

# D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

DOMINION BUREAU  
OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. XVIII - No. 31

Saturday, August 5, 1950

8 1950

\$1.50 a year

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## --- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS in the first six months of 1950 reached a peacetime record value of \$1,430,600,000, slightly above the previous peak for the first half year of \$1,424,600,000 in 1949. The value for June was \$289,200,000 -- highest so far this year -- as compared with \$255,400,000 in June last year.

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EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES were at their highest levels in the history of Canada-United States trade both in June and the half year. The June total was \$177,742,000, and in the half year aggregated \$904,949,000.

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LABOUR INCOME CONTINUED TO MOVE UPWARD IN APRIL when the estimated total of salaries, wages, and supplementary income amounted to \$642,000,000, an increase of \$9,000,000 over March and \$32,000,000 or five per cent greater than the estimated total of \$610,000,000 in April, 1949.

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WHOLESALE PRICES IN CANADA reached an all-time high in June, according to the monthly index which stood at 165.0, up 3.2 points over May, and 8.7 points above June last year. The previous peak for the index was 164.3 registered in May, 1920.

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CHEQUES CASHED AGAINST INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS reached new peaks in June and the first six months of the year. The June total was \$10,044,701,000 compared with \$7,216,255,000 in June a year ago, and in the first six months of the year aggregated \$46,514,277,000 compared with \$41,170,316,000.

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SALES AND PURCHASES OF SECURITIES between Canada and other countries increased during May, total transactions amounting to \$50,000,000 as compared with \$42,900,000 in the preceding month and \$29,400,000 in the corresponding month last year.

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VALUE OF INVENTORIES held by Canadian manufacturing establishments was lower at the end of May, declining 1.2 per cent from April and 3.7 per cent from the corresponding month last year.

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HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ENTERING CANADA from the United States in May was one per cent lower in volume than in the same month last year. This followed an unbroken series of month-to-month advances commencing in November, 1948.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES in June were up three per cent in June over the corresponding month last year, but were down one per cent in the first six months of the year.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN HALF-YEAR  
AT PEACETIME PEAK VALUE

Boosted by a sharp gain in June, Canada's domestic exports in the first six months of 1950 reached a peacetime record value of \$1,430,600,000, slightly above the previous peak for the first half-year of \$1,424,600,000 in 1949. The value for June was \$289,200,000 -- highest so far this year -- as compared with \$287,000,000 in May, and \$255,100,000 in June last year.

Both in June and the half-year the values of exports to the United States were at the highest levels in the history of Canada-United States trade. In the half-year exports to the United States accounted for 63 per cent of total exports as against 48.5 per cent for the same 1949 period. On the other hand, the value of shipments to the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth countries, Latin America and European countries were lower in value, alike in the month and cumulative period.

Shipments to the United States rose in the half-year to \$904,949,000 from \$690,860,000 in the corresponding period of 1949, a gain of 31 per cent. Value for June was \$177,742,000 compared with \$113,856,000 a year earlier, a gain of no less than 56 per cent.

There were widespread increases among the commodity groups of exports to the United States both in the month and half-year, only one group -- miscellaneous commodities -- being lower. Most marked gain in the six months was registered by the wood and paper group -- by far the largest of the nine main groups -- which rose from \$327,672,000 in 1949 to \$450,377,000. Non-ferrous metals advanced from \$98,375,000 to \$124,760,000, animal products from \$81,740,000 to \$110,807,000, and iron and products from \$62,043,000 to \$66,544,000.

Half-year exports to the United Kingdom fell to \$235,917,000 from \$335,604,000 last year, and in June to \$52,472,000 from \$60,718,000. There were declines in the six months in six of the nine main commodity groups. Agricultural and vegetable products -- largest of the nine -- fell from \$171,589,000 to \$126,781,000; non-ferrous metals -- second largest -- from \$77,995,000 to \$52,549,000; and wood and paper products from \$36,932,000 to \$12,993,000. Animals and animal products advanced from \$25,518,000 to \$28,080,000.

Shipments to other Commonwealth countries fell in the six-month period from \$158,600,000 in 1949 to \$100,992,000, and in June from \$30,411,000 to \$19,781,000. In the half-year, exports to the Union of South Africa were reduced from \$40,667,000 to \$22,863,000, India from \$41,637,000 to \$14,629,000, Australia from \$16,639,000 to \$16,431,000, and New Zealand from \$6,529,000 to \$4,839,000.

Exports to Latin American countries were moderately lower in the six months at \$60,825,000 compared with \$63,072,000, and in June stood at \$13,949,000 compared with \$14,628,000. In the half-year there were increased shipments to Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, and Venezuela, but decreases to Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Panama and Peru.

