

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

Vol. LX - No. 17

Ottawa, Saturday, April 26, 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 capitalized bond yields,

Speculation - common stock prices and shares traded.

Notes on the indexes follow:-

Further advance was shown in the railway freight movement during the week of April 19 the index on the base of 1926 moving up from 96.9 to 99.4. Increases were shown both in the eastern and western divisions, while a sharp gain was recorded in the movement of merchandise. Traffic from the first of the year to the week under review was 870,474 cars against 755,661 in the same period of 1940.

Wholesale prices were steady in the third week of April, the index remaining at 86.5. One year ago the standing was 83.2, a gain of 4 per cent having been indicated. Compared with the preceding week, gains were recorded in four groups, including crop products, textiles, non-metallic minerals and chemicals. These advances were offset by recessions in animal products, wood and paper and non-ferrous metals. Sensitive commodities were buoyant again, the index of 18 series rising from 70.7 to 71.6. Gains were shown in manufacturing materials and foodstuffs.

High-grade bond prices were steady in the week of April 19. The adjusted index of bank clearings receded 1.5 per cent to 108.3. The gain over the same week of last year was 7.1 per cent. Common stock prices dropped nearly 2 per cent, a decline of 26 per cent. having been shown from the same week of 1940. Some gain was recorded in speculative trading over the preceding week.

A weekly index representing the average fluctuations in the above-mentioned factors, was 111.2 in the week of April 19, against 111.1 in the preceding week, a minor gain having been indicated. The standing one year ago was 106.3; the increase in the twelve-month period consequently was 4.6 per cent.

A Weekly Index with Six Components on Basis 1926-100

Week Ending	Car load-ings	Whole-sale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields 1	Bank Clear-ings 2	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index 3
April 19, 1941	99.4	86.5	144.7	108.3	71.4	25.0	111.2
April 12, 1941	86.9	86.5	144.7	110.0	72.8	19.9	111.0
April 20, 1940	83.4	83.2	137.8	101.1	96.6	119.1	106.3

1. Present value of a fixed net income in perpetuity from Dominion long-term bonds.
2. Bank clearings were smoothed by taking a three weeks moving average for the purpose of eliminating irregular fluctuations. Totals for Ottawa were eliminated for all weeks shown owing to incomparability introduced by the operations of the Bank of Canada.
3. The weighting of the six major factors is determined from the standard deviation from the long-term trend of each, based on data for the period from January 1919 to August, 1936. The weighting, therefore, represents not an attempt to give the relative importance of the factors but to place them on an equal footing by equating the tendency toward fluctuation. The long-term trend determined from the half-yearly data in the inter-war period has been eliminated from the composite and the resulting index expressed as a percentage of the average during the year 1926.

Domestic Exports in March

Canada's domestic exports in March were valued at \$101,616,064 as compared with \$82,719,395 in March, 1940. The total for the first three months of 1941 was \$288,134,784 as compared with \$243,898,474 in the same period of 1940. Exports of foreign produce in March this year totalled \$1,076,608 compared with \$745,745, in March 1940, while during the first quarter of 1941 the value was \$4,043,690 compared with \$2,734,574 in the same period of 1940. The foregoing figures do not include gold.

Leading domestic exports in March follow, with 1940 figures in brackets; wheat, \$9,794,585(\$8,141,245); wheat flour \$2,011,813(\$2,864,163); fish, \$2,260,484(\$2,237,305); furs, \$1,165,186(\$1,400,212); meats, \$3,221,688(\$5,654,067); planks and boards, \$5,061,055 (\$3,743,494); wood pulp, \$5,987,038(\$3,547,991); newsprint, \$10,811,336(\$8,984,203); automobiles and parts, \$9,732,404(\$2,227,520).

Leading domestic exports during the first quarter of 1941 were as follows, with totals for the like period in brackets: wheat, \$21,624,648(\$23,166,647); wheat flour, \$5,255,279(\$7,612,248); fish, \$8,636,345(\$7,565,372); furs, \$4,982,967(\$5,314,320); meats, \$17,580,861(\$16,528,721); planks and boards, \$14,241,607(\$10,835,607); wood pulp, \$17,679,227(\$11,267,682); newsprint, \$30,898,378(\$27,012,093); automobiles and parts, \$24,312,187(\$6,840,242).

Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on April 18 was 473,146,658 bushels compared with 474,011,149 on April 11 and 304,355,027 on the corresponding date last year. The wheat stocks in elevators in Canada on the latest date totalled 436,123,150 bushels, while the amount of Canadian wheat in the United States was 37,023,508 bushels.

Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending April 18, the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 4,127,304 bushels, compared with 2,430,304 for the corresponding week in 1940. The accumulated total for the period from August 1, 1940 to April 18, 1941 was 99,380,517 bushels compared with 108,919,273 a year ago.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending April 18 totalled 4,455,092 bushels compared with 3,516,238 in the previous week and 1,101,613 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, figures within brackets being those for 1940: Manitoba, 202,366(129,414); Saskatchewan, 1,788,132(622,051); Alberta, 2,474,594(350,148).

Marketings in the three provinces for the thirty-seven weeks ending April 18 totalled 350,889,952 bushels compared with 384,785,927 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Marketings follow by provinces, with 1940 figures in brackets: Manitoba, 45,451,149(50,865,181); Saskatchewan, 182,793,107(214,309,505); Alberta, 122,645,696(119,611,241).

Monthly Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in March

Financing of sales of new and used motor vehicles in Canada during March exceeded by 25 per cent in number and 38 per cent in amount of financing the number and financed value of vehicles financed in the same month a year ago. Volume for March showed 15,838 units financed for \$7,480,285, compared with 12,682 vehicles for \$5,410,676 in March last year.

New vehicle financing was higher by 15 per cent in number and 29 per cent in amount, 4,026 new models being financed for \$3,352,549 in March, 1941, compared with 3,508 units for \$2,590,162 in the same month a year ago. Most substantial gains were shown for eastern sections of the country, although volume was higher in British Columbia also.

Increases in used vehicle financing amounted to 29 per cent in number and 46 per cent in amount of financing, 11,812 vehicles being financed for \$4,127,736 in March, as against 9,174 units for \$2,820,514 in the same month last year. All regions of the country recorded gains over March last year.

Cigarette Releases at High Level in March

The number of cigarettes released for consumption in March was higher than in any other month since May, 1940. The index for March this year on the base of 1935- 39 equalling 100 was 151.5 as compared with 127.9 in the preceding month, an advance of 18.5 per cent having been recorded. The index for the same month last year was 116.7.

The sale of cigars showed a decline in March from February, the index dropping from 182.5 to 151.9. The index however, showed an increase of 24.7 per cent over the same month last year when the standing was 121.8. A marked increase was recorded in the release of raw leaf tobacco, the index rising from 49.1 to 62.5. A decline was shown from March 1940 when the index was 69.6.

The index of the release of tobacco in March in its different forms advanced over 18 points from February to 150.7 in the month under review while the index for March 1940 was 116.7.

Production of Concentrated Milk in March

The combined production of all items of concentrated milk in March was 15,885,673 pounds, an increase of 32 per cent over the previous month and 27 per cent over the corresponding month last year. For the first quarter of 1941 production amounted to 40,419,078 pounds compared with 31,650,676 in the corresponding period of 1940.

Births, Deaths and Marriages

Births registered in 67 Canadian cities and towns in March totalled 8,662, deaths, 4,752 and marriages 3,062 as compared with 7,944 births, 4,606 deaths and 3,192 marriages in March last year, showing increases of nine per cent in births, three per cent in deaths and a decrease of four per cent in marriages.

Births registered in these cities during the first quarter of 1941 totalled 24,826, deaths 14,681 and marriages 10,296 as against 21,856 births, 13,719 deaths and 9,685 marriages during the corresponding months of 1940. This comparison shows increases of 13½ per cent in births, seven per cent in deaths and six per cent in marriages.

Factory Sales of Milk Powders

Factory sales of milk powders in March were valued at \$253,042, according to returns received from the 43 manufacturing plants. During the first three months of 1941 sales totalled \$549,599.

