bushels but lower than the 268,100 bushels harvested last year. The reduced prospects for the peach crop are due to unfavourable conditions in Ontario. The September estimate of 716,200 bushels for Canada is 68,200 bushels below the August indications and 23.4 per cent below the 1939 crop.

The Dominion grape crop also showed a decline during the past month due to a reduction in the prospects in Ontario. Production this year is now expected to be 37,400,000 pounds compared with 55,595,900 pounds a year ago.

Tobacco Production Estimates

Canadian tobacco production in 1940 is estimated at 48,960,500 pounds compared with a revised estimate of 107,703,400 pounds in 1939. The 1940 crop was produced on 68,070 acres as compared with 92,300 acres last year. The sharp reduction in output of tobacco this year is a result of reduced acreage, an unfavourable season and extensive frost damage to the flue-cured crop in the New Belt of Ontario. The flue-cured crop is estimated at 28 million pounds from 48,270 acres as compared with a record yield of 79,734,400 pounds from 69,840 acres in 1939.

A further serious loss has occurred since these estimates were prepared. On the night of September 25 heavy frost destroyed the unharvested portion of the Ontario flue-cured crop which was principally in Windham Township and amounted to about 20 per cent of the total Ontario crop.

September Employment Situation

Record expansion in industrial employment was indicated at the beginning of September according to returns from 12,247 establishments whose staffs aggregated 1,289,385 men and women, an increase of 36,168 or 2.9 per cent over their working forces at August 1, 1940. The number of persons added to the reported staffs was considerably larger than in any other September in the twenty years during which the monthly surveys of employment have been made. Data for September last year was received from 11,856 firms with an aggregate working force of 1,165,631 persons.

An analysis of the returns by industries shows unusually marked expansion in manufacturing, the establishments furnishing data enlarged their staffs by over 20,800 persons. This increase of three p.c. greatly exceeded the average advance recorded at September 1 in the years since 1920, being substantially larger than that reported in any other September in this period, with the exception of that of 1938, when the gain involved a smaller number of workers, but the percentage increase was fractionally higher. The index of employment in manufacturing established a new maximum at September 1, when the figure was 138.4, four points higher than the previous all-time peak of August 1, 1940.

The greatest improvement in manufacturing at the date under review took place in the iron and steel industries, in which the reporting plants absorbed over 5,700 additional workers, and in textiles, which showed an increase of nearly 3,900. Leather, lumber, animal and vegetable foods, pulp and paper, rubber, chemical, electrical apparatus and non-ferrous metals also recorded important increases.

In the non-manufacturing industries, logging, coal-mining, communications, construction and maintenance, services and trade showed considerably heightened activity. The increase in construction was most extensive, and was especially interesting because the average change in employment at September 1 in the experience of past years has been a decline. On the other hand, railway transportation was rather quieter.

In the Maritime Provinces 859 firms had a total staff of 94,585 as compared with 92,520 at August 1, while last year 829 employers reported 85,972 persons at work in their establishments.

Greatly increased employment was noted in Quebec, the expansion largely exceeding the usual seasonal up-swing at the first of September in the years since 1920. Employment at the latest date was in greater volume than in any other month in the twenty years during which the current surveys have been made, the working forces of 3,077 establishments totalling 390,973 compared with 374,362 at August 1. On September 1 last year 2,943 firms employed 366,824 persons.

In Ontario 5,305 businessmen reported considerable additions to their staffs, which were enlarged from 530,414 at the first of August to 538,252 at September 1. The 5,184 employers co-operating at the same date in 1939 had reported a working force of 461,854 persons.

Despite the decline in Saskatchewan, the Prairie Provinces as a whole recorded expansion in employment in September. Data were received from 1,718 firms with 153,223 employees compared with 150,382 at August 1. Last year 1,674 establishments had reported 148,534 employees.

Employment in British Columbia showed continued expansion at September 1. The working force of the 1,288 employers in British Columbia furnishing data rose from 105,539 in the preceding month to 112,352 at the latest date. At the same date last year 1,226 firms had made returns showing an aggregate staff of 102,447.

Canada's External Trade in August

The balance of trade was favourable to Canada in August to the extent of $14,523,715 in comparison with a favourable balance in July of $11,966,940 and $13,767,663 in August last year. The total value of Canada's external trade in August, excluding gold, was $208,195,431 as compared with $190,959,406 in July and $139,183,821 in August, 1939.

Domestic exports reached a total of $110,548,017 as against $100,782,062 in July and $75,559,608 in August last year. August imports totalled $96,835,858 compared with $89,496,233 in July and $62,708,079 in August, 1939. Foreign exports were valued at $811,556 compared with $681,111 in July and $916,134 a year ago.