Exports to European countries were down sharply in the month and six months. In June the value fell from \$27,279,000 to \$14,422,000, and in the cumulative period from \$114,312,000 to \$74,181,000. Among the larger markets, there were reduced shipments in both periods to Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Switzerland.

Exports to other foreign countries in the six months were down to \$46,004,000 from \$46,840,000, but were up in June to \$9,337,000 from \$7,400,000. Exports were higher in the half-year to Japan, Israel, and the Philippine Islands, but lower to China, Egypt, Indonesia, and Turkey.

Four of the nine main commodity groups showed increases in the first half of the year, while in June there were advances in six of the nine groups.

The wood and paper group, largest of the nine, rose in the half-year from \$408,200,000 to \$485,300,000, and in June from \$70,700,000 to \$97,600,000. Planks and boards, wood pulp, and newsprint paper accounted for a large part of the group's gain in the month and half-year.

Agricultural and vegetable products -- second largest group -- moved lower in the half-year to \$298,800,000 from \$363,400,000, and in the month to \$63,300,000 from \$69,100,000. There were lower half-year exports of wheat, other grain, rubber and products, and seeds, but higher figures for wheat flour, alcoholic beverages and tobacco.

The non-ferrous metals group fell in the half-year from \$217,243,000 to \$208,949,000, advances in aluminum, copper, and nickel, being offset by declines in lead, precious metals (except gold), zinc, and electrical apparatus. The group total for June rose from \$35,867,000 to \$42,019,000. Chiefly as a result of sharp gains in asbestos, exports of the non-metallic minerals group rose in the half-year from \$29,138,000 to \$47,866,000, and in June from \$4,257,000 to \$8,812,000.

Half-year exports of animals and animal products rose from \$137,543,000 in 1949 to \$167,603,000, gains being shown in cattle, fish and fishery products, bacon and hams, other meats, and declines in furs, leather, milk and products, and eggs. The group total for June was \$31,069,000 as against \$27,194,000.

The iron products group fell in the half-year from \$154,624,000 in 1949 to \$126,275,000, with declines in ferro-alloys, rolling-mill products, farm implements and machinery, other machinery, and railway cars and parts, and gains in pigs and ingots, locomotives and parts, and automobiles and parts. In June the value for the group was only slightly changed at \$25,540,000.

The chemicals group rose in value in the six months from \$38,900,000 to \$50,100,000, and in June from \$4,400,000 to \$9,000,000. Fibres and textiles, at \$10,800,000 in the six months, were down from \$15,500,000, but up slightly in June at \$2,900,000 from \$2,700,000. Due mainly to smaller exports of ships and vessels, aircraft and parts, and gifts and donations, the miscellaneous group was lower in both periods, falling in the six months from \$60,000,000 to \$34,900,000, and in June from \$15,400,000 to \$9,100,000. (1)

LABOUR INCOME IN APRIL  
CONTINUED TO ADVANCE

Labour income continued to move upward in April, when the estimated total of salaries, wages and supplementary income amounted to \$642,000,000, an increase of \$9,000,000 over March and \$32,000,000 or five per cent greater than the estimated total of \$610,000,000 in April, 1949. During the four months ending April, estimated labour income rose to \$2,520,000,000 from \$2,428,000,000 in the similar 1949 period, or by nearly four per cent.

Seasonal influences affected the rise in April over March. With the opening of navigation, employment in water transportation showed an increase which contributed to an advance of \$3,000,000 in utilities, transportation, communications and storage. Construction was higher by \$2,000,000; manufacturing by \$1,000,000; and finance and services by \$3,000,000. On the other hand, the primary industries total was unchanged, a sharp seasonal decline in logging employment resulting in decreased labour income in that field.

Compared with April last year, increases in labour income were general in the month. Labour income in manufacturing advanced to \$219,000,000 from \$213,000,000; in utilities, transportation, communication, storage and trade to \$171,000,000 from \$163,000,000; in finance and services to \$148,000,000 from \$134,000,000; in construction to \$41,000,000 from \$39,000,000; and in agriculture, logging, fishing, trapping and mining to \$41,000,000 from \$40,000,000. Supplementary labour income moved up to \$22,000,000 from \$19,000,000. (2)

SALES AND PURCHASES OF SECURITIES  
BETWEEN CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

Sales and purchases of securities between Canada and other countries increased during May, total transactions amounting to \$50,000,000 as compared with \$42,900,000 in the preceding month and \$29,400,000 in the corresponding month last year. Transactions in the first five months of this year aggregated \$223,000,000 compared with \$156,800,000 in the similar period of 1949.

Sales in May to all countries were valued at \$25,900,000 as against \$21,000,000 in April and \$14,800,000 a year earlier, and purchases totalled \$24,100,000 compared with \$21,900,000 in April and \$14,800,000 in May last year. Five-month sales to all countries aggregated \$114,600,000 compared with \$80,400,000 a year ago, and the purchases were \$108,400,000 compared with \$76,400,000.

