Department of Trade and Commerce


## Weokly Indexes

Where are six indexes available on a weekly basis in Canada that refleot the eeneral oconomic trend. These cover respectitrly:Business - carloadings and wholesale prices, Finance - banle clearines and bond yields, and Speculation - common stocle prices and shares traded. Notes on the indexes follow: -

The railway traffic movement recorded minor decline in the weel of November 16 , recessions having been shom in both the eastern and western divisions. The general intex of carloadings reoeded one point to 81. 8. Total loadings during the first 46 weoks of the yoar wore 2,471,500 cars arainst $2,253,000$ in tho same period of 1939, representing on increase of 218,000 cars.

Wholesale-prices strengthened further in the week of November 15, the general index rising from 83.7 to 84.0. The genoral trend has beon moderately upvard since June and the index recentl" stond at a higher position then at any other time since the oarly months of 1938. Advances wore shom in orop-products and textiles over the preceding weok, whilo a recession was show in chemicals. Sensitive commodity prices advanced, increases having beon show both in manufacturing materials and foodstuffs.

Bond pricos wore modorately strong during the socond week of November and the level was higher than at any other time since Soptember last your. The 3's of 1950-55 were bid at $977-8$ on lovember 21, against $97 \frac{3}{6}$ one week: before. Common stock prices recordud an edvance in the second wock of Noverber, the index rising from 81.7 to 82. . The decline from the same woule of 1939 was 19.4 per cont. The amount of cheques cleared through bank branches in thirty-tio centros was wach graater in tho scoond week of Noveribor, an adjusted indox shoving a rise from 98. 2 to 85.3. Spoculatire trading was at an oven lower position then in the prooedirs weok.

The economic inder, basod upon the above-mentioned iactors, rose from 102. 1 in the preceding weck to 103.3 in tho wonk under reviev, a gain of 1.2 per cent. "The standing one year ago \%s 101.7, an inoroase of 1.5 pur cont laving hoon indicated.

A iieekly Index With Six Componeats on Basis 1926=100

| Week Inding | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Car } \\ & \text { lond } \\ & \text { ings } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Whole- } \\ & \text { sale } \\ & \text { Prices } \end{aligned}$ | Cayital <br> Bond <br> Yiclds |  | Bank Clearinģ 2 | Pricos of <br> Common <br> Stooks | Shares <br> Traded | feol:1y <br> Index |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nov-16, 1940 | 81.8 | 84.0 | 141.6 |  | 8.5 .3 | 22.9 | 62.4 | 103.3 |
| Nov: 9, 1940 | 82.8 | 83. 7 | 141.2 |  | 78.2 | 81.7 | 66.8 | 102.1 |
| Tov. 18, 1939 | 84.0 | 79.6 | 134.2 |  | 83.0 | 102.9 | 87.5 | 101.7 |

1. Fresent value of a fixed not incomo in perpotuity from Dominion long-term bonds. 2. Bank clearings vere smoothod by taking a three weoks moving average for the purpose of eliminating irregular fluctuations, Totals for Ottawa were eliminated for all wesks shown owing to incompar-bility introduced by the operations of the Bank of Cannda. 3. Tho weighting of the six major factors is determined from the standard deviation from the long-term trend of each, based on data for tho period from Jnuary 1919 to August, 1936. The weighting, therefore, ropresonts not an attempt to give the relative importance of the factors but to place them on an equal footing by equating the tondency toward fluctuntion. The long-term trend determined from tho half-yearly data in the inter-war period was eliminated from the composite and the rusulting index exprossed as a percontage of the average during the year 1926.

