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Published by Authority of the HON. W. D. EULER, M.P.

Price -
10 cents

Minister of Trade and Commerce
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, 1939

Historical File Copy



REVIEW - Steel production in Canada, which had fallen off during the last half of 1938, failed to show any sign of recovery until the second quarter of 1939. Output was then maintained around the levels prevailing early in the previous year until the approach of war in August caused steel mills to be swamped with orders from consumers desiring to bring inventories up to or above normal requirements. The tonnage represented by such orders from the manufacturers of motor vehicles, railway rolling stock, farm implements, etc., although almost entirely for peace-time needs, was sufficient to keep the steel mills operating at capacity during the final quarter of 1939.

Output in 1939 started at 78,198 tons in January and advanced to 121,413 in May, then fell off to 107,902 in June, after which it again advanced to 149,890 in October and closed the year at the high of 150,062 tons in December. The total for the twelve months amounted to 1,384,827 tons, an increase of 20 per cent over the 1,155,190 tons of 1938, but a decline of 1 per cent from the post-war high of 1,402,882 tons reported for 1937.

Price changes for iron and steel products were very narrow for the first eight months of 1939 and the price index for this group remained between a high of 97.6 in January and a low of 97.3 in May. A slow upward movement which began in June was accelerated in September when the index reached 99.3, almost 2 per cent above August levels. Thereafter, prices continued to advance to the high for the year of 102.0 in December, compared with 98.1 in December, 1938. During the last quarter, practically all items of iron and steel advanced, with major gains being shown by pig iron and steel billets. Among other items to show increases were scrap, steel sheets, tinplate and most hardware. No. 1 foundry pig iron, delivered at Toronto, was quoted at \$23.00 per long ton from the opening of the year until October when the price was advanced to \$26.00.

PIG IRON - Production of pig iron in Canada during December totalled 94,620 long tons, an advance of 8 per cent over the November output of 87,822 tons and 76 per cent over the 53,709 tons made in December, 1938. This month's output included 83,816 tons of basic iron, 6,039 tons of foundry iron and 4,765 tons of malleable iron.

During the year a total of 1,319,243 long tons of iron ore, 366,731 short tons of limestone and 779,669 short tons of coke were charged to iron blast furnaces in Canada to make 756,182 tons of pig iron. In 1938 the pig iron output amounted to 705,427 tons and in 1937 to 898,855 tons.

FERRO-ALLOYS - Output of ferro-alloys totalled 10,494 tons in December compared with 7,285 tons made in the previous month and 2,810 tons in December of a year ago. During the twelve months of 1939 the total output was 75,234 tons against 55,926 tons in 1938 and 82,072 tons in 1937. This year's total included the following grades listed according to tonnage as follows: spiegeleisen, ferrosilicon, ferromanganese, silicomanganese, ferrochrome, calcium silicon and ferrophosphorus.

STEEL INGOTS AND CASTINGS - Production of steel ingots and direct steel castings in December amounted to 150,062 tons which was the highest monthly total for the year. In November the output was 147,182 tons and in December of last year it was 77,809 tons.

Cumulative production for the twelve months ended December 1939 amounted to 1,384,827 tons as against corresponding totals of 1,155,190 tons in 1938 and 1,402,882 tons in 1937.

UNITED STATES-From "Iron Age"-On a daily basis December pig iron production in the United States dropped 1.9 per cent from that in November, or from 124,015 tons to 121,559 tons in December. During the month, three furnaces were taken off blast and three were blown in, with the result that 191 furnaces were in blast on January 1, the same number as on December 1.

(a) PIG IRON AND FERRO-ALLOYS

Table 1 - Production during December and November, 1939 (Tons of 2,240 pounds)

	D E C E M B E R			N O V E M B E R		
	For own use	For sale	TOTAL	For own use	For sale	TOTAL
<u>PIG IRON</u> -						
Basic	83,585	231	83,816	66,175	2,864	69,039
Foundry .....	....	6,039	6,039	...	11,560	11,560
Malleable .....	...	4,765	4,765	...	7,223	7,223
TOTAL	83,585	11,035	94,620	66,175	21,647	87,822
Ferro-alloys .....	...	10,494	10,494	...	7,285	7,285

Table 2 - Cumulative Production for the Twelve Months ending DECEMBER, 1939 and 1938 (tons of 2,240 pounds)