The volume of trade with the United States increased during the month, sales amounting to \$24,600,000 as compared with \$20,100,000 in April and \$14,800,000 a year ago, while the purchases totalled \$21,100,000 compared with \$19,400,000 in April, and \$14,400,000 last year. Five-month sales to the United States were \$100,600,000 compared with \$77,000,000, and purchases, \$95,100,000 compared with \$73,300,000.

Sales to the United Kingdom in the month were valued at \$400,000 compared with \$100,000 in April and \$200,000 last year, and the purchases amounted to \$2,400,000 compared with \$2,200,000 in April, and \$300,000 a year ago. In the five months, sales aggregated \$2,200,000 compared with \$1,000,000, and the purchases, \$11,200,000 compared with \$1,400,000. (3).

INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES AT NEW PEAK IN JUNE Wholesale prices in Canada reached an all-time high in June, according to the monthly index number of wholesale prices compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The June index, on the base 1926=100, was 165.0, up 3.2 points over May and 8.7 points over June last year. Since the first of the year it has risen from 157.1. The previous peak for the index was 164.3 registered in May, 1920.

Advances over the preceding month were shown in all eight sub-group indexes, the most marked rise being registered in the non-ferrous section which rose from 144.1 to 158.2, followed by wood products from 194.7 to 201.0, and animal products from 166.9 to 173.0.

The vegetable products group index rose from 148.5 to 149.0, textile products from 164.5 to 165.4, iron products from 181.2 to 182.4, non-metallic minerals from 140.1 to 140.3, and chemical products from 117.5 to 118.0. At the same time the index number of wholesale prices for farm products advanced from 150.1 to 152.2. (4).

TRAVEL BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES Highway traffic entering Canada from the United States in May was one per cent lower in volume than in the same month last year. This decrease followed an unbroken series of month-to-month advances commencing in November, 1948. A drop of three per cent in the volume of United States vehicles entering Canada during the month more than balanced a gain of five per cent in Canadian traffic returning from the United States.

Total border crossings in the month were 809,700 as compared with 816,300 in the corresponding month last year. United States vehicles numbered 561,500 as compared with 579,100, and returning Canadian vehicles totalled 248,300 as compared with 237,200.

In the first five months of 1950, border crossings aggregated 2,865,000 as compared with 2,757,300 in the corresponding period of 1949. United States vehicles in the five months totalled 1,901,600 as compared with 1,894,300, and Canadian vehicles returning totalled 963,400 as compared with 863,000. (5).

VALUE OF INVENTORIES HELD BY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES The value of inventories held by Canadian manufacturing establishments was lower at the end of May, declining 1.2 per cent from April and 3.7 per cent from the corresponding month last year, according to index numbers compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The May index, on the base 1947=100, stood at 126.1 as against 127.6 for April, and 131.0 for May last year.

The consumer's goods index, at 131.2, was down 1.9 points from April, and 0.5 points lower than last year. In the capital goods group the index remained unchanged between April and May at 94.9, but was down 13.0 points from May last year.

Inventories in the producer's materials section fell to an index level of 121.3 as compared with 123.4 in April and 137.1 a year earlier. In the construction materials group the index was down to 155.2 from 156.0 in April and 157.7 last year (6).

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES  
UP NINE PER CENT IN WEEK

Department store sales rose nine per cent during the week ending July 22 as compared with the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures. All provinces shared in the rise except Saskatchewan where the decline was one per cent. Quebec and Ontario each had gains of 12 per cent, Alberta 11 per cent, Manitoba and British Columbia each six per cent, and the Maritimes one per cent.

LANDINGS OF SEA FISH HIGHER  
IN JUNE AND HALF YEAR

June landings in the sea fisheries of Canada -- not including Newfoundland -- amounted to 128,131,000 pounds valued at \$7,985,000, showing an increase of 6.9 per cent in quantity and an advance of 26.5 per cent in value over June last year. Including the value of supplementary landings, the aggregate for June this year was \$8,205,353.

In the first half of 1950, landings of sea fish rose to 527,555,000 pounds from 470,867,000 in the corresponding period of 1949, and the value advanced to \$24,079,000 from \$19,962,000.

Most of the gain in landings and landed value in June occurred on the Pacific Coast, where 16,321,000 pounds were landed as compared with 11,409,000. The value was \$3,095,000 as against \$1,725,000. In the six months, 211,767,000 pounds were landed and the value was \$7,898,000 compared with 174,148,000 pounds at \$6,222,000.

June landings on the Atlantic Coast amounted to 109,810,000 pounds compared with 108,408,000 a year ago, and the value was \$4,890,000 compared with \$4,588,000. First-half landings on the Atlantic totalled 315,788,000 pounds valued at \$16,181,000 compared with 296,719,000 pounds at \$13,740,000 a year earlier (7).

