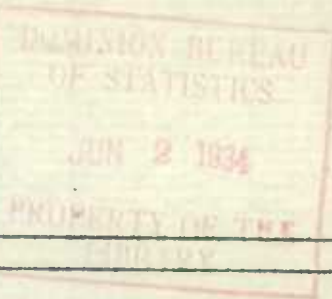


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Weekly Review of Economic Statistics-- Trend Continues Upward over Last Year

The index of economic conditions, maintained by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, showed a gain of more than 20 per cent in the week ended May 26 over the same week of last year. The standing for last week was 94.0 compared with 79.3 in the week ended May 27, 1933, the index being expressed as a percentage of the average for the base year of 1926. The index advanced rapidly from April 22 to July 22, 1933, and then dropped away until the end of the year. Despite several setbacks, the trend has been upward in 1934, a considerable gain being recorded during the first five months. The lowest point of last year was 73.0, reached in the week of April 8, the gain of last week over the minimum point being nearly 29 per cent.

The index of carloadings, chosen as the best weekly factor for indicating the trend of general business, has continued during the elapsed part of the present year at a greatly higher level than in the same period of 1933. The index at 73.0 in the latest month for which statistics are available was not only 25 per cent higher than in the same week of 1933, but also recorded a gain after seasonal adjustment over each of the weeks of that year. During the first twenty weeks of 1934, the freight movement at 831,800 cars compared with 673,100 in the same period of last year, showed a gain of 23.6 per cent. Each of the eleven commodity groups showed important gains in this comparison. Miscellaneous commodities were 49,600 cars heavier in the elapsed period of 1934, while the coal movement showed a gain of 20,100 cars. The loadings of l.c.l. merchandise were 19,960 cars greater, while gains in the pulpwood, pulp and paper, lumber and other forest products followed in the order named.

The weekly index of wholesale prices was 70.7 in the week ended May 26 compared with 71.0 in the preceding week. Commodity prices advanced during the first nine weeks of the year, and have subsequently shown a downward drift. Common stock prices rallied in the week ended May 24 following a reaction during the preceding fortnight. The index of 113 common stocks was 95.3 compared with 70.7 in the same week of last year, a gain of nearly 35 per cent. In the rally of last week, gains were shown in the indexes of the iron and steel, pulp and paper, oil and miscellaneous groups. The index of 16 power and traction stocks remained steady at 70.3.

The spectacular advance in high-grade bond prices in recent weeks was the principal influence in supporting the weekly economic index. The index of bond prices was nearly 17 per cent higher than in the same week of 1933, a striking advance for a factor not normally subject to wide fluctuations. The index was 124.4 in the week ended May 26, a gain of 1.5 per cent over the preceding week. The bid quotation for the 1943 5 per cent Dominion government refunding bond was 109 on May 29, while the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent refunding bonds were quoted at 106 $\frac{1}{4}$. The yield on four refunding bonds averaged 3.89 per cent in the week ended May 26 compared with 3.95 in the week ended May 19. A sharp advance in Dominion government bonds was shown from the middle of February to the last week for which statistics are available, and present levels reflect a marked improvement in the credit situation.

Bank clearings showed a gain of 15.3 per cent over the same week of 1933, the index being 85.0 compared with 73.7. Speculative trading on the Montreal and Toronto stock exchanges was at a lower level in the week ended May 21, sales being 158,700 shares compared with 246,000 in the preceding week.

The economic index at 94.0 compared with 95.2 showed a decline of 1.2 per cent from the preceding week.

The features of the bank statement as of April 30 were the gains in demand deposits and in call loans elsewhere than in Canada. Demand deposits were \$510,171,000, showing a seasonally adjusted gain of 7.4 p.c. during April. The gain over the same date of last year was 5.4 per cent.

Call loans elsewhere than in Canada at \$119,500,000 compared with \$106,200,000, showed a seasonally adjusted gain of 13.7 per cent during April. The increase over April 1933 was no less than 45.4 p.c.

Notice deposits showed moderate gain in April but were still nearly 2 per cent less than in the same month of 1933. Current loans showed declines in both comparisons. The excess of notice deposits over current loans was \$498,000,000 compared with \$487,000,000 on the same date of 1933.

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While the index of employment applying to conditions at the first of May showed a gain less than normal for the season, the crude index was higher than recorded on any other date since December, 1931. Manufacturing showed important improvement at the beginning of May, the increase exceeding the average indicated on May 1 of the years since 1920. The gain over the same date of 1933 was 13.4 points. The greatest improvement, as in the last few months, was shown by the iron and steel industry. The adjusted gain during the month in automobile plants was 5 p.c., while the agricultural implement industry recorded an increase of 6 p.c. Adjusted gains were also shown in the leather, rubber, textile and electrical apparatus industries.

The construction industry obtained a greater volume of new business in May than in any month since November 1931. The seasonally adjusted gain over April was 21.5 per cent. The increase over May, 1933, was no less than 167 per cent. The award of contracts during the first five months of the present year recorded a gain of 96 per cent over the same period of last year. The total in May was \$17,383,100. This amount compares with \$11,469,200 in April and \$6,514,100 in May 1933.

The largest contract placed in May was the freight shed in Halifax at \$1,500,000. An industrial plant in Cornwall was rated at \$900,000, and a power line extension from Rouyn to O'Brien-Cadillac and Cadillac belt was placed at \$500,000.

While bank debits, or cheques charged against individual accounts, in the 32 clearing centres showed a gain in April over the preceding month less than normal for the season, the increase of 35 per cent over April 1933 indicates the considerable recovery in business operations during the last twelve months. During the same period, the index of the physical volume of business recorded a gain of nearly 33 p.c. The number of employees engaged in manufacturing operations, as indicated in the index, was up 17.5 per cent over the first of May, 1933. The indexes of wholesale and common stock prices showed gains of 8.7 per cent and 68.6 per cent, respectively.

