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Published by Authority of the HON. W. D. EULER, M.P.  
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Price -  
10 cents

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
CENSUS OF INDUSTRY  
MINING, METALLURGICAL AND CHEMICAL BRANCH  
OTTAWA - CANADA

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MONTHLY REPORT

PRODUCTION OF IRON AND STEEL IN CANADA

DECEMBER, 1937.

REVIEW FOR 1937 - Production of pig iron in Canada during 1937 was 32 per cent greater than in the previous year and the output of steel ingots and castings was up 26 per cent. The tonnage of pig iron at 897,855 long tons was the greatest since 1929 when 1,080,160 tons were made, and the output of steel at 1,401,011 tons was higher than in any year since 1918 when the tonnage was 1,372,954.

The demand for primary iron and steel was supported by the general improvement in business and particularly by the advances made by the heavy manufacturing industries. The automobile trades with a gain of about 28 per cent in production took a larger tonnage of steel, as did the manufacturers of railway rolling stock, agricultural implements and industrial machinery. Consumption was greater also in the mining and construction industries. Exports of primary steel continued at about the 1936 level.

Beginning at 66,400 tons in January, the pig iron tonnage increased to 79,733 tons in July, dropped slightly during August and September, then recovered in October to 80,922 tons which rate was maintained to the end of the year. Steel output totalled 115,237 tons in January, reached 125,104 tons in March, and receded to 121,426 tons in April. This tonnage was maintained until August when the high of 126,695 was reached, but in September there was a substantial decline to 114,622 tons and this downward movement continued until the year's low of 98,334 tons was reached in December.

Customs' figures for the twelve months ending November, 1937, show that imports of iron and its products into Canada were appraised at \$208.7 millions against \$129.3 millions in the previous year and that exports during this period advanced to \$65.6 millions from \$51.7 millions. The increase in imports was accounted for by vehicles and parts (mostly automobiles) moving up in value by \$20 millions; machinery, \$18 millions; rolling mill products, \$17 millions; farm implements (mostly tractors), \$8 millions. Increases in exports of \$4 millions each were reported for farm implements, vehicles and machinery.

DECEMBER, 1937.

PIG IRON - Production of pig iron in December amounted to 81,032 long tons compared with 81,463 tons in the previous month and 68,499 tons in December, 1936. This month's total included 62,840 tons of basic iron, 13,749 tons of foundry iron, and 4,443 tons of malleable iron.

Furnace charges during the month included 141,742 long tons of imported iron ore, 38,007 short tons of limestone, and 78,304 short tons of coke. Of the limestone, 16,812 tons were quarried in Canada and all of the coke used was carbonized in Canada, including 30,544 tons from Canadian coal.

FERRO-ALLOYS - Output of ferro-alloys in Canada totalled 5,846 tons in December compared with 6,302 tons in November and 6,775 tons in December a year ago. During the year a total of 75,288 tons were made against 76,284 tons and 56,616 tons in 1936 and 1935, respectively. The 1937 tonnage was made up of spiegeleisen, ferrosilicon, ferromanganese, silico spiegel, and silico manganese.

STEEL INGOTS AND CASTINGS - Production of steel ingots and direct steel castings amounted to 98,334 tons in December against 110,688 tons in November and 103,952 tons in the corresponding month of last year. This month's output included 93,945 tons of ingots and 4,389 tons of castings.

PRICES - Prices in the Canadian iron and steel market during 1937 reached the highest level since 1925 and plant operations were consistently well maintained throughout the year. Quotations were revised upward repeatedly till September, when demand for scrap slackened. Sharp reductions followed with all grades of scrap affected. The severest decline occurred in scrap steel which had fallen \$4.00 per ton before the close of the year.

Late in 1936, a marked increase in buying commenced and gained momentum in the first half of 1937. Production increased and was estimated at about 25 per cent greater than in 1936 and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent above 1929 levels, which had been the highest since the Great War. During the last quarter, the volume of new business decreased, but operations showed only minor recessions as most mills were occupied in filling heavy backlog orders. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of wholesale prices of Iron and Its Products on the base 1926 = 100 opened the year at 102.1, rose to 105.4 for September, and then declined steadily to 104.1 for December. No. 1 foundry pig iron delivered at Montreal moved up from \$24.00 in January to \$25.00 in February and to \$28.00 in March and then receded to \$27.00 per long ton in June, remaining at that level throughout the rest of the year. No. 1 foundry, delivered at Toronto, advanced from \$22.00 in January to \$23.00 per long ton in February. A \$3.00 rise brought quotations to \$26.00 per long ton in March, with no other price changes recorded.

(a) PIG IRON and FERRO-ALLOYS

Table 1 - Production during DECEMBER and NOVEMBER, 1937. (Tons of 2,240 pounds)

	DECEMBER, 1937			NOVEMBER, 1937		
	For own use	For sale	TOTAL	For own use	For sale	TOTAL
<u>PIG IRON -</u>						
Basic .....	62,840	...	62,840	59,434	5,799	65,233
Foundry .....	...	13,749	13,749	32	5,958	5,990
Malleable .....	48	4,395	4,443	225	10,015	10,240
TOTAL .....	62,888	18,144	81,032	59,691	21,772	81,463
Ferro-alloys .....	...	5,846	5,846	...	6,302	6,302



Table 2 - Cumulative Production for the TWELVE MONTHS ending DECEMBER, 1937 and 1936. (Tons of 2,240 pounds)

	1	9	3	7	:	1	9	3	6
	For own	For			:	For own	For		
	use	sale	TOTAL	:	use	sale	TOTAL		
PIG IRON -									
Basic .....	682,438	39,273	721,711		511,375	19,554	530,929		
Foundry .....	72	105,670	105,742		2,107	82,936	85,043		
Malleable .....	1,915	68,487	70,402		4,390	57,869	62,259		
TOTAL .....	684,425	213,430	897,855		517,872	160,359	678,231		
Ferro-alloys .....	...	75,288	75,288		...	76,284	76,284		

Table 3 - Iron Blast Furnace Charges during DECEMBER and NOVEMBER and YEAR 1937.