Railway Revenues in January

Canadian railways reported earnings for January of \$36,112,595 as against \$30,495,689 for January, 1940. This was an increase of \$5,616,906 or 18.4 per cent, and with an increase in operating expenses of \$3,368,721 the operating income was increased by \$1,722,057 or from \$3,372,892 to \$5,094,949.

Freight traffic measured in revenue ton miles increased by 12.2 per cent and passenger traffic was heavier than in 1940 by 39.4 per cent. Total pay roll increased by \$1,317,650 or 8.1 per cent, for an increase in the number of employees from 119,264 or by 6.2 per cent.

Consumption of Coke in 1939

The apparent consumption of coke in Canada during 1939 amounted to 3,118,382 tons compared with 2,700,176 in 1938. Production of coke, including petroleum coke, totalled 2,476,427 tons and imports entered for consumption amounted to 659,783 tons, making an available supply of 3,136,210 tons. However, exports and re-exports totalled 84,323 tons and producers' stocks decreased 66,495 tons, leaving 3,118,382 tons as the quantity available for use in Canada during the year.

The distribution of this tonnage was as follows: Maritimes, 398,790 tons; Quebec, 500,502 tons; Ontario, 2,011,859 tons, and the Western Provinces 207,231 tons. This calculation does not take into consideration any interprovincial shipments of coke or

any changes in stocks held by dealers or users as no records are available concerning such movements.

Hosiery and Knitted Goods Industries

There was a considerable increase in the activities of the hosiery and knitted goods industry during the year 1939. The value of goods produced was greater than at any time since 1929, the aggregate being \$57,669,805. As compared with the previous year, the gross value of production increased by \$8,164,331 or 16.5 per cent. The number of employees was 21,312 and the salaries and wages paid \$17,778,485, the latter being the highest recorded in the history of the industry. Employment was 6.4 per cent higher than in 1938 and salaries and wages 10.1 per cent higher.

All hosiery made in the industry was valued at \$28,329,941, hosiery of silk and of silk mixtures, chiefly silk, with a value of \$17,373,886 being responsible for about 61 per cent of that amount. The output of underwear, both of combination and separate garments, represented a value of \$12,936,977. Underwear of cotton, or of cotton mixtures, chiefly cotton, accounted to \$7,228,615, or about 56 per cent of the all underwear total. Knitted outerwear was produced to the value of \$9,716,366.

Yarns of various kinds, particularly cotton, woollen, worsted, botany, silk and artificial silk, comprise the greater proportion of all the materials used. In 1939 the consumption of all yarns was about 26,318,376 pounds valued at \$17,061,268, or approximately 62.3 per cent of the cost of all materials used.

Imports of hosiery and knitted goods decreased in value from \$1,837,707 in 1938 to \$1,758,660 in 1939. Exports were \$3,445,715 in 1938 as against \$3,474,428 in 1939.

Fisheries of Canada in 1939

The total value of production of the fisheries of Canada for the year 1939 was \$40,075,922 compared with \$40,492,976 in 1938 and \$38,976,294 in 1937. These totals represent the value of the product as marketed, whether sold for consumption fresh, domestically prepared or factory made.

The annual report for 1939 has just been completed and contains in great detail the statistics of catch and of the products marketed in fresh state or domestically prepared. The price of the volume is 35 cents.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Summary of Canada's Exports, March (10 cents).
2. Domestic Exports by Principal Countries, March (10 cents).
3. Geographical Distribution of the Manufacturing Industries, 1938 (25 cents).
4. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, March (10 cents).
5. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
6. The Miscellaneous Iron and Steel Industry, 1939 (25 cents).
7. Fisheries Statistics of Canada, 1939 (35 cents).
8. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices, (10 cents).
9. Monthly Financing of Motor Vehicles Sales in March, (10 cents).
10. The Hosiery, Knitted Goods and Fabric Glove & Mitten Industries, 1939 (25 cents).
11. Report on the Factory Sales of Milk Powders, March (10 cents).
12. Production of Concentrated Milk, March (10 cents).
13. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
14. Car Loadings (10 cents).
15. Consumption of Coke, 1939 (25 cents).
16. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, January (10 cents).



1010729894