Wheat Used in Feeding Stock

The quantity of wheat used in the feeding of live stock and poultry during the crop season 1933-34 is estimated preliminarily at 16,982,000 bushels or 6.3 p.c. of the 1933 crop, as compared with 21,996,000 bushels or 5 p.c. of the 1932 crop, the revised figure for 1932-33. The large reduction of 5 million bushels is due partly to the lower crop of 1933 and higher prices of wheat in 1933, 34, and partly to the large decrease in the hog population (about 500,000 as between December, 1932, and December, 1933) and a decrease of about 2 million in the numbers of hens and chickens during the same period.

According to the reports of crop correspondents, 18 p.c. of the 1933 wheat crop, or 49,877,000 bushels, remained in farmers' hands at March 31, 1934, out of a total crop of 269,729,000 bushels. At March 31, 1933, 19 p.c., or 82,627,000 bushels remained on farms, while in 1932 at the same date 61,840,000 bushels remained. These figures include seed for the following crop.

Rate of Seeding Wheat per Acre

The rate of seeding wheat per acre in the Province of Quebec in 1934, as reported by crop correspondents to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was 2.12 bushels, Nova Scotia 1.99, New Brunswick 1.96, Prince Edward Island 1.94, Ontario 1.87, Manitoba 1.59, British Columbia 1.58, Alberta 1.34, Saskatchewan 1.26. The average for Canada was 1.34 bushels to the acre.

For oats, barley, rye and flaxseed the amounts seeded per acre were also higher in the Maritimes, Eastern Canada and British Columbia than in the Prairie Provinces. Climatic and soil conditions provide the main reasons for these differences in seeding practice.

Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables

The stocks of canned fruits and vegetables in Canada on April 1 as reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics amounted to 849,445 cases. Although three small canneries out of 123 and 15 wholesale dealers out of 362 have not reported to date, the survey may be regarded as approximately correct. It is the intention of the Bureau to repeat this inquiry semi-annually and to ensure its completeness. Pears led with 255,179 cases, apples, 156,405, peaches 150,604 and plums 106,473.

Canned vegetables on hand amounted to 4,460,305 cases, of which tomatoes accounted for 1,395,681, soups 637,823, corn 525,773, peas 523,153, catsup and sauces 496,703, tomato juice 247,465, baked beans 185,283, green or wax beans 176,283, tomato paste and pures 100,767.

British Imports from Empire Countries

Imports by the United Kingdom from British Empire countries during the first quarter of 1934 showed a large increase over the same periods of the two previous years, as the following official figures show:

	<u>1932</u>	<u>1933</u>	<u>1934</u>
	£	£	£
Total Empire Imports.....	66,695,334	61,848,730	72,088,831
From Canada.....	8,359,924	10,495,505	10,672,293
From Australia.....	13,775,223	12,153,143	15,822,901
From India.....	9,452,108	7,785,870	11,333,884
From New Zealand.....	11,530,952	9,934,303	12,536,070
From South Africa.....	4,047,654	4,990,170	4,157,268
From Palestine.....	864,211	1,164,880	1,250,775
From Nigeria.....	1,145,221	1,472,090	1,189,873
From Irish Free State...	7,379,359	4,006,134	3,830,533
From Straits Settlements	1,321,157	859,992	1,565,561
From Ceylon.....	2,678,138	2,037,755	2,561,879
From West Indies.....	1,039,136	1,038,084	1,082,254
From Hong Kong.....	112,237	44,147	142,684

British Exports to Empire Countries

Exports by the United Kingdom to British Empire countries in the first quarter of 1934 have increased over the same periods of the past two years. The following are the Board of Trade figures:

	<u>1932</u>	<u>1933</u>	<u>1934</u>
	£	£	£
To the Empire.....	40,469,323	39,546,983	41,879,586
To Canada.....	3,474,715	3,033,268	3,967,541
To Irish Free State.....	7,048,468	4,062,227	5,045,125
To Australia.....	4,047,794	5,020,012	5,620,621
To South Africa.....	4,432,334	5,293,302	6,833,385
To New Zealand.....	2,600,423	2,446,738	2,508,894
To India.....	8,489,934	8,702,821	8,727,621
To Channel Islands.....	894,569	1,010,462	1,148,301
To Straits Settlements..	1,422,399	1,094,836	1,204,330
To Nigeria.....	1,110,217	1,021,883	648,382
To West Indies.....	976,246	1,169,396	1,013,364
To Hong Kong.....	1,711,083	992,556	636,129

British Imports from Foreign Countries

Imports by the United Kingdom from foreign countries during the first quarter of 1934, while an increase over the same period of 1933, showed a large decrease from 1932. The following were the imports from leading countries:

	<u>1932</u>	<u>1933</u>	<u>1934</u>
	£	£	£
Total Foreign Countries	126,766,857	97,391,969	111,755,729
From United States.....	24,433,567	18,358,987	21,726,867
From Argentina.....	14,328,857	11,860,208	12,519,591
From Denmark.....	10,199,910	7,981,673	7,780,344
From Germany.....	9,390,376	6,590,763	7,944,848
From Netherlands.....	6,366,722	3,980,559	4,805,169
From Belgium.....	6,008,043	2,997,238	3,669,181
From France.....	5,814,778	4,330,376	5,104,770
From Italy.....	3,015,208	2,254,966	2,175,250
From Spain.....	3,592,260	3,064,971	2,793,351
From Egypt.....	3,569,639	3,031,049	4,224,328
From Persia.....	1,695,839	2,094,228	1,663,062
From Japan.....	1,864,419	1,741,052	2,412,344
From Russia.....	3,639,523	2,713,355	3,540,424
From China.....	1,475,479	1,173,961	1,290,027

Note: Imports from China are exclusive of Hong Kong, Macao, Manchuria and leased territories.