	1 9 3 9			1 9 3 8		
	For own use	For sale	TOTAL	For own use	For sale	TOTAL
<u>PIG IRON</u> -						
Basic	634,761	21,250	656,011	531,077	26,501	557,578
Foundry .....	...	71,709	71,709	18,596	62,492	81,088
Malleable .....	...	28,462	28,462	26,189	40,572	66,761
TOTAL ...	634,761	121,421	756,182	575,862	129,565	705,427
Ferro-alloys .....	...	75,234	75,234	...	55,926	55,926

Table 3 - Iron Blast Furnace Charges during DECEMBER, NOVEMBER, and TWELVE MONTHS ending DECEMBER, 1939

	Unit	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER	TWELVE MONTHS
Iron ore	Long ton	171,893	151,857	1,319,243
Limestone	Short ton	42,159	39,017	366,731
Coke	Short ton	100,908	89,237	779,669

(b) STEEL INGOTS AND CASTINGS

Table 4 - PRODUCTION DURING DECEMBER and NOVEMBER, 1939. (Tons of 2,240 pounds)

	D E C E M B E R			N O V E M B E R		
	For own use	For sale	TOTAL	For own use	For sale	TOTAL
<u>STEEL INGOTS -</u>						
Open hearth - Basic	135,140	107	135,247	131,078	...	131,078
Electric	7,983	...	7,983	8,553	...	8,553
Other .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Steel Ingots	143,123	107	143,230	139,631	...	139,631
<u>STEEL CASTINGS -</u>						
Open hearth - Basic	316	2,343	2,659	291	2,545	2,836
Converter .....	...	126	126	...	64	64
Electric	707	3,340	4,047	819	3,832	4,651
Total Direct Steel Castings	1,023	5,809	6,832	1,110	6,441	7,551
GRAND TOTAL	144,146	5,916	150,062	140,741	6,441	147,182

Table 5 - CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION for the TWELVE MONTHS ending DECEMBER, 1939 and 1938

	1 9 3 9			1 9 3 8		
	For own use	For sale	TOTAL	For own use	For Sale	TOTAL
<u>STEEL INGOTS -</u>						
Open hearth - Basic	1,255,176	6,025	1,259,201	1,046,902	301	1,047,203
Electric	71,198	8	71,206	55,891	...	55,891
Other .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Steel Ingots	1,324,374	6,033	1,330,407	1,102,793	301	1,103,094
<u>STEEL CASTINGS -</u>						
Open hearth - Basic	2,036	13,976	16,012	1,018	14,507	15,525
Converter .....	...	805	805	...	759	759
Electric	7,041	30,562	37,603	8,314	27,498	35,812
Total Direct Steel Castings	9,077	45,343	54,420	9,332	42,764	52,096
GRAND TOTAL	1,333,451	51,376	1,384,827	1,112,125	43,065	1,155,190

Table 6 - AVERAGE MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON, STEEL INGOTS and CASTINGS IN CANADA, 1916-1939 (In 1000's of long tons)

Year	Monthly Average		Year	Monthly Average	
	Iron	Steel		Iron	Steel
1916	87	106	1928	86	103
1917	87	130	1929	90	115
1918	89	139	1930	62	84
1919	68	77	1931	35	56
1920	81	92	1932	12	28
1921	50	56	1933	19	34
1922	32	40	1934	34	63
1923	73	73	1935	50	78
1924	49	55	1936	57	93
1925	48	63	1937	75	117
1926	63	65	1938	59	96
1927	59	76	1939	63	115



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Table 7 - PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON, BY MONTHS and BY PROVINCES, and STEEL INGOTS and CASTINGS, BY MONTHS, 1938 and 1939 (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	
	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939
January	29	16	46	42	75	58	112	78
February	24	13	37	28	61	41	99	77
March	28	12	38	29	66	41	119	96
April	28	19	38	27	66	46	116	100
May	29	25	43	33	72	58	115	121
June	19	24	45	29	64	53	109	108
July	13	23	38	36	51	59	84	111
August	14	23	35	43	49	66	83	122
September	13	24	37	42	50	66	74	125
October	16	24	35	62	51	86	76	150
November	15	25	31	63	46	88	90	147
December	15	32	38	63	53	95	78	150
TOTAL FOR YEAR ...	243	260	462	497	704	757	1,155	1,385

Table 8 - IRON BLAST FURNACES IN CANADA

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

Table 9 - DESCRIPTION OF FURNACES AT END OF DECEMBER, 1939

Condition of furnaces	Number of furnaces	Total Daily Capacity	
		Long tons	Per cent
In blast	8	3,375	85
Banked .....	...	...	...
Blown out	2	600	15
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.