Business operations in October showed recession from the high level of the preceding month．The advance in productive activities had resulted in a higher level during September than at any other time in our history．The advance had been practically continuous from the early months of 1039 ，with the net result that the present levels of operation are greatly in advance of that of 1929。
lost of the factors indicating conditions in the mining industry showed recession in October．The movement of base motals was at a somewhat lover position and the export of silver receded to $1,263,000$ fine ounces from $1,383,000$ ，

The flour milling industry has recontly been operating at a high level．The output of sugar was 92.8 million pounds against 71.3 million．The rocession in the output of creamery butter was less than normal，the index recoding to 139 from 148．The output of factory cheese amounted to 15.9 milion pounds against 20.7 million，the decline in the index having been from 73.5 to $7 \AA 0$ 。

The forostry industry was less active in October than in the preceding month．News－ print production，however，increased from 282,322 tons to 309,957 tons，the increase in－ the index being from 184.6 to $185_{0} G_{\text {，The exports of planks and boards dooreased to } 241.5}^{5}$ million ieot from 276.9 millione The decline was contraseasonal and a considerable drop was shom in the indexu

Tho automobile industry was activés tho output，including vehicles for war purposes， amountod to 21， 151 units against 15，475．The new bisiness obtainod by the－construction industry showod ocnsiderablo raduction，contraots aviardod amounting to 326.4 million against 52,3 milliono Carlondings showod minor advanoys in October，the number of cars －and having boon 280,641 agninet 252,425 in sovtomoer．The index，after seasonal ad－ justment，advencod from 81．$\theta$ to 83．1．Domestic exports woro nearly 103 million dollars in October，against 90.4 million dollars in the same month of last year，a gain of 13.8 per cont．The statistins aro oxclusive of gold

Eusiness condtions in October compared with the procuding inonith and votober 1939

|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 1040 \\ & \text { cetobor. } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1939 \\ \text { Octobor. } \end{gathered}$ | 1940 September． |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Physical Volume of Business | 1926－100 | ＊－ | 133．1 | 155.4 |
| Eank deposits | 1926－100 | 139．2 | 129.0 | 133.8 |
| Silvor oxports | fine ounces | 1，162，510 | 2，404，649 | 1，383，264 |
| Sugar manufactured | 1 b 。 | 92，174，302 | 101，604，562 | 71，339，246 |
| Choese，factory production | 1 b ． | 158893，293 | 12，878，608 | 20，697，783 |
| Butter，croamery production | $1 \mathrm{~b}_{0}$ | 22，714，291 | 23，755，535 | 26，423，721 |
| Cotton consumption | Ib： | 16，662，648 | 13，036，098 | 14，286，921 |
| Automobile production | no． | 21， 151 | 11，297 | 15，475 |
| Newserint Frocuration | tons | 309，957 | 280，985 | 282，322 |
| Planks and boards oxported | M ft． | 241，494 | 244，085 | 276，912 |
| Shingles exportod | squares | 291，217 | 340，898 | 298，165 |
| Carlondings | no． | 280，64I | 270，281 | 252，425 |
| Cranod Salmon exports | cwt， | 48，695 | 107，189 | 93，299 |
| Contracts awerdad | ， | 26，351，000 | 14，228，000 | 52，260，000 |

＊According to proliminary caiculations the physical volume of business showed recession from the prociding month but a gain over Detobur 1939.

Cost of Living in Outobor
Tho Octobor cost of living index was 107.0 as comearcd with 106． 4 in September，being calculated on the basis $1935-1939$－100．Foods，ronis，clothing and home furnishings con－ tributed to this increase，whilo the fuel index－donined－slightly，and the miscellaneous section was unchangod．Foods advanced from 105,4 to $10 \hat{b}_{0} I_{\text {s }}$ ．rent from 106.9 to 107．7， clothing fiom 112．＇s to I13． 5 ，and homo furaishings from 108.9 to 109．7．The fuol index aropped from 108， 5 to 108,0 due to sevoral domward rovisions in domestic gas ratess the miscellareous group fomainod at 102．8．In Octonor lasis yoar the cost of living index we．s 103． 5 。

The Canadian farm cost of living indox calculctod by the Dominion Burou of Statistics adrancod from 87.2 to 89.2 botwoon tho Spring and Foll soasons of 1940 . It continued a rise from tho 1939 Fall lovel of 81.9, but the rate of incroase was less marked then between the Fall of 1939 and the Spring of 1940. Although the 1940 futumn incroaso was slightly groater for the western than for the cnstern index, the latter at 89.8 ramainod 1. 4 points above the westorn series. Both rogional indexes were higher than the corrosponding urban cost of living index at 87.2 which had advanced gradually from 83.0 in the Fall of 1939.