British Exports to Foreign Countries

Exports by the United Kingdom during the first quarter of 1934 have increased slightly over the same periods of the two previous years. Official figures are as follows:

	<u>1932</u> <u>£</u>	<u>1933</u> <u>£</u>	<u>1934</u> <u>£</u>
To Foreign Countries..	51,861,599	50,159,277	52,836,669
To United States.....	3,677,261	3,302,572	4,866,594
To Germany.....	4,182,969	3,523,680	4,257,746
To Denmark.....	2,282,958	2,856,947	3,089,909
To France.....	4,256,992	4,946,873	4,593,828
To Netherlands.....	3,356,600	2,899,411	3,176,862
To Belgium.....	2,413,156	2,443,301	2,432,389
To Sweden.....	1,845,536	1,548,789	2,035,476
To Spain.....	1,382,096	1,151,523	1,172,120
To Italy.....	2,206,418	2,372,178	2,401,920
To Egypt.....	1,478,954	1,671,026	1,548,433
To Persia.....	185,382	224,870	391,020
To Japan.....	1,802,277	1,436,006	960,371
To Russia.....	2,493,687	1,309,949	744,120
To Argentine.....	2,557,630	3,254,263	3,203,126
To China.....	2,621,625	1,631,794	1,498,927

Note: Exports to China are exclusive of Hong Kong, Macao, Manchuria and leased territories.

Marriages in April Show Increase of 18 per cent

Births registered in 69 cities and towns of Canada in April numbered 6,869, deaths 3,945 and marriages 2,342, as compared with 6,833 births, 3,878 deaths and 1,983 marriages in April last year, showing an increase of one-half per cent in births, 2 per cent in deaths and 18 per cent in marriages.

Births registered during the four months January - April of this year totalled 26,479, deaths 15,911 and marriages 7,956 as against 27,234 births, 16,101 deaths and 7,500 marriages during the corresponding period last year. This comparison shows decreases of 3 per cent in births, and 1 per cent in deaths and an increase of 6 per cent in marriages.

Coal Production in April

Canada's coal production in April reached a total of 807,930 tons, an increase of 20.5 per cent over the April 1933 output but a 12.5 per cent falling off from the five-year average for the month of 923,607 tons. Bituminous coal production amounted to 670,099 tons, subbituminous 32,846, lignite 104,985.

Nova Scotia mines produced 401,273 tons or 49.5 per cent above the April 1933 total of 268,447. In Alberta 244,477 tons were mined as compared with 245,912 a year ago. British Columbia's output rose 14.4 per cent to 110,165. A 6.3 per cent decline was recorded in Saskatchewan's production; the month's output was 32,749 tons as against 34,957 tons. New Brunswick operators reported a production of 19,266 tons or 22.9 per cent below that of a year ago.

Imports of Coal in April

Imports of coal into Canada in April declined 1.2 per cent to 574,309 tons from the April 1929-1933 average of 581,490. Anthracite importations totalled 85,323, made up of 79,512 from the United States and 5,811 from Great Britain. Imports of bituminous coal amounted to 488,796, of which the United States supplied 482,704 and Great Britain 6,092. Lignite receipts in April were recorded at 190 tons.

Production of Coke in April Up

The output of coke in April was 185,000 tons compared with 122,000 a year ago, 143,000 in 1932 and 169,000 in 1931. Production in the first four months of 1934 was 741,000 tons as against 539,000 last year.

Chemicals and Allied Products

The value of output of chemicals and allied products totalled \$92,087,231 during 1933 as against \$95,279,376 in 1932. Though the total value of output does not show any improvement, signs were not lacking which would indicate that the chemical industries were again on an upward trend.

Due to increased demand from the mining industry, production of explosives increased 3 per cent over 1932. Output by fertilizer manufacturers advanced 6 per cent to \$4,231,598. More ammonium sulphate and ammonium phosphate were made and the tonnage of mixed fertilizers was higher at about 110,000 tons compared with 96,000 tons in 1932. Ammonium sulphate production was about 81,000 tons or 13,000 tons more than in 1932 but exports increased to 62,383 tons from 38,741 tons and imports declined to 4,156 tons from 13,811 tons. A slight increase to \$669,119 from \$607,394 in 1932 was noted in the wood distillation industry.

In 1933 the value of imports of chemicals and allied products was \$24,068,278, a drop of about 14 per cent from 1932. While total imports were lower the percentage brought from the United Kingdom increased to 22 per cent in 1933 compared with 16.9 per cent in 1932 and an average of 13 per cent in the preceding five-year period. Purchases from the United States fell off correspondingly, the percentage being 56.9 in 1933 as against 62.0 in 1932 and an average of 67 per cent in the previous five years. Exports of chemicals from Canada were valued at \$12,604,040 in 1933 compared with \$11,033,179 in the previous year. The chief gains were for acids, ammonium sulphate and sodium compounds. About 45 per cent of the total exports were shipped to the United States, 23 per cent to the United Kingdom and 32 per cent to other countries.

Larger Asphalt Roofing Output

Production of asphalt roofing in the first four months of 1934 included 340,989 squares and 4,827 tons compared with 270,673 squares and 1,957 tons in the same period of 1933.

Index Numbers of 23 Mining Stocks

The weighted index number of twenty-three mining stocks computed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the base 1926=100, was 131.5 for the week ending May 24 as compared with 126.7 for the previous week. Nineteen gold stocks rose from 121.3 to 125.7, and four base metals stocks from 152.9 to 159.3.

Faint and Varnish Imports

There was a pronounced increase in the imports of paints and varnishes or ingredients in April compared with a year ago. Red lead, for example, rose from 7,410 pounds to 83,562, white lead from 1,200 to 4,284, carbon black from 502,449 to 853,125, lithopone from 465,580 to 910,678, satin white from 35,114 to 132,314, zinc white from 329,507 to 769,344, ochres from 91,055 to 141,288, liquid fillers from 4,872 to 10,443, oxide of tin or copper from 2,299 to 15,524.

Increase in Output of Rigid Insulating Board

Shipments of rigid insulating board during the first four months of 1934 amounted to 6,377,790 sq. ft. compared with 3,365,096 in the same period of 1933.

Some Smelter Products Imports

Imports of bauxite in April amounted to 70,302 cwt. compared with 21,159 a year ago, antimony 123,200 cwt. compared with 35,840, tin in blocks 2,102 cwt. compared with 1,233, and arsenious oxide 656,018 cwt. compared with 3.

