

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

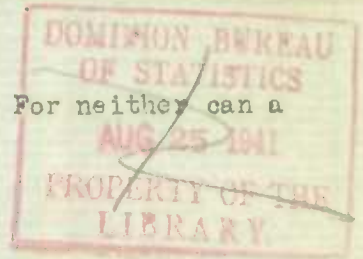
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Weekly Quotation

Time glides by with constant movement, not unlike a stream. For neither can a stream stay its course, nor can the fleeting hour - Ovid -



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.

The six indexes and the composite are shown here on the base of 1926, despite the fact that the index of carloadings is reported elsewhere on the new base of 1935-1939. Notes on the indexes follow:

The railway traffic movement showed minor recession in the week of August 16th despite the expansion in the eastern division. The index on the base of 1926 was 104.9 against 106.9 in the preceding week. The gain over the same week of last year, however, was 12.4 p.c., and traffic in the present year has been far in excess of the corresponding weeks of 1940. The total cars loaded this year amounted to 1,932,000 cars. According to preliminary calculations, business operations in July were not greatly changed from the preceding month. Marked advances were recorded in mineral production and in forestry.

Wholesale prices showed further advance in the second week of August, the index advancing from 91.2 in the preceding week to 91.4. Gains were shown in crop and animal products, textiles and non-metallic minerals, while other main groups remained unchanged. Sensitive commodities also recorded some gain in the week under review, manufacturing materials and foodstuffs participating in the advance.

The adjusted index of bank clearings rose five points to 115.2. Common stock prices showed recession, the index on the base of 1926 reacting from 74.5 to 73.8. Speculative trading was also at a lower level. Bond prices were steady, an appreciable advance having been shown over last year.

The weekly index based on the above-mentioned factors rose from 114.8 to 115.1. The standing one year ago was 104.4, an increase of 10.3 p.c. having been indicated.

A Weekly Index with Six Components on the basis 1926=100

Week Ending	Car loadings	Whole-sale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields ¹	Bank Clearings ²	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index ³
August 15, 1941	104.9	91.4	144.9	115.2	73.8	18.4	115.1
August 9, 1941	106.9	91.2	144.9	110.2	74.5	34.3	114.8
August 17, 1940	93.3	82.3	138.5	91.8	74.5	16.3	104.4

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 trend. 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.

Wheat Stocks in Store

Stocks of Canadian wheat on August 15 totalled 463,008,305 bushels compared with 464,197,157 on August 8 and 284,574,245 on the corresponding date last year. Elevator stocks aggregated 431,529,744 bushels compared with 432,749,672 a week ago and 253,952,959 a year ago. Canadian wheat in the United States amounted to 31,478,561 bushels compared with 31,447,485 on August 8 and 30,621,286 on the same date in 1940.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week of August 15 the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 3,522,783 bushels compared with 1,051,383 on the corresponding date last year. The total for the first two weeks of the present crop year was 5,983,165 bushels compared with 2,566,005 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Receipts of wheat in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending August 15 amounted to 2,507,048 bushels compared with 894,869 in the previous week and 4,510,648 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, with 1940 totals in brackets: Manitoba, 785,133(1,495,460) bushels; Saskatchewan, 972,463(1,682,347); Alberta, 749,452(1,332,841). Marketings in the three provinces for the first two weeks of the present crop year totalled 3,401,917 bushels compared with 6,916,965 in the like period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces, with 1940 figures in brackets: Manitoba, 1,019,088(1,658,166) bushels; Saskatchewan, 1,158,036(2,790,237); Alberta, 1,224,795(2,468,562).

Domestic Exports of Wheat Flour in July

The July exports of Canadian wheat flour recorded a sharp advance, totalling 1,921,655 barrels valued at \$7,740,306 compared with 313,864 valued at \$1,250,957 in the same month last year. The average export price was \$4.03 compared with \$3.99.

Exports during the seven months ending July were also sharply higher, aggregating \$7,383,795 barrels valued at \$28,177,899 compared with 4,065,870 barrels valued at \$16,173,935 in the corresponding period of 1940. The average export price was \$3.82, compared with \$3.98.

