11-D-01 Published by Authority of the Hon. James A. Mackinnon, M.P., Minister of Trade and Commerce DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - OTTAWA BUSINESS STATISTICS BRANCH Number 12 Volume 11 Dominion Statistician: S. A. Cudmore, M.A. (Oxon.), F.S.S., F.R.S.C. Sydney B. Smith, M.A. Chief, Business Statistics Branch:

BECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN CANADA DURING 1944 COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING YEAR

Economic activity was greater in Canada during 1944 than in any other year. The index of the physical volume of business based on factors representing the trend of production and distribution averaged 236.8 compared with 235.9 in the preceding year. Productive operations reached a new high point in 1944, despite the recession in the later months of the year. The spectacular advance from the outbreak of hostilities to about one year ago resulted in a level of operations far in advance of any other period in Canada's history. The index in the last month of the year showed a slight increase over the preceding month, the year ending on an optimistic note.

The deposit liabilities of the chartered banks recorded a marked advance during the war period, reaching a new high level at the beginning of December last year. The average for the first eleven months of 1944 was \$4,667 million against 3,969 million, an increase of no less than 17.6 p.c. Wholesale prices were relatively table during 1944. The index, however, was 22 p.c. above the average for the preceding year. The marked advance between September 1939 and the latter part of 1943 re-established the parity with the base. The index passed through the base line in July 1943 and has since fluctuated slightly above that level, the index averaging 102.5 during 1944. High-grade bond prices were relatively steady during the year, an upward drift having been discernible. The index of bond yields consequently showed recession in 1944 from the preceding year. The index on the base of 1935-39 averaged 97.1 against 97.5, a decline of 0.4 p.c. Bond prices have been relatively steady since the beginning of 1940, the levels of 1943 and 1944 being slightly above the three preceding years.

Speculative factors including the prices of common stocks and the number of shares traded on the stock exchanges recorded less fluctuation in 1943 and 1944 than in most other periods of similar duration. An index of common stock prices on the five year pre-war base was 83.8 in 1944 against 83.5 in the preceding year, a gain of 0.4 p.c.

Production: The components of the index of the physical volume of business were uneven in 1944 compared with the preceding year. Mineral and manufacturing production were at slightly lower levels. The construction industry was more successful in obtaining new business. The distribution of commodities was in a considerably heavier volume than in the preceding year. The consumption of firm power showed a decline of 1.6 p.c.

The index of mineral production based on 15 factors receded from 242 to 226, a drop of 6.5 p.c. Coal production was 4.6 p.c. less than in 1943 while the decline in gold receipts at the Mint was nearly 21 p.c. It is estimated that the value of mineral production was \$482.3 million in 1944 against \$527.9 million in the preceding year.

Manufacturing: The index of manufacturing production which had been 293.9 in 1943 receded 2 p.c. to 292.3 in 1944. The gain in cattle slaughterings was 24.7 p.c. and hog slaughterings rose 22.2 p.c. While the output of creamery butter receded 4.3 p.c., factory cheese rose 8.3 p.c. The total output of cheese in 1944 was 178.2 million pounds against 164.6 million in the preceding year. The release of cigars and cigarettes showed a slight percentage increase over 1943. The total releases of cigarettes were 11,666 million while the cigars made available numbered 197.8 million. Due to shortage in the labor force the cotton textile industry was less active in 1944. The raw cotton consumption was reduced from 180 million pounds to 161 million.

The output of newsprint showed a slight gain in 1944, the total having been 2,991,782 tons compared with 2,982,797. The primary iron and steel industry was more active, the output of steel ingots showing an increase of nearly one per cent while pig iron production was 5.4 p.c. greater. The output of coke rose from 3.5 million to 4.0 million tons, a gain of 12.8 p.c.

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Construction and Power: The new business obtained by the construction industry recorded a marked expansion. Contracts awarded rose 41.7 p.c. while building permits in 58 municipalities was 55 p.c. greater. Contracts and permits were in much greater amount in 1944, but the index of employment indicated that actual operations were at a somewhat lower level than in the preceding year.

The consumption of firm power was 35,151 million kilowatt hours compared with 35,719 million in the preceding year. The production in December was 3,356 million kilowatt hours against 3,560 million in the same month of the preceding year.

