WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

Vol. VIII - No. 46 Ottawa, Saturday, November 16, 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 capitalized bond yields,
Speculation - common stock prices and shares traded.
Notes on the indexes follow:-

The railway freight movement recorded minor improvement during the week of November 9, the index of carloadings advancing from 81.5 to 82.8. The standing in the same week of last year was 77.9, an increase of 6.3 p.c. having been indicated.

Further advances were shown in the prices of crop and animal products in the first week of November, the general index of commodity prices advancing from 83.6 to 83.7. The sub-indexes for six of the main sub-groups remained unchanged. The index of sensitive food prices receded from 68.1 to 67.8, while manufacturing materials were unchanged. The upward drift of wholesale prices has been in evidence since the first of June, but the fluctuations in the general level has been of minor proportions since the beginning of the year. A considerable advance was recorded from the beginning of September to the end of 1939. The standing in the week of November 8 was still 5.8 p.c. above the same week of last year.

High-grade bond prices were steady in the first week of November, the advance in an index of capitalized yields over the same week of 1939 having been 3.7 p.c. Common stock prices during the week of November 7 showed an increase, the general index rising from 80.1 to 81.7. The standing in the same week of last year was 105.9, a decline of nearly 23 p.c. having been indicated. Trading was more active during the first week of November but decline was shown from the same week one year ago. Bank clearings showed recession in the latest week, the total in thirty-two clearing centres having been about $311.5 million. After usual adjustments, the index declined 2 p.c. to 78.2.

The weekly index based on the above-mentioned factors was 102.1 in the week of November 9, against 101.7 in the preceding week, a gain of 0.4 p.c. The standing in the same week of 1939 was 101.5, a gain of 0.5 p.c. having been indicated.

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
Nov. 9, 1940	82.8	83.7	141.2	78.2	81.7	66.8	102.1
Nov. 2, 1940	81.5	83.6	141.2	79.8	80.1	33.4	101.7
Nov. 11, 1939	77.9	79.1	136.2	84.3	105.9	113.8	101.5

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 facotrs 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 inter-war period was eliminated from the composite and the resulting index expressed as a percentage of the average during the year 1926.

Canada's Exports in October

Canada's export trade is still on the upswing. The October exports were valued at $102,998,115 as against $90,432,856 in October, 1939. Newsprint was the chief commodity followed by wheat. Gold is not included.

The principal items were as follows, with the 1939 figures in brackets: newsprint, $13,128,199 ($12,029,581); wheat, $8,058,757 ($12,304,220); planks and boards, $7,148,513 ($6,035,417); automobiles and parts, $7,065,376 ($578,599); wood pulp, $5,379,245 ($3,260,926); meats, $4,986,786 ($3,447,205); fish, $2,915,348 ($3,494,742); wheat flour, $2,588,191 ($1,408,874); cheese, $2,172,172 ($2,544,046); furs, $157,302 ($421,806).

Canada's Exports in 1940

Canada's exports in the first ten months of 1940 are close to the billion dollar mark, the value being $963,907,029 as compared with $726,741,406, in the first ten months of 1939. Gold is not included.

The leading commodities were as follows, with the 1939 figures in brackets: newsprint, $125,617,929 ($93,209,641); wheat, $96,664,860 ($68,167,349); planks and boards, $55,321,470 ($41,054,247); meats, $51,275,853 ($27,518,463); wood pulp, $49,876,520 ($23,632,674); automobiles and parts, $41,204,560 ($21,232,502); fish, $26,060,520 ($23,233,942); wheat flour, $22,791,089 ($11,490,988); cheese, $13,847,613 ($8,969,948); furs, $12,195,890 ($12,093,674).

October Export of Wheat

The October export of wheat was 9,068,887 bushels valued at $8,058,757, the average export price being slightly over 83 cents per bushel. The October 1939 export was 16,848,847 bushels at $12,304,220, the average price being 73 cents.

During the ten months of 1940 the wheat export was 110,129,700 bushels at $96,664,860 compared with 107,856,939 bushels at $68,167,349 in the same period of 1939. The average price in 1940 was slightly under 88 cents compared with 63 cents in 1939.

