Minister of Trade and Commerce DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - OTTAWA BUSINESS STATISTICS BRANCH

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ICONOMIC CONDITIONS IN CANADA DURING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1945 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PHRIOD OF THE PRECEDING YEAR

Six factors indicating the trend of economic conditions averaged highor in the first eight months of 1945 than in the same period of the preceding year. Dominion bond and wholesale prices were at somewhat higher levels, while business operations receded to a lower position.

The index of the physical volume of business averaged 220.9 in the first eight months of 1945, a decline of 8 p.c. from the same period of last year. In the same comparisons the general inder of employment averaged. $2.7 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$. lower at 177.0 . Advances ware shown in the cost-of-living and in commodity prices at wholesale but the increases were of minor proportions. The index of wholesale prices averaged 103, 2 against 102.6. an increase of 0.6 p.c。

A somewhat lower level of selartes and wages paid by industrial concerns was Indicated by the statistics of aggregate payrolis August 1 . Por capita carnings in the week of August 1 were given at $\$ 32.20$ against $\$ 31.66$ in the same week of 1944 .

A gain was recorded in the new business obtained by the construction industry and in building permits. Contracts Awarded were $\$ 266.8$ million, a gain of 27.6 p.c., while building permits were $\$ 84.1$ million, a gain of $27 \mathrm{p}, \mathrm{c}$. The index of omployment in the construction industry averaged 102.3, an increase of 8 p.c. over the same period of 1944.

The output of steel ingots showed a gain of $2.8 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$. while pigiron production dropped from 1.3 million to 1.2 million short tons.

Canada' export trade amounted to $\$ 2,332$ milion in the first eight monthe against $\$ 2,310$ million in the same period of last year, an increase of 1 p.c. Taports ${ }^{3}$ decine was $9 p_{0} c_{0}$ resulting in a considerable gain in the active balance of trade. Tho net exports of non-monetary gold amounted to $\$ 65.5$ miliion against $\$ 76.6 \mathrm{milil} \mathrm{n}$ in the same period of last year.

Retail sales in the first seven months increased $7.7 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$. while wholosale sales incrensed $9.5 p_{0} c$ over the same period of 1944.

Dominion government ordinary expenditures were nearly $\$ 388$ miliion in the first five monthg of the present fiscal year compared with $\$ 270.7 \mathrm{milli} 10 \mathrm{n}$ one yoas Special expenditures, on the other hand, receded from $\$ 1,633 \mathrm{mil11on}$ to $\$ 1,465 \mathrm{mil110n}$. War expenditures dropped from about $\$ 1,282$ million to $\$ 854$ million.

The payment of dividenis, according to unofficial sources, whe at a lower level, the decline having been 1.7 p.c. Interest of payments by the Dominion governm ment amounted to $\$ 153.4$ million in the first five months of the present figcal year compared with $\$ 115.4$ million in the same period of last year.

The s.laughtering of cattle amounted to $1,555,915$ head in the first eight months, a grin of 23.6 p.c. over the same period of last year. Hog slaughterings de crensed in the snme period by 35.6 p.c. from $6,120,701$ head in 1944 to $3,942,707$ in 1945. Some decline was recorded in the production of creamery butter, while a gain of more than 6 p.c. was shown in the output of factcry cheese, the total in the firs eight months of the year having been 129.3 million pounds. The tobacco industry was more active ns mensured by the relense of cigarettes. The total in the first eight months was $9,158 \mathrm{mll11} \mathrm{cn}$ against 7,506 million, a gain of $22 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$. A gain of $6.2 \mathrm{p}, \mathrm{c}$. was shown in the relense of cigars.

The output of nowsprint showed moderate betterment, the tolal having been 2,102,181 tons. As the production in the first eight months of 1944 wes $1,987,540$ tons, an increase if $5.8 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$. was indicated.

Subll whed by Authority of the Hon. Jamen A. Mackinnon, M. P. .
cunder of Frade and Comeze
Fir ECONOMC SITURTO II CATADA
for the Firet Ment Monthe of 1945
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Cost of Living
Common Stock Prices
Index of Bond ILelde
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Coal Production
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Cattle slaughterings
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Creamery Butter Production
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Steel Ingot Production
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Contracts Awarded
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Whie 2 ：－Statistias Iilustrating the Economic Situation of Onada for ine Pirst might Months of 1945 compared with the same period of last year

| Unit or |  | Per cent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
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| Period | 2245 194 | Deciunse |

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Index of Intustinal Eroduction
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Cost of Living
Index of Common Stock Prices
Index of Bond Yigids
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Producticu ana Gcnizal Business
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$1935-39=100$ 1935－39＝100 $1926=100$ 1935－395：00 1935－39＝100 $1935-39=100$ \＄ 000
$1935-39=100$

## Fine ozs．

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$1935-39=100$
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Liss．
tus：
No．
No． Paire Ibs。

Tons
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Short Tor
Short Ton

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$42,812,901$
169，9 1． 677.182 10，750，555 $26 ?_{-4}$
$14,311,272$
1． 555,515

$$
3.9 \cdot 2.707
$$

$213,920,488^{7}$
$123,278,804$
$2,158,0 \% 1,165$
135，236， 087
16，964：888
$10 x_{x}, 3 i 7,851$
$2,102,181$
3． 049.707
－． 232.508
2．638．114

$266,775,500$
Contracts awarded
$\$$
$\$$
$\mathrm{~K}, W_{n} \mathrm{H}_{0}$

84，066，540
$21: 610,331$
$209,117,200+2 \% \cdot 6$ $66.200,907+27.0$ $2^{3} \cdot \mathrm{c}^{7}, 6,150-50$ ？
Consumption of firm power
$000 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{~W}_{n} \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{C}}$
$179.5+9.5$
$160.3+7.7$

Wholesale Shlas（ty montha）
$\begin{array}{ll}1935-39=100 & 196, \epsilon \\ 1935-39=100 & 172.6\end{array}$
External Trade


| $\$ 000$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 000$ |
| $\$ 000$ |
| $\$ 000,000$ |$+$| $2,531,885$ |
| :---: |
| $1,065,510$ |
| $2.256,375$ |
| 65,5 |

Railways ．．．Tcna carried 1 mile
（7months）之 Plys．
000，000 tons
35：582
Onrloartngs
Groes Revanuo U．N．R．（Can。Ines）（7 monthe）\＄
Gross Ruverue O，P R．（7 months）
$2,390,536$
$223,895,000$
$184,428,070$
Irployment ．．．Unadfusted－
Generai Index

> 177.0
> 210.7
> $247=2$
> 147.5
> 102.3
> 89.1
> 118.1

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Bolluing
Mighway
Trade
Banking …


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Circinating Made $\quad \$ 000,000$
ash and onequo pyyments（ 7 months

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\text { Total) } \$ 000,000
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Money supply（ 7 months＇average）$\$ 000,000$
Dominion Finence－April to August－
Total Reveruies

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1，553，020
1，104；079
1007，0

53，683
6，31？

1．006，767，416 387，968，387 853，664，564

1，163．921，560 ．．3， 2 $270.718 .758+43.3$
1．281，799，151－33．4
2 $348.5 \% .095+35 a 0$

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