Distribution: Internal trade was considerably more active in 1944. The index of wholesale sales in the first eleven months averaged 187.3 against 167.6 a gain of nearly 12 p.c. The index of retail sales was 167.4 against 154.0 a gain of 8.7 p.c.

The revenue freight carried one mile by the two principal railways rose from 51,844 million tons to 54,421 million a gain of 5 p.c. The increase in car loadings was 5.3 p.c., the total for 1944 having been 3,651,000.

The export trade recorded a marked expansion in 1944. The total was \$3,483 million, a gain of 16 p.c. over 1943. As the imports showed only minor percentage gain the active balance of trade exclusive of gold rose more than 36 p.c. to \$1,724 million. The net exports of non-monetary gold receded from \$142 million to \$109.7 million.

Employment: The general index of employment despite the recession in war production was nearly maintained in 1944. The index dropped, however, from 184.1 to 183.0, a decline of 0.6 p.c. Recession was shown in manufacturing and mining while considerable decline was noted in construction. Increases were recorded in logging and trade, the index for the latter rising from 155 to 164.

Banking: Circulating media in the hands of the public rose from \$754 million to \$908 million a gain of 20.5 p.c. Cash and cheque payments in the eleven menths were estimated at \$78.7 million against \$68.2 billion in the same period of 1943, a gain of 15.4 p.c. Current loans on the other hand showed a decline of nearly 4 p.c., the average in the first 11 months of 1944 having been \$1,008 million.

Dominion Finance: The total revenues of the Dominion Government during the first nine months of the present fiscal year, extending from April to December, showed a decline of 1.2 p.c., the total in the recent period having been \$1,940 million. War expenditures receded 12.6 p.c. to a total of \$2,422 million. The expenditures under the United Nations Mutual Aid Act rose nearly 21 p.c. to \$674.5 million. Ordinary expenditures were 16.6 p.c. greater at \$528 million.

National Income: The national income of Canada on a tentative footing, moving up to \$9,186 million in 1944, exceeded all previous records. The increase over 1943 was 5.3 p.c., the total in that year having been \$8,724 million. Income originating in agriculture showed a marked gain, while increases in manufacturing and government were of lesser proportions.

The maximum monthly income was reached in October last year when agricultural marketings attained a high level. The standing in December was \$766.3 million compared with \$777.7 million in November, The total in the last month of the year was below the level of December 1943 computed at \$785.3 million.

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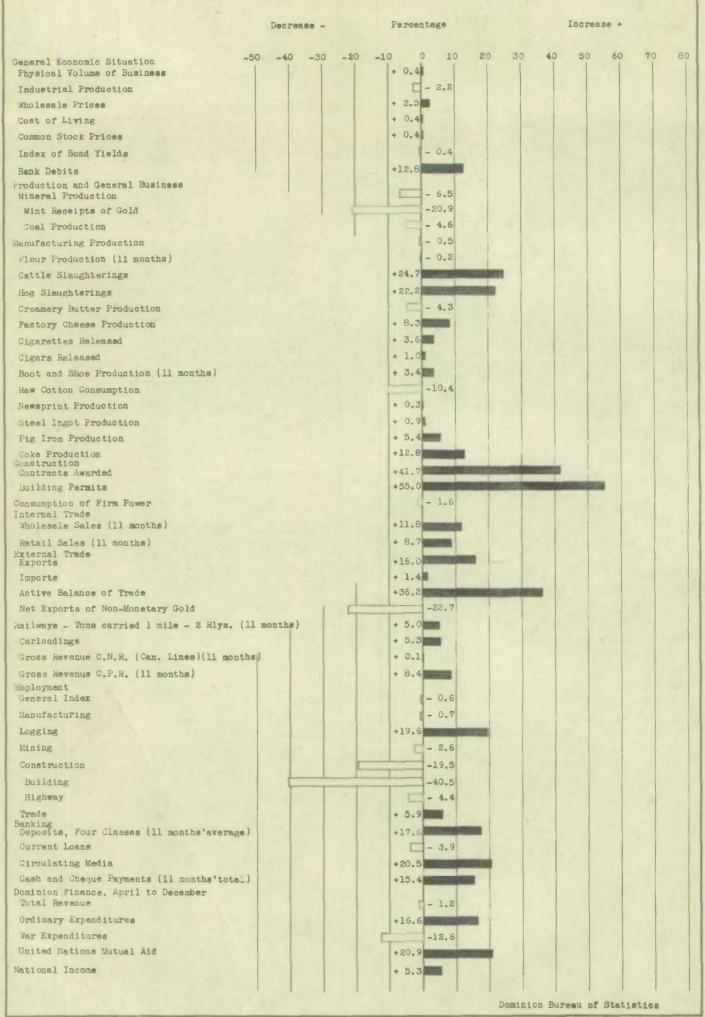
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Minister of Trade and Commerce

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN CANADA

in 1944 as compared with the preceding year.