Domestic Export of Wheat in July

Canada's domestic exports of wheat advanced to 19,346,333 bushels valued at \$16,284,165 from 11,867,516 bushels valued at \$10,072,905 in July, 1940. During the seven months of the calendar year 1941 the exports rose to 118,367,659 bushels valued at \$99,011,655 from 79,569,798 bushels valued at \$70,995,148 in the corresponding period of 1940.

Canada's Domestic Exports in July

A further substantial gain was recorded in the value of Canada's domestic exports in July to \$169,685,000 as compared with \$100,782,000 in July, 1940. This was the highest point reached in any month since December 1925 when the total was \$175,555,228. The seven-month total this year was \$882,051,000, exceeding by \$223,130,000 the total reported in the corresponding period of 1940. These figures do not include gold.

July domestic exports to the United Kingdom advanced to \$70,216,000 from \$41,654,000 in July last year, while the total for the seven months of this year increased to \$387,726,000 from \$289,625,000 in the like period of 1940. Exports to the United States were also higher in July, the total being \$56,389,000 compared with \$41,684,000 a year ago, while the total for the seven months of 1941 rose to \$311,806,000 from \$233,534,000 a year ago.

Exports to other leading countries in July were as follows, with 1940 figures in brackets: British South Africa, \$3,776,000(\$5,785,000); British India with Burma, \$6,228,000(\$373,000); Straits Settlements, \$1,889,000(\$407,000); British West Indies, \$3,221,000(\$1,401,000); Newfoundland, \$3,590,000(\$1,368,000); Australia, \$4,076,000(\$2,805,000); Brazil, \$1,029,000(\$334,000); Egypt, \$11,816,000(\$3,000); China, \$827,000(\$142,000); New Zealand, \$704,000(\$389,000).

Certain leading domestic exports were as follows in July, with 1940 figures in brackets: wheat, \$16,284,165(\$10,072,905); wheat flour, \$7,740,306(\$1,250,957); fish, \$2,451,264(\$2,321,018); furs, \$1,726,029(\$766,312); meats, \$6,263,778(\$4,360,540); cheese, \$3,224,648(\$2,669,635); planks and boards, \$7,093,817(\$6,643,615); wood pulp, \$7,901,704(\$6,099,340); newsprint, \$14,452,796(\$15,221,529); automobiles and parts, \$22,337,868(\$5,274,505).

Leading exports during the seven months of 1941 follow, 1940 figures being in brackets: wheat, \$99,011,655(\$70,995,148); wheat flour, \$28,177,899(\$16,173,935); fish, \$18,218,580(\$15,608,004); furs, \$10,525,309(\$9,168,389); meats, \$47,687,861(\$35,228,289); cheese, \$4,820,791(\$6,006,322); planks and boards, \$36,043,022(\$32,193,575); wood pulp, \$46,202,658(\$32,668,491); newsprint, \$83,630,127(\$83,780,962); automobiles and parts, \$87,427,535(\$24,384,805).

Production of Concentrated Milk

The Canadian production of concentrated milk products recorded a further advance in July, the total being 26,974,684 pounds compared with 22,733,294 in July, 1940. Those successive monthly gains have resulted in a seven-month production this year of 148,109,412 pounds compared with 118,491,708 in the like period of 1940.

Processed Cheese Output

The production of processed cheese in Canada continues to increase and in 1940 amounted to 16,914,252 pounds valued at \$3,943,106 compared with 15,567,067 valued at \$3,478,037 in 1939. This product is made from Canadian cheddar cheese, the process consisting of grinding the cheese, heating it in a jacketed container with agitation and filling it into the proper receptacles.