Clothing and household equipment wore mainly responsible for the Autumn rise in the farm living cost index. Tho oastorn alothing serios mounted from 84.6 to 89.0 and the western index from 80.9 to 87.2 . Household equipment prico indexes rose from 100.3 to 105.2 in the east and from 100.8 to 106.3 in the west. Tho Dominion index for clothing prices has advanced 19.8 per cent to 88.3 and that for housohold equipment 13.2 per cent to 105,6 between the Fill periods of 1939 and 1940.

Food price indexes in the farm cost of living serios showed fractional gains botwon the Spring and-Fall of-1940. The enstern index mounted from 79.4 to 79.5 and the western series from 80.6 to 81.2 . Both wero 12.6 per cont above 1939 Fall levels.

Production of lloodenware
The valuo of products made by firms ongagod wholly or chiefly in the manufacture of articles made entirely or almost entiroly of wood and usod in kitchons, laurdries, bakeries and dairies was $1,364,908$ in 1939 in comparison with \%1,257,832. Included in the output were such itoms as pails and tubs, clothos pins, vashboards and ladders of all kinds.

Production of Excolsior
Firms making wood excelsior and excelsior products such as pads, mats and wrappers as their main products had a production value of $\$ 273,987$ in 1939 as compared with \$248,018 in 1938. There wore 14 such establishments in Canada in 1939 as compared with 13 in 1938.

Production of Coal and Coke
Conedian mines producod 1,342,751 tons of cool during Septombor compared with $1,385,438$ a year ago, and tho five yorr average for the month of $1,298,068$ tons. Output during the nine months onding Soptember aggregatod $12,156,067$ tons compared with $10,667,359$ in the corresponding period of 1939.

Coke production in September amounted to 252,000 tons compared with 257,000 in August and 188,000 in Soptember, 1939. The total for tho first nino months of this yoar was 2,227,000 tons compared with $1,711,000$ in the corrosponding period of 1939 .

Canada imported 2,074,840 tons of coal during Soptemoor compared with 1,744,468 in September, 1939, whilo the averago for tho month during the past five years was 1,544,761 tons. Exports of Canadian coal amounted-to 42,290 tons compared with 42,883 a year ago and the five year everage of 34,439 tons.

Camal Traffic in October
Traffic using tie Canadian and Unitod States Locks of the Sault Ste. Marie Canals in October increased to $12,970,912$ tons from 12,352,986 in October, 1939. Fron ore was the principal increase, the total boing $10,867,066$ tons as against $9,432,877$. Theat, other grains and bituminous coal were lower than last year.

Total traffic using the Welland Ship Canai in Ootobor droppod to 1,491,183 tons from 1,748,144 in October, 1939. Traffic on the St. Lavrence Canals amounted to 1,069,998 tons in comparison with $1,215,467$. Wheat, barley, wood pulp, gasoline and bituminous coal were among the decreases.


## Stocks of Cannod Fryits and Vogotablos

Stocks of cennē fyuts held by cinnors, wholesalo doalcrs and chain store warchouses amountod to $1,379,351$ casos on Octiobos 1 as comparca with l,029,854 at tho boginning of July and $1,173-257$ on Octobor 1, 1939. Camod vegotablos wore hold by theso agencies to the extont of 5,531, 305 cases on the latest date compared with 1,915,700 on July 1 and $5,693,802$ on Octobor 1: 1939。

Primary lioremont of heat
Receipts of thont in tho Prairio Provinces for the wook onding Noverber ${ }^{-1} 15$ amounted to $7,508,245$ bushels comparod with 6,795,821 in the provious wook and 7,291,513 in the corrosponding week inst yoar. By provinces the totals wero as follows, figures within brackots being those fow 1939: Manitobe" 794, 559(236,448) bushols; Saskatchewan 3,867,000 $(3,811,030)$; Alberta $2,846,695(3,244,035)$.