Canada's Imports in August

Canada's imports in August were valued at $96,836,000 compared with $89,496,000 in July and $62,708,000 in August, 1939. The total for the first eight months of 1940 was $682,433,000 in comparison with $441,767,000 in the like period of 1939.

August purchases from the United States totalled $67,572,000 as against $39,384,000 a year ago; the total from the United Kingdom was $15,494,000 compared with $10,865,000. The Straits Settlements contributed to the value of $2,325,000 against $884,000, Australia $1,473,000 compared with $722,000, Brazil $1,225,000 compared with $124,000, British West Indies $948,000 compared with $1,686,000, Colombia $918,000 compared with $436,000 and British Guiana $918,000 compared with $586,000.

Among the commodities, only one of the nine main groups recorded a decline from August 1939, the recession in this case being limited. The most pronounced gain was in iron and products group, which rose to $30,788,000 from $15,854,000 a year ago.

Leading imports were as follows, with figures for August 1939 in brackets: fruits, $2,971,000 ($2,445,000); vegetable oils, $970,000 ($533,000); sugar, $1,913,000 ($2,104,000); rubber, $3,517,000 ($1,088,000); cotton, $3,618,000 ($2,256,000); flax, hemp and jute, $1,046,000 ($936,000); wool, $3,938,000 ($2,040,000); books and printed matter, $1,406,000 ($1,277,000); ore, $771,000 ($478,000); rolling mill products, $6,245,000 ($3,358,000); engines and boilers, $974,000 ($868,000); farm implements, $3,512,000 ($2,622,000); machinery, other than agricultural, $6,950,000 ($3,717,000); automobiles and parts, $5,613,000 ($2,015,000).

Other chief items were: aluminum, $988,000 ($636,000); precious metals, $813,000 ($383,000); electric apparatus, $1,876,000 ($1,079,000); clay and products, $1,073,000 ($672,000); coal, $4,654,000 ($2,683,000); petroleum products, $7,058,000 ($6,091,000); inorganic chemicals, $1,234,000 ($708,000); personal equipment, $705,000 ($479,000).

An Official Cost of Living Index

According to the new index number of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the level of living costs in August 1939 was almost exactly upon a par with an average for the five years 1935 to 1939 which have been chosen as the new base period for this series. The August 1939 index of 100.8, however, was slightly below indexes of 103.1 and 102.1 for August in 1938 and 1937, respectively.

After remaining at 100.8 on September 1, the index advanced sharply to 103.5 in October and continued gradually upward to 105.9 for August, 1940. The rise of 5.1 p.c. in living costs since the outbreak of war has been due to general increases affecting all the principal family budget groups. The fuel index has mounted 9.5 p.c., clothing 9.0 p.c., foods 6.1 p.c., home furnishings 5.9 p.c,, rents 3.0 p.c., and sundries 1.7 p.c.

Movements of the new and old Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living indexes have been closely parallel since the beginning of 1935. From January 1935 to August 1940 the new series advanced 10.8 p.c., as compared with 10.3 p.c. for the old series. Between August 1939 and August 1940 corresponding percentage increases were 5.1 (new) and 4.5 (old).

The new cost of living series published for the first time in this release has been prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in consulation with the Dominion Department of Labour and the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. It will replace the Department of Labour index on the base 1913=100 and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics index on the base 1926=100.

Output of Central Electric Stations

The output of central electric stations in August totalled 2,500,179,000 kilowatt hours compared with 2,615,232,000 in July and 2,293,032,000 in August, 1939. Production during the eight months ended August aggregated 20,083,914,000 kilowatt hours compared with 18,243,128,000 in the corresponding period last year.

Firm power consumed in Canada in August, or total output less exports and secondary power delivered to electric boilers, totalled 1,940,996,000 kilowatt hours, which was the second highest on record, being exceeded only by the May record. The total for the first eight months of 1940 was 14,886,568,000 kilowatt hours compared with 12,746,908,000 a year ago.

August exports to the United States amounted to 192,232,000 kilowatt hours against 203,058,000 in July and 177,834,000 last year. The eight-month total was 1,394,307,000 kilowatt hours compared with 1,295,741,000 a year ago.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

Crude petroleum and natural gasoline production in July totalled 877,133 barrels as compared with 657,098 in June and 899,169 in July, 1939. During the seven months of 1940 production aggregated 4,558,162 barrels in comparison with 4,270,407 in the corresponding period last year.