Cash Income from the Sale of Farm Products

Cash income from the sale of farm products in the Prairie Provinces during the first half of 1941 totalled \$155,540,000 as compared with \$89,594,000 in the corresponding period of 1940 and an average of \$76,305,000 for the five years, 1936 to 1940. Of the increase of \$65,946,000 in income in the first half of 1941, \$51,066,000 was attributable to greater sales of crops, chiefly resulting from the deferred marketing of the 1940 wheat crop, while an additional \$14,880,000 was received from the sale of live stock and animal products. Increases in the volume of hogs sold, and higher prices for beef cattle, dairy products and eggs were largely responsible for the rise in cash income from livestock.

The greatest increase in cash income during the first six months of 1941 over the same period of 1940 occurred in Saskatchewan, where the increase was \$29,786,000 or 87.7 per cent. In Alberta the increase was \$26,617,000 or 69.5 per cent. Cash income in Manitoba was up \$9,543,000 or 55.0 per cent over that of the first 6 months of 1940. The fact that a larger than normal proportion of the 1940 wheat crop was marketed during the first 6 months of 1941 led to a more uniform monthly cash income for the crop year 1940-41 than would generally be the case. By months, cash income increased from a low of \$20,298,000 in February to a high of \$33,331,000 for June in the Prairie Provinces as a whole.

In view of the reduction which may be expected in deliveries of wheat during the last six months of 1941, compared with the corresponding period of 1940, cash income during that period will probably be lower than a year previously. Increased marketings of live stock and live-stock products during the balance of 1941 at somewhat higher prices will offset to some extent the decline in income from grains, but it appears probable that for the calendar year 1941, the total cash income of the Prairie Provinces will be approximately the same as that of 1940.

Employment Situation at June 1

For the fifth consecutive month the trend of employment in Canada was upward at June 1. The increase in the reported staffs, though seasonal in character, was decidedly above the average for that date in the years since 1920, being, in fact, the largest advance recorded in any month in this period of over twenty years.

Returns were received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 12,535 establishments whose employees aggregated 1,528,834 at the beginning of June as compared with 1,451,322 at May 1. This gain of over 77,500 workers, or 5.3 per cent reflected the establishment of a new all-time high in industrial activity in the Dominion. On the first of June last year 12,091 employers then making returns had employed 1,183,210 men and women.

There was a very general improvement in industrial employment at the beginning of June this year, increased activity, on the whole, being recorded by establishments in all provinces, in each of the eight cities for which statistics are segregated, and in most industries.

The largest gains reported in the various industrial groups were those of 29,230 employees in manufacturing and 26,532 employees in construction and maintenance. Within the former, there was widespread activity; the additions to the staffs were most pronounced in the pulp and paper, food, chemical, non-ferrous metal, lumber and iron and steel divisions, but the movement was also decidedly upward in many other branches of manufacturing. In many industries new highs were established by the latest returns.

The non-manufacturing groups also reported substantial gains; these were mainly of a seasonal character, but in most cases they exceeded the increase indicated as normal at June 1 in the period, 1921-1940. Construction provided work for a large number of additional employees, while logging, mining, communications, services and trade were also much more active.

In the last week in May the earnings of the 1,528,834 employees for whom statistics are available amounted to \$38,622,330. The same establishments reported that 1,451,322 workers had been paid \$36,593,655 during the same week of the previous month. These figures are subject to revision. The average per capita earnings advanced from \$25.21 in the one week in April to \$25.26 in the corresponding week in May.

Farm Family Living Costs

The 1941 spring index number of Canadian farm family living costs issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the base 1935-1939=100 showed a further increase of 1.8 per cent to 112.3. This was the highest level since 1930, and it compared with a depression low of 95.7 recorded in 1933. Regional indexes showed similar movements between the fall of 1940 and the spring of 1941, the eastern series gaining 2.1 per cent to 112.9 while the corresponding western index moved up 1.4 per cent to 111.4. Over the same period an index of Canadian urban living costs, stiffened 2.5 per cent to 108.6 (1935-1939=100) and an index of Canadian farm product prices at wholesale advanced 10.8 per cent to 69.5 (1926=100). From August 1939 to April 1941 farm family living costs advanced 13.2 per cent as compared with a 7.7 per cent increase for urban living costs.