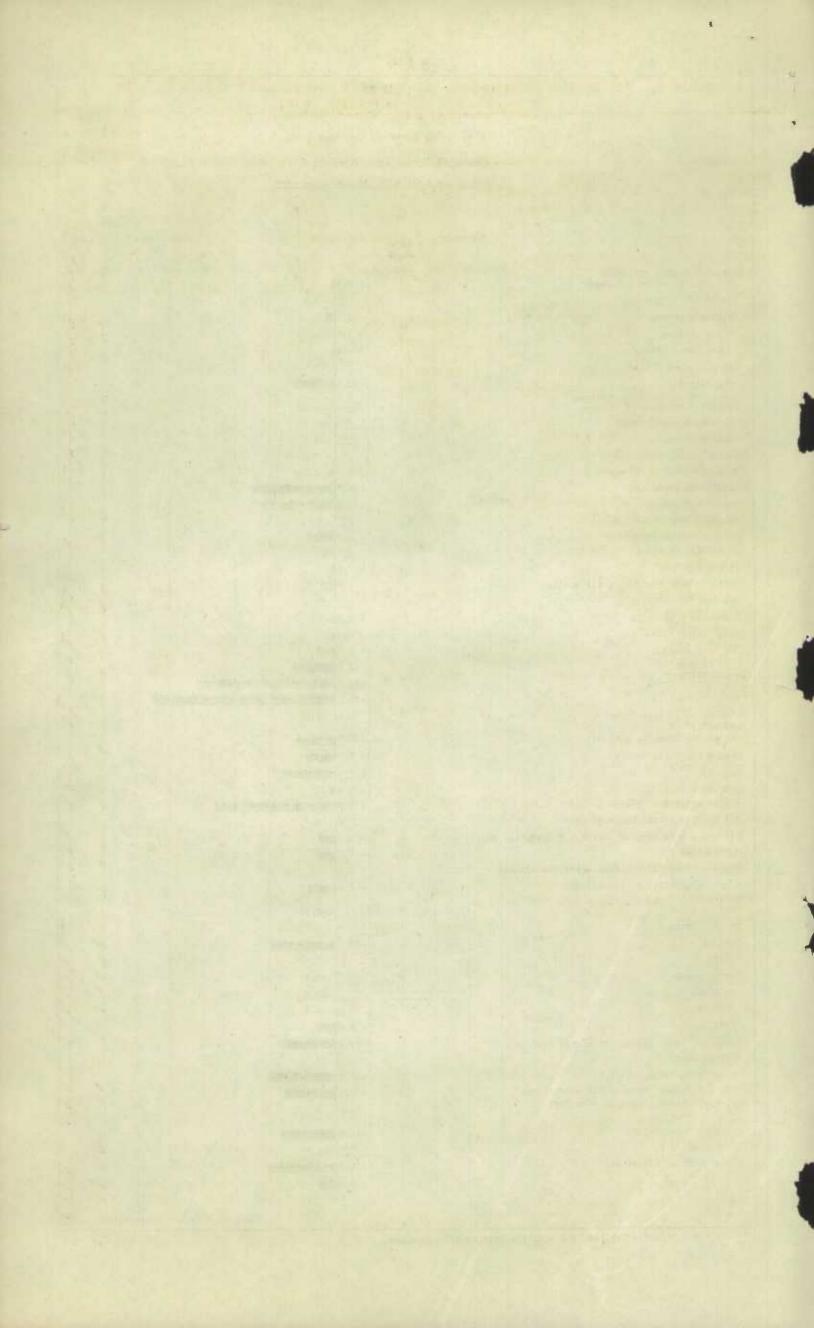
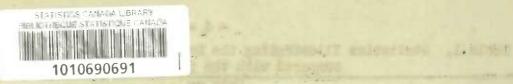