October Export of Wheat Flour

The October export of wheat flour was 750,193 barrels at $2,588,191 compared with 444,144 at $1,408,874 in October, 1939. The average price per barrel was $3.45 compared with $3.17 a year ago. During the ten months ending October the export was 5,942,573 barrels at $22,791,089 compared with 3,866,648 at $11,490,988 in the same period of 1939. The average export price was $3.83 as against $2.97 in the two ten-month periods.

Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in store on November 8 amounted to 449,528,742 bushels compared with 448,228,612 a week ago and 350,471,061 on the corresponding date last year. The amount of Canadian wheat in store in the United States was 40,161,584 bushels compared with 38,874,291 the week before and 17,445,000 a year ago.

The wheat stocks in elevators in Canada on November 8 totalled 409,367,158 bushels compared with 409,354,321 at the end of the previous week and 333,026,061 a year ago. The amount of wheat in transit on the lakes on the latest date was 4,719,663 bushels compared with 4,889,533 in 1939, while the rail transit wheat amounted to 15,220,349 bushels compared with 27,073,187.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending November 8 the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 1,839,207 bushels compared with 3,188,408 in the corresponding week last year. The accumulated total for the fourteen weeks ended November 8 was 23,389,764 bushels compared with 32,579,766 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending November 8 amounted to 6,687,991 bushels compared with 11,552,938 in the previous week and 9,361,301 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, figures within brackets being those for 1939: Manitoba, 591,100 (486,845) bushels; Saskatchewan, 3,145,859 (5,345,085); Alberta, 2,951,032 (3,529,371).

Marketings for the fourteen weeks ending November 8 totalled 216,194,685 bushels compared with 324,759,262 in the same period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces: Manitoba, 30,462,330 (47,827,224) bushels; Saskatchewan, 120,969,707 (186,578,682); Alberta, 64,762,648 (90,353,356).

Holdings of Food Commodities

Stocks of creamery butter held in Canada on November 1 were 51.7 million pounds as compared with 56.4 million a year ago. In addition there were over half a million pounds of butter in transit by rail. Cheese holdings were 32.6 million pounds as compared with 41.2 million on November 1, 1939. Eggs in cold storage totalled 3.6 million dozen, while frozen egg meats amounted to 6 million pounds. There were also 2.9 million pounds of poultry, a decrease of 1.7 million from last year.

The total holdings of all Canadian and imported meat were 67.2 million pounds, being a reduction from last year of 10.2 million. Pork holdings were 1.5 million pounds more than November 1, 1939, but beef stocks were 8.7 million less than a year ago, while veal storage was practically the same, with mutton and lamb reduced to 3.6 million pounds from 5.5 millions.

The cold storage holdings of all fish totalled 38.4 million pounds. There were 36.2 million pounds of frozen fresh fish and 2.2 million pounds frozen smoked.

Apples in public storage and in the hands of commercial growers amounted to 7.5 million bushels, being a reduction of stocks from a year ago of 3.6 million. Fruit in sulphur dioxide and frozen fruit combined totalled 16.2 million pounds as compared with 13.9 million last year. Canadian potatoes this year were 312 thousand tons, while last year there were 255 thousand tons reported.

Wheat Crop Estimate

The second estimate of Canada's 1940 wheat crop is placed at 547,179,000 bushels, which is 13,925,000 bushels below the first estimate of production issued in September. The lower estimate for Canada is primarily due to the smaller crop indicated for Alberta on the basis of actual threshing returns. Alberta's 1940 wheat crop is now estimated at 190,000,000 bushels, a reduction of 13,000,000 bushels from the September estimate.

Butter Production in October

Creamery butter production in October decreased approximately four per cent as compared with the October make of 1939 and decreased 14.0 per cent as compared with the output for the preceding month. During October 22.7 million pounds of butter were produced and during the ten months ending October the output reached a total of 237.0 million pounds. The decrease in the October make occurred only in New Brunswick, Quebec and Alberta.