Silver Bullion Imports

Importation of silver bullion in April was valued at \$103,956, a larger amount than usual. The amount from the United States was \$99,931, the rest from Great Britain.

Sharp Increase in Sales of Automobiles during April

Sales at retail of new passenger cars, trucks and buses reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for April show an increase of 98.8 per cent in numbers and 110 per cent in values as compared with April 1933. There was a total of 12,083 vehicles sold for \$12,606,297 compared with 8,379 for \$8,395,740 in March and 6,078 for \$6,003,920 in April last year.

New passenger cars sold numbered 10,630 at \$11,099,404, as against 7,540 at \$7,549,262 in March and 5,495 at \$5,426,224 in April 1933. There were 1,453 trucks at \$1,508,893 compared with 839 at \$846,478 in March and 583 at \$577,696 in April last year.

April Bank Cheques 35 p.c. Greater than April last year

The total amount of cheques charged to individual accounts by the branch banks of Canada recorded a gain in April of 35 p.c. over the same month of last year. Bank debits were \$2,536,000,000 compared with \$1,877,000,000. Each of the five economic areas except the Prairie Provinces showed important gains. The increase in the Maritime Provinces was 16.4 p.c., Quebec 58.6 p.c., Montreal showing a gain of 61.2 p.c. Bank debits in Ontario were \$1,197,000,000 compared with \$821,000,000, a gain of nearly 46 p.c. The increase in Toronto was nearly 45 p.c., the total being \$915,000,000. The decline in the Prairie Provinces was 15.3 p.c., Winnipeg showing a decline of 20.8 p.c. Debits in British Columbia were \$138,600,000 compared with \$105,200,000, a gain of nearly 32 p.c. Debits in Vancouver recorded an increase of practically 39 p.c.

The gain in bank debits during April over the preceding month was less than normal for the season, the adjusted decline being limited to less than 1 p.c. Debits in the Maritime Provinces were \$39,100,000 compared with \$40,800,000 in March, the decline after seasonal adjustment being 6.8 p.c. Gains were recorded in Montreal and in the province of Quebec in this comparison, the adjusted increase being 5.8 and 5.9 p.c., respectively. Debits in Ontario were at a somewhat lower level in April than in the preceding month, the adjusted decline in the province being nearly 5 p.c. The decline in Toronto, after seasonal adjustment, was 5.4 p.c. Bank debits in Winnipeg showed a gain greater than normal for the season, an adjusted increase of 1.2 p.c. being shown. The total for the Prairie Provinces, after seasonal adjustment, showed a slight decline. The adjusted gain in British Columbia was 2.3 p.c., Vancouver showing a similar gain.

The cumulative total for the first four months of 1934 was \$9,712,000,000 compared with \$7,563,000,000 in the same period of 1933. The gain was consequently \$2,148,000,000 or 28.4 p.c. Each of the economic areas participated in the increase in this comparison except the Prairie Provinces. The gain in the Maritime Provinces was nearly 14 p.c., in Quebec 32.7 p.c. Gains were recorded in Montreal and Sherbrooke, the increase in the former being 36.1 p.c. The increase in Ontario over the first four months of 1933 was pronounced, amounting to 41 p.c. Each of the thirteen centres of the province, with one exception, showed gains. The cumulative total for Toronto was \$3,732,000,000 compared with \$2,565,000,000 in the same period of 1933, a gain of \$1,166,000,000 or 45.5 p.c. Increases were shown in each of the ten clearing centres of the Prairie Provinces except Winnipeg, the net result for the three provinces being a decline of 5.1 p.c. Gains were general among the clearing centres of British Columbia, the increase for the province being 24.3 p.c.

The ratio of bank debits in April to bank deposits on the last day of the preceding month was 138.1 p.c. compared with 101.9 p.c. for the same month of 1933.

The index of bank debits expressed as a percentage of the average for the base year 1926, after seasonal adjustment, was 105.7 in April compared with 106.6 in March. The index of wholesale prices dropped from 72.0 in March to 71.1 in April. Common stock prices averaged higher in April than in March, the index being 90.7 p.c. compared with 88.0. The number of shares traded on the Montreal stock exchange were at a lower level in April than in the preceding month.

Lumber Imports in April

Imports of lumber and timber in April amounted in value to \$147,521 compared with \$64,608 a year ago. The principal item was oak from the United States valued at \$51,901. There was also a small consignment of English oak. Amongst the veneers imported was a shipment of blackwood from Australia amounting to \$5,919.

Wood Exports to Australia

The domestic exports of wood and manufactures of wood to Australia during the fiscal year ended March 31 are valued at \$2,278,014; during 1933, \$1,558,981; 1932, \$1,033,367; 1931, \$666,641; 1930, \$1,620,162; and 1929, \$853,286. The 1934 export is an increase over the average (\$1,146,487) of the five preceding years of \$1,131,527 or 98.7 per cent; over the year 1929 an increase of \$1,424,728 or 166.9 per cent.

The principal item for 1933-34, with the previous year's figures in brackets are: Logs, Douglas fir, 50,841 M ft. (10,121) valued at \$461,969 (\$81,451); railroad ties, Douglas fir, 18,056 in number (nil) at \$22,851 (nil); planks and boards, 99,025 M ft.. (88,355) at \$1,171,585 (\$1,046,557); timber, square, Douglas fir, 33,731 M ft. (28,910) at \$400,467 (\$318,702); shooks, \$113,406 (\$8,332); staves and headings \$12,380 (\$8,020); and handles, \$46,379 (\$13,769).

Australia is Canada's Biggest Market for Cotton Goods

Domestic exports of cotton goods to Australia, during the fiscal year ended March 31 is the largest on record for over twenty years, and amounted to \$673,904 compared with \$502,014 in 1933, \$143,555 in 1932, \$21,730 in 1931, \$19,958 in 1930, \$5,104 in 1929, \$292,505 in 1920 the third highest year, and \$243,224 in 1921 the fourth highest. Australia got 50 per cent of the cotton goods exported in 1933-34.