Table 1. Statistics Illustrating the Economic Situation of Canada in 1944

Unit or   Base	compared with the preceding year.					
Period						
General Economic Situation			1944	1943		
Index of Physical Volume of Business   1935-39-9100   286.8   235.9   + 0.4   Index of Industrial Production   1935-39-9100   102.5   100.0   + 2.5   Cost of Living   1935-39-9100   118.9   118.4   + 0.4   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   138.9   118.4   + 0.4   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   97.1   97.5   -0.4   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   83.8   83.5   + 0.4   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   83.8   83.5   + 0.4   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   83.8   83.5   + 0.4   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   83.8   83.5   + 0.4   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   83.8   83.5   + 0.4   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   83.8   83.5   + 0.4   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   83.8   83.5   + 0.4   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   83.8   83.5   + 0.4   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   282.2   241.9   - 6.5   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   282.2   241.9   - 6.5   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   282.2   241.9   - 6.5   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   282.2   241.9   - 6.5   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   282.2   241.9   - 6.5   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   282.2   241.9   - 6.5   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   282.2   22.9   23.9   - 6.5   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   282.2   22.9   23.9   - 6.5   Index of Common Stock Prices   1935-39-9100   282.2   22.9   23.9   - 6.5   Index of Common Prices   1935-39-9100   282.2   22.9   23.9   - 6.5   Index of Common Prices   1935-39-910   282.2   23.9   - 6.5   Index of Common Prices   1935-39-910   18	General Economic Situation					
Index of Industrial Production   1935-39-100   267,0   275.0   2.45		1935-39=100	236.8	235,9	+ 0.4	
Cost of Living				273,0	- 2.2	
Index of Domon Stock Prices	Wholesale Prices	1926 = 100	102.5			
Index of Bond Yields						
## Pank Debits	Index of Common Stock Prices	1935-39=100				
Production and General Business   Mineral Froduction   1935-39±100   226.2   241.9   - 8.5			7			
Mineral Production		\$000	60,676,954	53,796,715	+ 12.8	
Goal Receipts at Mint		1075 70, 100	226 2	OFAC	- 65	
Coal Production						
### Manufacturing Production   1935-39=100   22.25   22.501.2635   - 0.2   Cattle Slaughterings   Mo.   2.014.700   1.615.719   22.47   Rog Slaughterings   Mo.   1.615.719   21.47   7.173.556   22.20   Factory Cheese Production   Das.   170.229.872   134.552.649   8.3   Cligars released   Mo.   11.666.420.944   11.266.544.006   3.6   Cligars released   Mo.   197.779.380   155.902.230   1.0   Leather Boots and Shoes (11 months)   Pairs   27.539.975   26.430.481   3.4   Raw cotton consumption   Das.   161.047.106   179.531.143   - 10.4   Paper and Lumber -   Newsprint Production   Tons   2.991.782   2.982.797   0.5   Iron and Steel -   Short Ton   3.024.410   2.996.978   0.9   Steel Ingot Production   Short Ton   3.024.410   2.996.978   0.9   Fig Iron Production   Short Ton   4.001.653   3.548.696   12.8   Construction -   Contracts awarded   \$ 291.961.200   206.103.900   41.7   Contracts awarded   \$ 291.961.200   206.103.900   41.7   Building Permits (58 municipalities)   \$ 95.367.490   61.537.956   65.0   Consumption of firm power   000 K.W.H.   35.150.740   35.718.763   1.6   Internal Trade -						
Flour Production (11 months)						
Cattle Slaughterings						
Hog Slaughterings					+ 24.7	
Factory Cheese Production		No.		7,173,556	+ 22.2	