		DECEMBER	NOVEMBER	YEAR 1937
Imported iron ore .....	long tons	141,742	135,288	1,621,920
Canadian limestone .....	short tons	16,812	16,323	161,520
Imported limestone .....	short tons	21,195	22,088	305,974
Coke made in Canada -				
From Canadian coal .....	short tons	30,544	28,852	353,531
From imported coal .....	short tons	47,760	48,525	493,661
Imported coke .....	short tons	...	...	45,819

(b) STEEL INGOTS AND CASTINGS

Table 4 - Production for DECEMBER and NOVEMBER, 1937. (Tons of 2,240 pounds)

	DECEMBER, 1937			:	NOVEMBER, 1937		
	For own	For		:	For own	For	
	use	sale	TOTAL	:	use	sale	TOTAL
STEEL INGOTS -							
Open hearth - Basic .....	87,582	26	87,608		100,076	...	100,076
Electric .....	6,337	...	6,337		6,297	...	6,297
Other .....	...	...	...		...	...	...
TOTAL STEEL INGOTS .....	93,919	26	93,945		106,373	...	106,373
STEEL CASTINGS -							
Open hearth - Basic .....	173	950	1,123		192	848	1,040
Bessemer .....	...	59	59		...	110	110
Electric .....	573	2,634	3,207		308	2,857	3,165
TOTAL DIRECT STEEL							
CASTINGS .....	746	3,643	4,389		500	3,815	4,315
GRAND TOTAL .....	94,665	3,669	98,334		106,873	3,815	110,688

Table 5 - Cumulative Production for the TWELVE MONTHS ending DECEMBER, 1937 and 1936.

	1	9	3	7	:	1	9	3	6
	For own	For			:	For own	For		
	use	sale		TOTAL	:	use	sale		TOTAL
<b>STEEL INGOTS -</b>									
Open hearth - Basic ...	1,272,768	292	1,273,060	1,035,209	2,504	1,037,713			
Electric .....	61,076	28	61,104	43,749	87	43,836			
Other .....	...	...	...	...	...	...			
TOTAL STEEL INGOTS ..	1,333,844	320	1,334,164	1,078,958	2,591	1,081,549			
<b>STEEL CASTINGS -</b>									
Open hearth - Basic ...	2,254	21,504	23,758	2,213	7,995	10,208			
Bessemer .....	...	980	980	...	575	575			
Electric .....	5,112	36,997	42,109	370	23,077	23,447			
TOTAL DIRECT STEEL CASTINGS .....	7,366	59,481	66,847	2,583	31,647	34,230			
GRAND TOTAL .....	1,341,210	59,801	1,401,011	1,081,541	34,238	1,115,779			

Table 6 - Average Monthly Production of Pig Iron, Steel Ingots and Castings in Canada, 1916 - 1936. (In 1000's of long tons)

Years	Monthly Average		Years	Monthly Average	
	Iron	Steel		Iron	Steel
1916 .....	87	106	1927 .....	59	76
1917 .....	87	130	1928 .....	86	103
1918 .....	89	140	1929 .....	91	115
1919 .....	68	77	1930 .....	62	84
1920 .....	81	92	1931 .....	36	56
1921 .....	50	56	1932 .....	12	29
1922 .....	32	40	1933 .....	19	34
1923 .....	73	74	1934 .....	34	63
1924 .....	49	54	1935 .....	50	78
1925 .....	48	63	1936 .....	56	93
1926 .....	63	64			

Table 7 - Production of Pig Iron, by Months and by Provinces, and Steel Ingots and Castings, by Months, 1936 and 1937. (In 1000's of long tons)

Month	P I G		I R O N		:		S T E E L	
	NOVA SCOTIA		ONTARIO		TOTAL CANADA :		TOTAL CANADA	
	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937 :	1936	1937
January .....	18	28	43	38	61	66	100	115
February .....	21	25	35	37	56	62	94	112
March .....	22	29	32	42	54	71	101	125
April .....	23	28	31	40	54	68	107	121
May .....	27	27	32	51	59	78	95	121
June .....	27	27	29	51	56	78	82	119
July .....	12	26	23	54	35	80	69	123
August .....	11	26	28	49	39	75	80	127
September .....	15	26	37	50	52	76	86	115
October .....	26	25	44	56	70	81	98	115
November .....	28	27	46	54	74	81	99	111
December .....	28	28	40	53	68	81	104	98
TOTAL FOR YEAR ...	258	322	420	575	678	897	1,115	1,402
Monthly Average ...	21	27	35	48	56	75	93	117

Table 8 - Iron Blast Furnaces in Canada, 1937.

Names of Companies	Location of Furnaces	Number of Stacks	Total Daily Capacity (Long tons)
Dominion Steel and Coal Corp. Ltd.	Sydney, N.S.	3	1,200
Canadian Furnace Limited	Pt. Colborne, Ont.	1	350
The Steel Company of Canada, Limited	Hamilton, Ont.	2	825
The Algoma Steel Corporation, Ltd.	Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.	4	1,600

Table 9 - Description of Furnaces at end of DECEMBER, 1937.

Condition of Furnace	Number of Furnaces	Total Daily Capacity	
		Long tons	Per cent
In blast .....	6	2,525	64
Banked .....	...	...	...
Blown out .....	4	1,450	36
Total Furnaces Reporting	10	3,975	100

NOTE - Figures in this report are the latest available at time of printing. Where necessary, data for earlier months have been revised.

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