The individual items, with the 1933 figures in brackets, are as follows: cotton duck 41,961 yards (25,469) at \$17,858 (\$7,384); other cotton fabrics 1,317,676 yards (1,342,268) at \$558,656 (\$482,820); and other cotton manufactures \$97,390 (\$11,810).

Improvement in Employment Situation Recorded on May 1

An improvement in the employment situation was recorded on May 1, reports from 8,591 firms to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics showing that there were on their payrolls 856,316 persons as compared with 848,799 in the preceding month. On May 1, 1933, the number of firms reporting was 7,998 and they had 714,891 persons on their staffs. All these firms have 15 or more persons in their employ. The unadjusted index of employment on May 1 over a period of years is as follows: 1934, 92.0; 1933, 77.6; 1932, 87.5; 1931, 102.2; 1930, 111.4; 1929, 116.2; 1928, 106.8; 1927, 101.8; 1926, 95.4; 1925, 91.9. The crude index on May 1, 1934, was the highest recorded in any month since December 1931.

Manufacturing showed important improvement at the beginning of May, the increase in this group exceeding the average indicated on May 1 of the years since 1920. Transportation showed decided gains and mining (except of coal), building and railway construction and wholesale trade were also more active. On the other hand, retail trade, highway construction, coal-mining and logging released employees. The losses in bush operations were exceptionally large, partly as a result of the late season, which retarded river-drives.

Heightened activity was reported in all provinces except Ontario, where the tendency was slightly unfavourable; the Maritime and Prairie Provinces showed the greatest gains in personnel. The situation in all five economic areas was better than on May 1 1933.

Improvement was shown in each of the eight cities for which separate tabulations are made, firms in Quebec City, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Windsor and the adjoining Border Cities, Winnipeg and Vancouver reporting heightened activity. The largest gains were in Montreal, Windsor and Winnipeg. The situation in each of these eight centres was better than on May 1, 1933.

Employment in Great Britain

Employment in Great Britain in March showed a further improvement which extended to nearly all industries, according to the Ministry of Labour Gazette. Among the approximately 12,880,000 workers insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed in all industries was 17.3 on Mar. 19 as compared with 18.2 on Feb. 19, and 21.9 on Mar. 20 1933. Recent press reports state that the registered unemployed numbered 2,148,195 on Apr. 23, a decline of 53,382 on the month and 549,439 on the year. The number of insured persons in employment in April is given as 10,140,000, the largest number in recent years.

Employment in the United States

Employment in manufacturing in the United States increased 1.9 p.c. in April as compared with March, according to returns tabulated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics from 20,883 establishments in 90 of the principal manufacturing industries of the United States, having in April 3,646,492 employees. There was widespread improvement from March to April, 66 industries showing increased employment. The index, based on the average for the years 1925-27 as 100, stood at 82.3, compared with 80.8 in March, 1934, and 59.9 in April 1933. Improvement in April as compared with the preceding month occurred in the food, iron and steel, machinery, vehicle, non-ferrous metal, lumber, stone, clay and glass, rubber and some other industries, while textile and a few other groups were slightly slack. Among the non-manufacturing industries, there were losses in coal-mining, but gains in other branches of mining, in telephones and telegraphs, power and light, dyeing and cleaning, building, trade and other groups.

April Coffee Imports

Coffee and chicory imports in April were valued at \$365,635 compared with \$247,885 a year ago. The green coffee imports amounted to 3,163,852 pounds, coming chiefly from the following countries: Brazil 874,150, British East Africa 669,969, Jamaica 548,137, Colombia 543,630, Mexico 175,390, United Kingdom 136,954, Venezuela 76,402, British Guiana 42,500, Hawaii 40,000, Costa Rica 30,075, Abyssinia 14,084, Trinidad and Tobago 12,000.

Much Increased Imports of Tea

Tea imports in April amounted to 6,713,873 pounds valued at \$1,594,261 compared with 5,717,140 at \$1,414,782 in March and 890,889 at \$116,765 in April 1933. Tea imports in the last twelve months have been very much larger than in the previous twelve, the quantity being 42,015,211 pounds of the value of \$8,867,213 compared with 37,933,885 at \$4,638,290 which illustrates the increase in tea prices.

Index Numbers of Security Prices

The investors' index of industrial common stocks was 128.6 for the week ending May 24 as compared with 127.7 for the previous week, domestic utility common 56.6 compared with 56.7, common of companies located abroad 100.1 compared with 100.3, and for all three groups of common combined 95.3 compared with 95.0.

Many Cream Separators Imported

Cream separators imported in April numbered 1,183 of the value of \$35,907. There were 656 at \$10,611 from Sweden, 250 at \$9,975 from Belgium, 161 at \$10,437 from the United States, 101 at \$3,277 from Germany, 12 at \$227 from the United Kingdom and 3 at \$1,139 from Denmark.

Implements and Machinery for the Farm

Imports of farm implements and machinery in April were valued at \$302,434 compared with \$145,711 a year ago. One of the large items was 51 internal combustion traction engines at \$25,084. There were parts for the same at \$85,268, most coming from the United States. There were spraying and dusting machines to the value of \$11,547.

Production of Honey

The total production of honey in Canada in 1933 is estimated at 19,543,500 pounds of the value of \$1,706,800 as compared with 19,470,500 pounds of the value of \$1,470,100 in 1932. The average value per pound of all honey is 9 cents for 1933 as compared with 8 cents in 1932. Sharp increases in production and value in 1933 are shown in Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta, while a marked decrease is recorded in Manitoba. Estimates of production and value for New Brunswick and British Columbia are somewhat higher for 1933 and slightly lower for Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, as compared with 1932.

The total exports of honey in 1933 at 2,806,770 pounds of the value of \$281,657 show increases of 22.1 per cent in quantity and 45.9 per cent in value from the total exports of 2,298,350 pounds of the value of \$193,013 in 1932. Exports to the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Norway were increased, while exports to Belgium, France, Germany and the United States show reductions in quantity and value.