Cheese Production in October

Cheese production increased approximately 23 per cent in October as compared with October 1939, and decreased 23.2 per cent as compared with the output for the preceding month. The October make was appriximately 15.9 million pounds and the total for the ten months, January to October, amounted to 132.4 million pounds. The increase in the October make occurred in all provinces.

Production of Concentrated Milk

The October production of concentrated milk, including whole milk products and by-products, totalled 14,873,413 pounds as compared with 17,011,074 in the previous month and 15,629,240 in October, 1939. Output in the latest month included 11,725,605 of whole milk products and 3,147,808 of by-products. Total production during the ten months ended October was 171,223,412 pounds compared with 143,213,068 in the corresponding period of 1939.

Department Store Sales in October

According to preliminary figures, sales of Canadian department stores gained seven per cent in October this year over the same month last year and advanced 24 per cent above September, 1940. Unadjusted indexes on the base 1930 as 100 stood at 107.6 compared with 100.8 for October, 1939, and 86.9 for September. Cumulative totals for the first ten months of 1940 were 11 per cent higher than for the corresponding period of 1939.

Automobile Production in October

Production of motor vehicles in Canada numbered 21,151 units in October, the highest since May this year when the total was 21,277. Production in the previous month totalled 15,475 units and in October last year, 11,297 units. The total for the latest month included 7,056 passenger cars and 14,095 trucks.

For the first ten months of this year 87,659 passenger cars and 88,340 commercial vehicles were produced, making a total of 175,999 units. This total compared with 121,694 units made during the corresponding periods of 1939 and 1938, respectively.

Production of Leather Footwear in September

The September production of leather footwear totalled 2,484,668 pairs compared with 2,382,680 in the previous month and 2,368,374 in September, 1939. Output during the nine months ended September aggregated 19,454,317 pairs in comparison with 17,905,207 in the corresponding period of 1939.

Production of Coal and Coke in August

The production of coal in Canada during August was recorded at 1,357,948 tons compared with 1,285,424 in August, 1939, and compares with the five year average for the month of 1,116,830 tons. Output during the eight months ended August aggregated 10,813,316 tons as compared with 9,281,921 in the corresponding period of 1939.

Production of coke from coal amounted to 256,977 tons in August compared with 258,411 in the previous month and 190,723 in August, 1939. Stocks of coke on August 31, 1940, as reported by producers totalled 350,998 tons. Output during the eight months ended August totalled 1,974,697 tons compared with 1,522,605 in the same period of 1939.

August imports of coal aggregated 2,298,531 tons compared with 1,628,296 a year ago. Receipts of anthracite totalled 439,989 tons and of bituminous 1,858,542 tons. Canada exported 36,420 tons in August compared with 25,042 in August, 1939.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices

General wholesale commodities were firm during the week ending November 8 and the index on the 1926 base equals 100 rose from 83.6 in the previous week to 83.7. This was the sixth week of uninterrupted advance, in which time the index increased by 0.8. Activity continued to centre mostly in Vegetable Products and Animal Products, while the remaining six major groups were unchanged. Among the more important commodities to make advances were grains, potatoes, hides, butter and eggs, but declines occurred in milled feeds, livestock, fresh meats, raw silk and cloth.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
2. Monthly Dairy Review, October (10 cents).
3. Stocks of Canadian Fruit and Vegetables, November 1 (10 cents).
4. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, November 1 (10 cents).
5. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, November 1 (10 cents).
6. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, November 1 (10 cents).
7. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
8. Automobile Production, October (10 cents).
9. Production of Concentrated Milk, October (10 cents).
10. Department Store Sales, October (10 cents).
11. Production of Leather Footwear, September (10 cents).
12. Car Loadings (10 cents).
13. The Button Industry, 1939 (15 cents).
14. Use of Electric Power in Manufacturing and Mining Industries, 1938 (25 cents).
15. Coal and Coke Statistics, August (10 cents).
16. Second Estimate of Production of Grain Crops, Canada (10 cents).