Markotings in the three provincos for the fiftoon wooks ending November 15 aggregatod 223,810,660 bushels as comoared with $332,050,775$ in the corrosponding period of the provious crop yonr. Tho to 31,256,975(48,062,672) bushels; Saskatchowan 124, $862,304(190,389,712)$; Alberta 67,691,381 ( $93,597,391$ ).

World Shipnents of hant
World shipnents of weat auring tho wak encing November 9 amounted to 6,669,000 busheis compared with $4,135,000$ in the previous week and $12,105,000$ in the corresponding weok last yoar. Cumulcive shipments during the period fugust 1 to November 9 amountod to 67, 278,000 bushols as comparod with $138,336,000$ in the corrosponding period of the previous crop yoar.

## Stocks of Foreign Corn

Stocks of forcign corn in Canada on Novomber 15 totalled $4,278,024$ bushels compared with $6,93 s_{y} 575$ on the corresponding dato last yoar. Countrios of origin wore as follows, with figures for 1939 in brcokets: Unitad Statos, 1, $726,279(4,743,0.70)$ bushols; Argentine 1,599,596(735): South Afxion, 962, 24 (2, 339, 768).

Seodod Aroas in Argentino
Tho socond official computation of the area plantod with principal field crops in hrgentine for the season 1940-41, is placod at 32,679,000 acros, according to information received by the Dominion Burcau of Statistics. This figure shows littlo variation from the first estimato of $32,202,100$ aeros.

The third and final official estimato of tho volumo of Areantina's 1939-s0 maize crop is calculated at $408,145,000$ bushols. This represents a reduction of $10,433,000$ bushels from the second computation. The area planted with maize was 17,791,000 acres, of which $14,072,000$ acres were homosted with a yield of 29 bushols per acro.

Building Permits in October
The value of building permits issued by 166 municipalitios in October was $\$ 12,154,271$ compared witil the revisョd dotal for the previous month of $10,408,205$ which covered the returns made by 194 runicipalitise. Reports were received from e.ll of tho 58 original municipalities formesiy included in this survey with a total value of permits at $38,468,440$ compared with $6,476,610$ in September and $\$ 5,623,900$ in October, 1939.

The total value of permits issued by all municipalities during the ten months ended October was $\$ 93,877,588$, The value for the 58 municipalities for the seme period was *66,268,702 comparod with $49,539,913$ in the same period of 1939 ,

During Octuber new construction of all types accounted for 78.4-per cent of the tot al value, while the percentage of new rosidential construction was 42.1.

Tho smount of candian whent in storo on livovomber -15 was $453,507,864$ bushols compared with $449,523,75_{s} 2$ at the ond of the previous wook cind $356,669,776$ on the corrosponding date last yoar. Candian wheat in the Unitud States on the latest date totalled 42,914,630 bushols compared vith $10,161,584$ a week ago and 18,520,000 a year e.go.

The wheat stocks in clevators in Canada on \#ovembor 15 aggregated 410,593,234 bushels compared with $09,367,158$ on Novamber 8 and $338,149,776$ in 1939. Wheat in transit on the lakes totallod 5,522,227 bushels compared with $5,822,773$ last yenr, whilo the total in rail transit was $12,063,670$ bushels as compared with $22,098,144$.

## Ovorseas Export Clearances of heat

During the weol ending Novemor 15 the axport clearances overscas of Canadian vihat amounted to $2,982,808$ bushols compared with $2,836,442$ in tho corrosponding vook in 1939 , The accumulated total for the fiftoon woeks ending November 15 was $26,372,592$ bushols compared with $35, \pm 16,208$ in the correspondines period of the provious crop year.