Agricultural Wealth of Canada

The gross agricultural wealth of Canada for 1933 is estimated at \$5,230,994,000 as compared with \$5,209,760,000 for 1932 and \$6,056,951,000 for 1931.

The total gross agricultural revenue of Canada is estimated at \$762,302,000 for 1933 as compared with \$766,794,000 for 1932 and \$836,114,000 for 1931. This represents a decrease of \$4,492,000 or 0.6 per cent from 1932. There are increases in the revenue from farm animals, wool, dairy products, fur farming, honey and clover and grass seed, and decreases in the revenue from field crops, fruits and vegetables, poultry and eggs, maple products, tobacco and flax fibre. The greatest increases in revenue are from farm animals and dairy products, while the biggest decreases are shown in field crops and poultry and eggs.

The gross agricultural revenue for 1933, by provinces, in order of value is as follows: Ontario \$264,762,000; Quebec \$138,221,000; Alberta \$110,705,000; Saskatchewan \$106,417,000; Manitoba \$53,987,000; British Columbia \$31,276,000; Nova Scotia \$23,143,000; New Brunswick \$21,148,000; Prince Edward Island \$12,643,000.

By a series of deductions from the gross revenue from field crops for such items as feed for farm animals and poultry, seed and unmerchantable grain, and from the gross revenue from fruits and vegetables for vegetables produced on farms for home use, a preliminary estimate of the net agricultural revenue of Canada is given as \$464,499,000, as compared with \$475,511,000 for 1932, a decrease of \$11,012,000, or 2.3 per cent.

Hops in British Columbia

The total production of hops in British Columbia in 1933 amounted to 1,477,425 pounds, as compared with 791,159 in 1932, an increase of 86.7 per cent. The total crop was valued at \$491,220, as compared with \$241,245 in 1932, an increase of 103.6 per cent.

Extremely Serious Crop Situation Exists in the Prairie Provinces

While at this time last year the spring season was generally reported as late but very promising, the 1934 crops are quite early but have been handicapped by distinctly unfavourable conditions. Any benefit which might have resulted from the heavier winter precipitations of 1933-34 has been completely dissipated. Spring precipitation since April 1 has been very light and ineffective. There have been periods of extremely high temperatures which, in the absence of soil moisture and encouraged by strong winds, led to serious soil-drifting over wide areas. The weather and soil conditions have been such as to discourage growth and to promote the early hatching of grasshoppers. Germination and first growth, while well advanced for this period, were weak and spotty. Grasshopper damage has begun but the serious losses to date are due to moisture shortage, high temperatures and soil-drifting. While a general rain would change the picture considerably, a careful study of the correspondents' reports must lead to the conclusion that an extremely serious crop situation exists in the Prairie Provinces.

The districts in which moisture shortage and crop damage are most apparent correspond closely with the drought area of other years - southern, particularly south-western, Manitoba; southern, central and west-central, Saskatchewan; and south and east of Calgary, Alberta. Conditions are more favourable in the remaining areas, but rains would be very welcome.

In Manitoba, only a few scattered spring showers have fallen where heavy and general rains were needed. Germination was spotty and variable and early growth very unsatisfactory. Soil-drifting caused serious damage and appeared in some areas where it had never before been troublesome. The limited moisture, night frosts, and high mid-day temperatures combined with the soil-drifting to affect the early growth of spring grains. Grasshoppers are hatching in the outbreak areas; damage has already started, but the mixing stations have commenced operations and it is hoped to limit the hopper damage to stubble crops. The grasshopper situation is most serious in the south-western corner, as forecast. Re-seeding has been necessary in some localities but the results are doubtful. The need of rain is generally expressed and in many districts, it is an urgent necessity.

The crop situation in Saskatchewan has reached a critical stage much earlier than usual. Spring rainfall has been of little consequence in the main wheat areas. Lack of soil moisture is widespread, but is most apparent in southern, central and west-central districts. In the northern and east-central districts, the crops have progressed more favourably as they had better reserves to draw upon, but rain is needed locally. Grasshoppers hatched out three weeks earlier than in 1933 and combined with the other limiting factors on crop

growth such as soil-drifting, lack of moisture, and weak germination create a serious situation. As in Manitoba, some re-seeding has been necessary but more will be done if rain falls. There is a general shortage of seed, so that farmers are disinclined to drill grain into a dry top-soil. Fallow crops are still promising since they are better able to resist adverse soil and weather conditions and insect attacks. An early and general rain would be a tremendous benefit to the growing crops and would also cause a further seeding of coarse grains.

Over most of the southern areas of Alberta and in scattered central localities, crops are described as in distress. Rain is needed almost generally throughout the province, but in most of the central and northern parts, crops are not suffering. Spring rainfall has been light, scattered and ineffectual in the district south and east of Calgary; the top-soil is dry and the sub-soil reserves are becoming exhausted. In central Alberta, between the two railway main lines and east of the Calgary-Edmonton line, crop conditions are fair with rain needed to promote good growth. Warm and windy weather has absorbed the surface moisture. In the Edmonton district and turning north to Athabasca and east to Vermilion, the season is early and growth good. The Peace River district has favourable prospects; rain is needed, but not urgently. The Alberta crop situation would be greatly changed by an early and heavy rain; if rain does not fall, prospects will deteriorate rapidly.

Wheat Stocks and Movement

The visible wheat supply on May 25 was reported as 199,103,431 bushels compared with 200,565,225 the week before and 203,423,983 on the corresponding date last year. Canadian wheat in the United States amounted to 4,455,797 bushels, of which 3,350,500 were at Buffalo, 416,079 at New York and 540,000 at Erie. This compared with 3,789,785 a year ago, of which 1,909,477 were at Buffalo, 192,916 at New York and 1,670,000 at Erie. In-transit wheat on the Great Lakes amounted to 3,004,306 bushels compared with 4,319,425 the week before and 4,401,793 last year. United States wheat in Canada was shown as two bushels compared with 4,801,913 a year ago.