The Canadian output of natural gas in July amounted to 1,637,171,000 cubic feet as compared with 1,667,608,000 in June and 1,743,656,000 in July, 1939. Total output during the seven months ended July was 21,737,194,000 cubic feet in comparison with 20,964,344,000 in the same period of 1939.

Marriages, Births and Deaths

The increase in marriages noted during the past several months was continued in August the number registered in 67 cities and towns with a population of 10,000 and over totalling 7,129 as compared with 3,923 in August last year, a gain of no less than 82 per cent. The number of births increased 22½ per cent to 8,837 from 7,217, and the deaths by 8½ per cent to 4,107 from 3,786 in August last year.

Marriages registered during the eight months ended August totalled 43,089, births 64,012 and deaths 35,761 as compared with 26,022 marraiges, 58,116 births and 35,689 deaths in the corresponding eight months of 1939. This comparison shows increases of 65½ per cent in marriages, 10 per cent in births and practically no change in deaths.

Gross Revenues of Railways

Gross revenues of Canadian railways during July increased to $38,397,543 from $27,794,454 in July, 1939, and were the highest for the month since 1929. The operating income increased from $528,831 in 1939 to $6,042,015. For the seven months ended July, gross revenues totalled $230,498,356 in 1940 and $180,975,300 in 1939, and the operating income increased from $3,668,274 in 1939 to $32,614,995.

Gross revenues of the Canadian lines of the Canadian National Railways increased to $19,864,737 in July from $13,239,981 last year, while the operating income was increased to a credit of $3,417,850 from a debit of $378,848. Gross revenues of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company advanced in July to $15,382,989 from $11,768,741 in July, 1939. The operating income increased to $2,404,831 from $626,161 last year.

Artificial Abrasives Industry

The factory selling value of all products made during 1939 by the manufacturers in Canada of artificial abrasives and abrasive products amounted to $9,275,143. This value represented a decline of 3 per cent from the total of $9,579,705 in 1938 and 34 per cent from the 1937 output of $14,174,351.

Bicycle Manufacturing Industry

Production by the bicycle industry in Canada during 1939 was valued at $2,054,659, an increase of 16.2 per cent over the $1,767,538 reported for 1938. Included in the output for the year under review were 70,567 bicycles with a factory selling value of $1,398,213 bicycle parts and accessories worth $287,424 and miscellaneous products such as ice skates, steel chairs, children's wagons, joycycles, etc.

Sales of New Motor Vehicles

Sales of new motor vehicles in August, excluding deliveries to the Government for was purposes, numbered 5,032 units with a retail value of $5,867,283 compared with 6,849 at $7,795,349 in July and 6,166 at $6,755,672 in August, 1939.

Total sales for the first eight months of 1940 held well above the 1939 level, the 98,681 new vehicles which retailed for $110,034,290 in 1940 being 20 per cent in number and 23 per cent in value above the 82,032 units sold for $89,253,154 in the same period last year.

Retail Merchandise Trade in Ontario

Retail merchandise trade in Ontario averaged slightly higher in 1939 than in 1938, being estimated at $1,002,071,000 in comparison with $988,696,000, a gain of 1.4 per cent. Indexes of sales on the base 1930 as 100 stand at 91.1 for 1939 and 89.9 for 1938. Most of the individual lines of business for which figures are computed registered minor gains over 1938.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
2. Milling in Canada, August (10 cents).
3. Imports by Principal Countries, August (10 cents).
4. Summary of Imports, August (10 cents).
5. Retail Merchandise Trade in Ontario, 1939 (10 cents).
6. Sales of New Motor Vehicles, August (10 cents).
7. Car Loadings (10 cents).
8. The Miscellaneous Non-Metallic Minerals, 1939 (25 cents).
9. An Official Cost of Living Index for Canada (10 cents).
10. Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report (10 cents).
11. Output of Central Electric Stations, August (10 cents).
12. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
13. Indexes of Country General Store Sales, August (10 cents).
14. The Clay & Clay Products Industry, 1939 (25 cents).
15. Tobacco Crop Report (10 cents).
16. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, August (10 cents).
17. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, August (10 cents).
18. Lasts, Trees and Wooden Shoefindings, 1939 (10 cents).
19. The Bicycle Manufacturing Industry, 1939 (10 cents).
20. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, August (10 cents).
21. Births, Deaths and Marriages, First Quarter, 1940 (10 cents).
22. Railway Statistics, July (10 cents).
23. September Employment Situation (10 cents).
24. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Cold Storage, October 1 (10 cents).
25. The World Wheat Situation (10 cents).
26. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
27. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, July; and Gasoline Sales, June (10 cents).
28. Trade of Canada, August (10 cents).