Cigars released No. 197,779,390 195,902,230 + 1.0 Leather Boots and Shoes (11 months) Raw cotton consumption Paper and Lumber - Newsprint Production Paper and Lumber - Steel Ingot Production Short Ton 3,024,410 2,986,978 + 0.5 Fig Iron Production Short Ton 1,852,828 1,788,265 + 5.4 Coke Production Construction - Contracts awarded Suilding Permits (68 municipalities) 95,387,498 61,587,956 + 56.0 Construction firm power 000 K,W,H. 35,150,740 35,718,763 - 1.6 Internal Trade - Wholesale Sales (11 months) 1935-39=100 187.3 167.6 + 11.8 Retail Sales (11 months) 1935-39=100 187.4 154.0 8.7 External Trade - Exports \$000 3,483,099 \$,001,352 + 16.0 Imports \$000 1,788,999 1,785,077 1 1.4 Active Balance of Trade \$000 + 1,724,200 + 1,266,275 + 35.2 Ret Exports of Non-Monetary Gold \$000,000 109.7 142.00 + 22.7 Realways - Tons carried 1 mile - (11 months) 2 R1ys. 000,000 tons Gross Revenue C.N.R. (Can. Lines) \$294,489,892 271,638,665 + 8.4 Employment - Unadjusted General Index 1926 100 183.0 184.1 - 0.6 Manufacturing 224,5 226.1 - 0.7 Logging 215.8 180.5 19.6 Building 95.3 160.2 40.5 Building 104.5 129.8 100.2 40.5 Building 95.3 160.2 40.5 Building 104.5 129.8 100.2 40.5 Building 104.5 129.8 10.2 40.5 Building 104.5 129.8 100.2 40.5 Building 104.5 129.8 100	Creamery Butter Production	Lbs.				
Cigars released						
Leather Boots and Shoes (11 months) Pairs 27,339,975 22,330,481 * 3.4 Raw ootton consumption   Lbs.   161,047,106   179,831,143 - 10.4 Paper and Lumber - Newsprint Production   Tons 2,991,782 2,982,797						
Raw cotton consumption   Los.   161,047,106   179,831,143   = 10.4						
Paper and Lumber - Newsprint Production   Tons   2,991,782   2,982,797   + Q.5						
Newsprint Production   Tons   2,991,782   2,982,797   + 0.5		Los ,	101,047,100	113,001,140	- 10.2	
Iron and Steel -   Steel Ingot Production   Short Ton   3,024,410   2,996,878   + 0.9   Pig Iron Production   Short Ton   1,552,628   1,758,265   + 5.4   Coke Production   Short Ton   1,552,628   1,758,265   + 5.4   Coke Production   Short Ton   4,001,563   3,548,696   + 12.8   Construction -                     Contracts awarded   \$ 291,961,200   206,105,900   + 41.7   Building Fermits (58 municipalities)   \$ 95,387,498   61,537,956   + 55.0   Consumption of firm power   000 K.W.H.   35,150,740   35,718,763   - 1.6   Internal Trade -		Tons	2 991 782	2,982,797	+ 0.3	
Steel Ingot Production		2020	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			
Pig Iron Production Short Ton 1,852,628 1,788,265 + 5.4 Coke Production Short Ton 4,001,563 3,548,696 + 12.8 Construction -		Short Ton	3,024,410	2,996,978	+ 0.9	
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Building Fermits (58 municipalities) \$ 95,387,498 61,537,956 + 55.0 Consumption of firm power				000 107 000		
Consumption of firm power 000 K.W.H. 35,150,740 35,718,763 - 1.6 Internal Trade - Molesale Sales (11 months) 1935-39=100 187.3 167.6 + 11.8 Retail Sales (11 months) 1935-39=100 167.4 154.0 + 8.7 External Trade -						
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Railways - Tons carried 1 mile -						
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### Remployment - Unadjusted  General Index		\$	294,489,892	271,638,665	+ 8.4	
General Index       1926 • 100       183.0       184.1       - 0.6         Manufacturing       224.5       226.1       - 0.7         Logging       215.8       180.5       + 19.6         Mining       154.5       158.6       - 2.6         Construction       104.5       129.8       - 19.5         Building       95.3       160.2       - 40.5         Highway       130.8       136.8       - 4.4         Trade       164.2       155.1       + 5.9         Banking -       Deposits four Classes (11 months average)       \$000       4,666,871       3,969,405       + 17.6         Current Loans       \$000       1,007,566       1,048,065       - 3.9         Circulating Media       \$000,000       908.0       753.8       + 20.5         Cash and Cheque Payments (11 months total)\$000,000       78,742       68,235       + 16.4         Dominion Finance - April to December -       1,940,318,606       1,963,084,877       - 1.2         Ordinary Expenditures       \$ 2,422,378,759       2,772,694,422       - 12.6         War Expenditures       \$ 2,422,378,759       2,772,694,422       - 12.6         United Nations Mutual Aid       674,525,384       558,026,400						
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United Nations Mutual Aid \$ 674,525,384 558,026,400 + 20.9		9				
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	National Income (Tentative Computati	lon) \$000,000				

Twenty items recorded decline, while thirty-four showed increases.



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