

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

Vol. II - No. 1

Ottawa, Saturday, January 4, 1941

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.

Railway traffic movement fell off during the week of December 28, the seasonally adjusted index of carloadings dropping from 101.2 in the preceding week to 95.8 in the week under review, a decline of 5.3 p.c. This was due to a marked decline in the Western Division. The index of the movement of merchandise showed a slight decline from 88.1 to 87.6. The total traffic carried from the beginning of 1940 up to December 28 amounted to 2,812,587 cars as compared with 2,549,449 for the preceding year up to December 30th.

The index of wholesale prices for the week of December 28 remained steady at 84.2. Animal products recorded a small gain, while vegetable products fell off slightly. The index of sensitive commodities dropped from 66.2 in the preceding week to 65.9, while the index of foodstuffs, on the other hand, rose from 67.9 to 68.2.

The upward trend in high-grade bond prices continued during the week under review, the index rising from 143.5 to 143.9. The decline in common stock prices also continued, the index falling from 77.0 to 76.3, a decline of 0.9 p.c. The total of bank clearings was unavailable for use in the preparation of the weekly index for the present week. The index of 99.4 recorded for the preceding week was used for the purpose in hand.

The level of speculative trading continued low, the index of shares traded dropping to 24.0. This figure was 18.1 p.c. below that of the previous week and 73.2 p.c. less than that of a year ago.

The weekly index based on the above-mentioned factors was 107.3 for the week of December 28, as against 109.6 for the preceding week, a decline of 2.2 p.c. The standing in the corresponding week of 1939 was 105.2, a gain of 2.0 p.c. having been indicated.

## A Weekly Index with Six Components on Basis 1926=100

Week Ending	Car loadings	Whole-sale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields <sup>1</sup>	Bank Clearings <sup>2</sup>	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index <sup>3</sup>
Dec. 28, 1940	95.8	84.2	143.9	99.4	76.3	24.0	107.3
Dec. 21, 1940	101.2	84.2	143.5	99.4	77.0	29.3	109.6
Dec. 30, 1939	87.6	82.2	133.0	105.1	100.4	89.5	105.2

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

### Visible Supply of Wheat

Canadian wheat in store on December 27 amounted to 492,595,619 bushels compared with 483,888,664 on December 20 and 349,249,102 on the corresponding date last year. The amount of Canadian wheat in store in the United States on the latest date was 54,165,553 bushels compared with 54,031,115 a week ago and 38,393,783 last year.

The wheat stocks in elevators in Canada on December 27 totalled 438,430,026 bushels compared with 429,857,549 a week ago and 310,855,319 a year ago. The amount of wheat in transit by rail on the latest reporting date was 19,234,338 bushels as compared with 9,863,144 in 1939.

---

### Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending December 27 the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 517,116 bushels compared with 2,907,273 in the corresponding week last year. The accumulated total for the twenty-one weeks ending December 27 was 37,768,514 bushels in comparison with 54,853,090 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

---

### Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending December 27 amounted to 8,345,933 bushels compared with 8,527,717 in the previous week and 1,631,723 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, with 1939 figures in brackets: Manitoba, 939,966 (98,743) bushels; Saskatchewan, 4,001,727 (804,324); Alberta, 3,404,290 (728,656).

Marketings during the twenty-one weeks ending December 27 aggregated 280,944,240 bushels as compared with 362,735,052 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces: Manitoba, 37,979,482 (49,317,489); Saskatchewan, 152,253,673 (203,180,279); Alberta, 90,711,085 (110,237,284).

---

### Bank Debits in November

Bank debits in November totalled \$3,049,000,000 compared with \$2,930,000,000 in November last year, a gain of slightly more than four per cent. The total for the first eleven months of 1940 was \$31,229,000,000 compared with \$28,560,000,000 in the same period of 1939, an increase of 9.3 per cent. Each of the five economic areas contributed to this gain.

Debits in November were as follows by economic areas with 1939 figures in brackets: Maritime Provinces, \$78,503,582 (\$66,225,349); Quebec, \$823,997,261 (\$807,384,850); Ontario, \$1,426,847,988 (\$1,217,528,190); Ontario, \$1,426,847,988 (\$1,217,528,190); Prairie Provinces, \$544,347,983 (\$668,015,727); British Columbia, \$175,625,391 (\$171,191,879).