Among the various groups price changes between August 1940 and April 1941 were relatively narrow with the exception of foods. For foods the Dominion index advanced 5.6 per cent to 113.8 between August 1940 and April 1941, with the eastern regional index moving up 6.3 per cent to 115.0 and the western index 4.5 per cent to 111.0. Since the fall of 1939, the Dominion food series has increased 18.9 per cent.

Between August and April, a Dominion farm index of fuel prices moved up 3.6 per cent to 105.8, this gain being more than one half the 6.2 per cent advance accumulated after the outbreak of war. Since August 1939, there has been a 7.9 per cent increase in the eastern fuel index and 3.9 per cent in the western series.

Production of Automobiles in July

Production in Canada of motor vehicles for domestic use and for export, and including military vehicles, amounted to 24,654 units during July compared with 25,753 in the previous month and 14,469 in July, 1940. During the seven months ending July a total of 177,525 units were produced as compared with 125,415 in the corresponding period of 1940.

Fisheries of Prince Edward Island

The product of the fisheries of Prince Edward Island in 1940 had a total marketed value of \$714,870 compared with \$950,412 in 1939. The reduction is due in part to the decreased lobster catch, which variety constitutes by far the most important of the commercial fishes taken by fishermen in that province.

In 1940 the catch of lobsters totalled 55,599 cwt., compared with 69,977 in the preceding year, while the value of the products as marketed in shell, as lobster meat or as canned, was \$382,110 compared with \$589,669. Other kinds of fish of importance commercially are cod, smelts and herring, smelts alone of the three showing an increase in catch and in marketed value as well.

Hog Production in the Prairie Provinces

Hog production in the Prairie Provinces continues to increase and on June 1, 1941, there were 2,992,400 as compared with 2,660,800 on the corresponding date last year, a gain of 12.5 per cent. The 1941 figure is the highest recorded in the Prairie Provinces. Totals follow by provinces, with 1940 figures in brackets: Manitoba, 502,700(498,700); Saskatchewan, 836,900(791,000); Alberta, 1,652,800(\$1,371,100).

The continued upward trend in hog production has resulted from relatively strong hog prices in relation to the price of feed. An increase of 32.5 per cent in the numbers of sows bred to farrow during the period June to November 1941 as compared with the same period of 1940 indicates that increased marketings will continue throughout 1941 and in the early months of 1942.

Divorces Granted in 1940

There were 2,369 divorces granted in Canada during 1940, an increase of 301 or 14.6 per cent over 1939. Of the number granted in 1940, 2,307 were granted by the courts of seven provinces, while 62 were granted by the Dominion Parliament to petitioners whose legal domicile was in the Province of Quebec.

Motor Vehicle Registration Revenues

Revenues derived from the registration of motor vehicles, chauffeurs' drivers' licenses, etc. and gasoline taxes aggregated \$85,479,893 in 1940 as compared with \$79,915,492 in 1939. Motor vehicle registrations, drivers' licenses, etc. accounted for \$28,050,084 compared with \$26,391,152 and gasoline taxes \$56,179,173 compared with \$51,954,360 in 1939.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Survey of Hog Production, Prairie Provinces, June 1, 1941 (10 cents).
 2. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, June (10 cents).
 3. The Employment Situation, June (10 cents).
 4. Car Loadings (10 cents).
 5. The Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
 6. Fisheries of Prince Edward Island, 1940 (10 cents).
 7. Automobile Production, July (10 cents).
 8. Farm Family Living Costs, Spring Series, 1941 (15 cents).
 9. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
 10. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
 11. The Cotton and Jute Bag Industry, 1940 (15 cents).
 12. Cash Income from the Sale of Farm Products in the Prairie Provinces, January to June, 1936-1941 (10 cents).
 13. Provincial Revenues from Motor Vehicle Registrations, etc. and Gasoline Taxes, 1940 (10 cents).
 14. Divorces Granted in 1940 (10 cents).
 15. Processed Cheese Industry, 1940 (10 cents).
 16. Production of Concentrated Milk, July (10 cents).
 17. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
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