Wheat marketings in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending May 18 were as follows, the figures within brackets being those of last year: Manitoba 243,315 (545,344); Saskatchewan 830,429 (1,025,841); Alberta 893,944 (710,742); Total 1,967,688 (2,281,927). During the previous week 1,071,769 bushels were marketed. Marketings in the 42 weeks of the crop year: Manitoba 25,727,065 (34,515,026); Saskatchewan 98,478,049 (171,102,825); Alberta 75,588,656 (120,824,118); Total 199,793,770 (336,441,969).

Export clearances of wheat during the week ending May 25 were as follows, the figures within brackets being those of last year: Montreal 879,375 (2,116,215); Vancouver-New Westminster 565,678 (1,350,146); Sorel 448,583 (264,800); Quebec 279,383 (258,011); United States ports 234,000 (682,000); Total 2,407,019 (4,671,172). The total for the previous week was 4,908,645. Forty-three weeks ending May 25: Vancouver-New Westminster 40,424,848 (84,316,800); Montreal 37,130,959 (54,252,751); United States ports 22,987,000 (22,858,000); Quebec 10,728,876 (3,536,859); Sorel 6,981,245 (14,659,884); Saint John 5,601,996 (6,864,873); Churchill 2,707,891 (2,736,030); Victoria nil (1,166,721); Prince Rupert nil (677,813); Total 128,505,506 (192,725,532).

Canned Food Production

The development in the production of canned foods in Canada has shown remarkable expansion since the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1900 the total value did not exceed \$8,250,000, whilst in 1930 it had increased to more than \$55,000,000 or six and one-half times as much. In 1932 the value of production dropped to \$33,000,000. The principal commodities used in the canning industry are fish, fruits and vegetables, milk and meats, whilst the industry itself forms an adjunct of considerable importance to other industries, notably the tin can industry, the wooden box industry and the paper and printing industry.

The development of the canned foods trade has effected great changes in the relation of foods to seasons. Fruits and vegetables of many kinds are to be had at all times of the year, not always with all the flavour of the freshly gathered product, but with much of their original freshness and flavour. The producers in the country are provided with an enormously extended market and the consumer in both city and country with cheap and wholesome food in great variety. The consumer also enjoys protection by frequent inspection under the "Meat and Canned Foods Act, 1907" and subsequent amendments, administered by the Health of Animals Branch of the Federal Department of Agriculture.

British Columbia Milch Cows Rank Highest in Average Value

Milch cows in British Columbia command the highest prices in Canada on the average. It was \$48 in 1933 which incidentally was a long way behind the \$84 of 1928 and 1929. The nearest approach to the British Columbia average was Ontario at \$34 and the lowest prices were in Manitoba and Prince Edward Island at \$26. The Nova Scotia average was \$32, New Brunswick, Alberta and Quebec \$29, Saskatchewan \$27.

British Columbia Sheep Average Highest in Value

British Columbia leads Canada in the average value of her sheep with \$5.03, according to 1933 figures. Ontario comes next with \$4.48, Quebec and Prince Edward Island \$4.00, Nova Scotia \$3.94, New Brunswick \$3.84, Alberta \$3.54, Manitoba \$3.53, Saskatchewan \$3.46.

Quebec Pigs Highest Priced

Swine in Quebec are worth on the average \$11, according to the average prices prevailing in 1933. The next highest priced were in Nova Scotia at \$10.21, British Columbia \$9.90, Ontario \$9.67, New Brunswick \$9.35, Prince Edward Island \$9.16, Manitoba \$8.34, Saskatchewan \$7.80, Alberta \$7.55.

Farm Horses Average Highest in Value in Quebec

The average value of farm horses in Canada is highest in Quebec where in 1933 it was \$96. The next highest average value is in New Brunswick at \$88 and in Nova Scotia \$80. The values in other provinces are as follows, according to the 1933 ratings: Ontario \$75, Prince Edward Island \$64, British Columbia \$55, Manitoba \$45, Saskatchewan \$38, Alberta \$32.

Farm Wages in British Columbia Average Highest in Canada

The hired man on the British Columbia farm gets better wages than his brethren in other provinces of Canada. In 1933 the average wage was \$234 exclusive of board, while in Alberta next door it was \$170. In 1931 in British Columbia the wage was \$358 and in Alberta \$232. The following were the average wages plus board in other provinces in 1933: Prince Edward Island \$178, Nova Scotia \$208, New Brunswick \$185, Quebec \$152, Ontario \$159, Manitoba \$143, Saskatchewan \$144.

British Columbia Led in Honey Prices in 1933

The best price got for honey in Canada last year was in British Columbia where the average was 14 cents per lb. Up to 1929 the average for several years was 22 cents but it dropped to 11 cents in 1930 and 1931. The Maritime Provinces got the next best price last year at 12 cents, Quebec and Saskatchewan 11 cents, Alberta 9 cents, Manitoba 8 cents and Ontario 7 cents.

Decline in Value of Fur Farm Stock

The value of the fur-bearing animals on fur farms in Canada dropped from \$21,303,000 in 1929 to \$6,775,000 in 1932. The value of silver foxes alone declined from \$18,000,000 to \$6,000,000.

Many Millions of Pounds of Candy

There were 19 million pounds of chocolate confectionery manufactured in Canada in 1932 along with over $12\frac{1}{4}$ million dozen chocolate bars. There were over 44 million pounds of sugar confectionery with $1\frac{3}{4}$ million dozen bars. Besides that we imported three million pounds of confectionery, chiefly from the United Kingdom. Exports are comparatively small.

Production of Soda Biscuits

Canada's production of soda biscuits in 1932 amounted to 22,622,000 pounds at the factory value of \$3,049,602.

Sawn Lumber Trade in 1932

The estimated total distribution of sawn lumber from all sawmills in Canada in 1932 amounted to 3,080,784,000 feet, including softwoods and hardwoods, or about 70 per cent more than the total cut of sawn lumber in that year. The difference is due to the distribution in 1932 of lumber sawn in previous years and not sold and the reduced production from 1929 to 1932.