## Cannod Food Production

Cannod food production in Canade has show constant erovith end expension since the begiming of the 20 th century. In 1900 the total value did not exceed $\$ 8,250,000$, while in 1930 it had incrensed to more than $55,000,000$, and by 1938 the latost year for which statistics aro availablo the gross value of production exoeoded $\$ 78,477,000$.

The principnl comodities used in the caming industry are fish, fruits and vegetables milk and moats, whilc the industry itsclf forms an adjunct of considerable importance to other industicies, rotably the tin can industry, the wooden box industry and the paper and printing imustrios.

The devolopmont of the caned foods trado has affocted cerant changes in tho relation of foods to scasons. Pruits and rogotables of many kinds are to bo hed at all times of the year, not always with all the flavour of tho freshly gathered product, but with much of their original froshnoss and flavour.

Producurs in tho country are provided with an enormously oxtonded market, and the consumor in both city and country with choap and wholesome $f$ ood in great veriety. The consumer is also protected by the inspection sorvices of the Dopartment of ligriculture and the Dopartmont of Fishories at Ottava.

Sales of Redio noceiving Sets
Pronlucers sales of radio roceiving sets during the socond quarter of 1940 totalled 85,937 sets, boing hichor than for any corrosponding period of other yoars. This yoar's total was 62 per cont ovor the 52,895 sots sold during the socond quarter of 1939, which in turn oxceeded the 30,719 sets for the socond quarter of 1938 by 72 per cent.

Substantial increases in sales were recorded all across the Dominion when compared with the sccond quartor of 1939. In Ontario the advance wris to 37, 278 sets from 23,246, in British Columbin to 9,270 from 4,094, in the Naritimes to 7,739 from 3,166, in Quoboc to 15,319 from 11,259, in Soskatchowan and ilberta to 10,733 from 6,689 and in lianitoba to 5,598 from $4,4 \varepsilon_{1}$.

In addition to the 85,937 sots sold by Canadian manufacturers there were imports through Customs of 2,417 sets while 7,815 wero admittod into Canada under spocial oonditions.

Invontorios st the producers factorios and various branohes or in jobburs' hands on Juno 30 v.ure reparted at 120,967 sots.

Financing of Notor Vohicle Salos
Financirc of now end usod motor vehiolos sal os in Canade in October totallod 13,014 units financud for $5,355,474$ comparod with 12,974 units financed to tho extont of \& $5,265,143$ in the previous month and 11,700 for ? $4,459,630$ in October, 1939. The total numbor of vehicles financed during tho ten months onding October was 153,546 involving \$ $64,331,515$ as compared with 132,651 units financed for $\$ 54,151,456$ in the corresponding period last yoar.

1. Domestic Exports by Principal Countrios, Octobor (10 conts).
2. Sumnary of Canal Traffic, October (10 cents).
3. Stocles of Cannod Fruits and Vogetablos, October 1; 19\&0 (10 conts).
4. Production of Coal and Coke, Scptomber (10 oents).
5. The Woodonvere Industry, 1939 (10 cents).
6. Tho Exeelsior, 1939 ( 10 cents).
7. Teokly Index Numbers of Wholescie Prices (10 conts).
8. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
9. Car Loadinçs (10 oonts).
10. Nonthly Traffic Report of Railways, sugust (10 conts).
11. Second Estimate of Production of Root and Fodder Crops. Aroa and Conditions of Fall That and Fall Rye. Progress of Fall Ploughing, Canada (10 cents).
12:- Farm Fanily Living Costs, $19 \div 0$ ( 10 conts).
12. The Grain Situation in Agentina ( 10 cents).
13. Price N:ovements, Octobar ( 10 cents).
14. Cameda's Exports, October (10 conts).
15. Socurity Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 oents).
16. Production and Salo of Radio Recoiving Sots, S cond Guarter, 1940 (15 oents).
17. Building Permits, Octobor ( 10 conts).

19: Conadian Grein Statistios ( 10 cents).
20.- Camned Food Production, 1938 ( 15 conts).
21. Kinthly Financing of Motor Vehiclos Salos, October (10 conts),