---

### Births, Deaths and Marriages in November

Births registered in 67 cities and towns in Canada in November totalled 7,857, deaths 4,630 and marriages 4,430 as compared with 6,721 births, 4,214 deaths and 5,100 marriages in November last year, showing increases of 17 per cent in births and 10 per cent in deaths and a decrease of 13 per cent in marriages.

During the eleven months ended November of this year the number of births registered was 88,741, deaths 49,317 and marriages 59,086, as against 79,634 births, 48,080 deaths and 46,542 marriages during the corresponding eleven months last year. This comparison shows increases of 11 per cent in births,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent in deaths and 27 per cent in marriages.

---

### Canal Traffic in November

Canal traffic was lower in November when compared with November 1939. The tonnage of freight passing through the Sault Ste. Marie Canals dropped to 8,642,025 tons from 10,437,878, wheat accounting for a large proportion of the decline. Traffic using the Welland Ship Canal fell to 1,528,908 tons from 1,535,201 and on the St. Lawrence Canals to 893,008 tons from 1,072,509.



### Fur Farming in the Maritime Provinces

The number of fur farms in operation in the Maritime Provinces in 1939 was 2,572, a decline of 425 from the preceding year. The revenues derived totalled \$1,421,797 compared with \$1,799,046 in 1938. Each of the three provinces reported a smaller number of farms with Prince Edward Island recording a decline of 112, Nova Scotia 117 and New Brunswick 196.

At the end of 1939 the number of fur-bearing animals of all kinds retained on the farms of the three provinces was 34,970 and the value \$912,547 compared with 48,586 valued at \$1,486,227 at the end of 1938. Silver fox and mink were the principal kinds. The new types of foxes, platinum and white-face, were also represented with a total of 90 valued at \$21,435.

### Births, Deaths and Marriages

Live births in Canada during the first six months of 1940 totalled 117,876 giving an equivalent annual rate of 20.7 per 1,000 population as compared with 117,096 births and a rate of 20.9 in the first half of 1939. The number of deaths was 55,332 with a rate of 9.7 compared with 58,469 and a rate of 10.4. Marriages totalled 48,223 and the rate 8.5 compared with 35,331 marriages and a rate of 6.3 in the same period of 1939.

Deaths from certain causes for the six months were as follows, with figures for the corresponding period of 1939 in brackets: typhoid and paratyphoid fever, 92(85); small-pox nil(1); measles 92(136); scarlet fever 72(109); whooping-cough 278(259); diphtheria 86(168); influenza 1,454(3,264); infantile paralysis 11(16); tuberculosis 2,997(3,250); cancer 5,520(6,166); cerebral haemorrhage, cerebral embolism and thrombosis 1,171(1,123); diseases of the heart 10,213(9,849); diseases of the arteries 5,968(5,830); pneumonia 3,382(4,257); diarrhoea and enteritis 742(828); nephritis 3,452(3,560); suicide 488(483); homicide 66(54); automobile accidents 527(494); other violent deaths 1,937(1,981).

### Wire and Wire Goods in 1939

The gross value of products of the firms engaged chiefly in drawing iron and steel wire or in fabricating products from wire of iron or steel in 1939 was \$25,063,379 compared with \$20,605,207 in 1938, a gain of 21.6 per cent. Factory sales included plain and galvanized wire, barbed wire, wire fencing, wire nails, tacks, staples, screws, wire cloth, wire rope, bale ties, upholstering springs and other such commodities.

### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Births, Deaths and Marriages, Second Quarter, 1940 (10 cents).
2. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, November (10 cents).
3. Production of Asphalt Roofing, November (10 cents).
4. The Wire and Wire Goods Industry, 1939 (25 cents).
5. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
6. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, November (10 cents).
7. Summary of Canal Traffic, November (10 cents).
8. Births, Deaths and Marriages, November (10 cents).
9. The Polishes and Dressings Industry, 1939 (15 cents).
10. Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
11. Car Loadings (10 cents).
12. The Compressed Gases Industry, 1939 (15 cents).
13. Advance Report on the Fur Farms of the Maritime Provinces, 1939 (10 cents).
14. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).



1010729878