British Columbia heads the provinces in total distribution and exportation and in distribution in Canada, with Quebec second, Ontario third and New Brunswick fourth. The distribution of softwoods was, to a large extent, in the same relative order, as Canada's production of softwoods usually forms over 93 per cent of the total. In the case of hardwoods, Quebec headed the list for total distribution, distribution in Canada and exportation, with Ontario second.

The United Kingdom took 25 per cent of the total exportation, the United States 42 per cent, Japan 8 per cent, China 5 per cent, Australia 15 per cent, and British West Indies 2 per cent. Smaller quantities went to the Irish Free State, New Zealand, and British South Africa. The British Empire took 43 per cent of the total, as against 18 per cent in 1930. The exports are largely of softwood lumber which makes up about 93 per cent of the total. The hardwoods exported go chiefly to the United Kingdom and the United States - the former taking three and one half times as much as the latter.

Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of wholesale prices on the base 1926=100 fell fractionally from 71.0 for the week ended May 18 to 70.7 in the following week.

Vegetable Products dropped from 64.8 to 63.8, lower prices for barley, corn, sugar, raw rubber and potatoes, influencing the index more than slightly higher quotations for wheat, oats, bran and shorts. Animal and Their Products rose from 65.2 to 65.5 gains for steers, hogs, lambs, hides, eggs and fresh and cured meats, outweighing losses for calves and butter. Fibres, Textiles, and Textile Products advanced from 74.1 to 74.4, higher prices for artificial silk hosiery more than counterbalancing reduced prices for raw silk, raw wool and worsted cloth yarns. Wood, Wood Products and Paper moved down from 65.9 to 65.8 owing chiefly to price reductions for fir flooring. Iron and Its Products advanced from 87.4 to 87.5, due largely to higher quotations for shovels. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products were unchanged at 64.5 minor losses for copper and tin balancing gains for silver. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products and Chemicals and Allied Products at 85.5 and 81.9 respectively were the same as in the previous week.

Financing of Auto Sales in April

The total number of automobiles, trucks and buses financed was 8,481 in April, 5,151 in March and 5,544 in April 1933, and the amount of financing was \$3,490,236 in April, \$2,129,537 in March and \$2,064,764 in April 1933. The increase over a year ago in number was 79 per cent and in financing 97 per cent.

New vehicles financed numbered 3,110 in April, 1,768 in March and 1,732 in April 1933; while used vehicles numbered 5,371 in April, 3,383 in March and 3,812 in April 1933.

The amount of financing for new vehicles was \$2,101,501 in April, \$1,214,051 in March, and \$1,065,995 in April 1933; and the total for used vehicles was \$1,388,735 in April, \$915,486 in March and \$998,769 in April 1933.

Mill Production in April

Flour production for the month of April, 1934 amounted to 1,088,785 barrels, which was higher than for the same month in 1933 when 1,013,486 were produced, and slightly above the production for the previous month. Compared with the same month last year bran and middlings were higher while shorts decreased, with bran 19,338 (15,801) tons, shorts 13,711 (14,621), and middlings 3,947 (3,106). Cereal production for April, 1934 was as follows with figures for the same month last year in brackets and quantities in pounds: Oatmeal, 629,032 (587,631); Rolled Oats, 6,397,869 (5,585,475); Corn Flour and Meal, 2,679,866 (2,721,520); Pot and Pearl Barley, 91,728 (242,228); and Buckwheat Flour 83,919 (118,197). The quantities of animal feed products were as follows: Ground Oats, 7,494,322 (7,390,974) pounds; Cracked Corn, 2,768,484 (3,735,240); Ground Barley, 2,597,202 (2,133,930); and Mixed Grain, 48,685,692 (50,524,476). Total flour stocks for the month of April 1934 were 957,321 barrels compared with 907,246 for the same month last year and 1,068,323 for the previous month.

World Shipments of Wheat and Wheatflour

World shipments of wheat and wheatflour for the week ending May 28 amounted to 9,902,000 bushels as compared with shipments of 10,988,000 for the previous week and 11,896,000 for the corresponding week in 1932-33. North American and Argentine shipments showed decreases of 953,000 and 291,000 respectively. Australian shipments were slightly higher than the previous week.

World shipments of wheat have averaged 10.1 million bushels per week during the first forty-three weeks of the crop year as compared with 12.3 and 15.6 million during the corresponding period in 1932-33 and 1931-32. North American shipments have averaged 4.3 million compared with 5.8.

Weekly Car Loadings

Car loadings for the week ending May 26 amounted to 39,514 cars which was 7,338 over last year. Owing to the holiday on May 24 there was a decrease of 5,156 cars from the previous week. Grain loading was particularly light, decreasing by 1,504 cars. All commodities except grain were heavier than last year.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Lumber Distribution and Consumption in Canada and the United States in 1932.
2. Biscuit, Confectionery, Cocoa and Chocolate Industries in 1933 (Preliminary).
3. Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables on Hand on April 1.
4. Canadian Milling Statistics for April.
5. Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics.
6. Weekly Grain Statistics.
7. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways.
8. Monthly Review of Business Statistics.
9. Retail Sales of New Automobiles, Trucks etc. in April.
10. Chemicals and Allied Products in 1933.
11. Imports of Stoves, Sheet Metal Products and Refrigerators in April.
12. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts in April.
13. Rigid Insulating Board Shipments in April.
14. Imports of Non-Ferrous Ores and Smelter Products in April.
15. Imports of Farm Implements and Machinery in April.
16. Imports of Paints and Vernishes in April.
17. Index Numbers of Mining Stocks.
18. Coal and Coke Statistics for April.
19. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages in April.
20. Conditions of Farm Land by Counties or Census Divisions in 1931.
21. Summary of Canada's Imports in April.
22. Canada's Imports from Empire and Foreign Countries in April.
23. Imports of Coffee and Tea in April.
24. Imports of Lumber in April.
25. Index Numbers of Security Prices.
26. Output of Asphalt Roofing in April.
27. Employment Situation on May 1.
28. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces.
29. Rigid Insulating Board Output in April.
30. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices.
31. Automobile Financing in April.
32. Canned Food Production in 1932.

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