STOCKS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on August 1 amounted to 42,147,000 pounds as compared with 32,500,000 on July 1 and 41,306,000 on the corresponding date last year. Cheddar cheese stocks on August 1 were 22,305,000 pounds as compared with 22,689,000 on July 1, and 13,374,000 a year earlier.

Creamery butter stocks were as follows by cities, totals for the same date last year being in brackets (figures in thousands): Quebec, 3,172 (2,450); Montreal, 12,212 (15,948); Toronto, 5,597 (8,747); Winnipeg, 12,781 (8,299); Regina, 851 (975); Saskatoon, 477 (74); Edmonton, 4,282 (2,545); Calgary, 1,522 (901); Vancouver, 1,253 (987). (Mem.1).

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF  
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on July 20 amounted to 96,718,000 bushels as compared with 99,634,000 on July 13, and 53,659,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in western Canada during the week ended July 20 totalled 2,691,300 bushels as compared with 1,625,900 a year earlier, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 307,806,400 bushels as compared with 283,966,500 in the similar period last year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also marketed during the week, last year's totals being in brackets: oats, 628,000 (777,300) bushels; barley, 349,200 (419,300); rye, 64,800 (234,500); and flaxseed, 6,200 (31,600) bushels. (Mem.2).

OUTPUT OF MAPLE PRODUCTS  
UP 20 PER CENT THIS YEAR

Production of maple products this year was 20 per cent heavier than in 1949. Expressed as syrup, there were 2,983,000 gallons produced during the year as compared with 2,485,000 in 1949, and the gross farm value rose to \$10,636,000 from \$9,126,000.

There was an increase in the production of both maple syrup and maple sugar over last year. Syrup production amounted to 2,801,000 gallons compared with 2,306,000 in 1949, while maple sugar production totalled 1,824,000 pounds compared with 1,787,000 pounds.

Production of maple syrup in Quebec rose from 1,894,000 gallons in 1949 to 2,273,000, and in Ontario from 399,000 gallons to 507,000. Output of maple sugar in Quebec was 1,692,000 pounds, up slightly from 1,651,000 in 1949. (Mem. 3)

FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL  
NURSERY STOCK SALES

Ornamental evergreen trees stand first, ornamental shrubs second and apple trees third in value of wholesale sales by Canadian nurseries, according to a report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on sales of fruit and ornamental nursery stock (exclusive of bulbs, corms, etc.) during the twelve months ending May last year. Based on reports from a total of 235 nurseries, the report covers both sales of Canadian-grown stock and imported stock that has been given some cultural treatment before being sold.

Total wholesale value of such sales by these nurseries during the year was \$1,452,737. Ornamental evergreen trees for outdoor planting accounted for \$294,366 of this total; ornamental shrubs for \$225,404; and apple trees for \$164,326. Next in order were rose bushes, \$144,694; strawberry plants, \$86,935; ornamental deciduous trees, \$81,128; cherry trees, \$76,739; peach, \$75,411; pear, \$63,769; raspberry, \$61,666; plum, \$56,369; herbaceous perennials, \$51,305; apricot, \$24,484; grape, \$13,879; black currant, \$10,757. Ornamental trees, shrubs and plants together totalled \$804,768, and fruit trees, fruit shrubs and plants, \$647,969.

Ontario was first among the provinces in value of sales at \$907,861, British Columbia second at \$267,594, and Quebec third at \$108,120. Sales values for other provinces were: Nova Scotia, \$67,011; Saskatchewan, \$42,102; Manitoba, \$30,561; Alberta, \$29,488. Ontario was also first in number of reporting firms with 82, followed by Quebec with 67; British Columbia, 42; Manitoba, 20; Saskatchewan, 12; Nova Scotia, eight; and Alberta, four.

Among the ornamental evergreen trees, the juniper was first in sales value, followed by the yew, while the maple stood first among ornamental deciduous trees. Among ornamental shrubs, the barberry and spiraea were close rivals for leading position, but the chrysanthemum was an easy first among the herbaceous perennials. The Dunlap strawberry led everything in the fruit stock in sales value, while the McIntosh apple -- first in quantity as well as value among apple trees -- next, then the Bartlett pear, the Montmorency cherry, and the Latham raspberry. (Mem. 4).

COKE PRODUCTION IN MAY

Coke production in May amounted to 332,000 tons as compared with 318,000 in the preceding month and 343,000 in the corresponding month last year. In the first five months of this year, 1,587,000 tons were produced as compared with 1,702,000 in the like period of 1949.

Producers disposed of 341,700 tons of coke during the month, bringing the cumulative total for the first five months of the year to 1,782,800 tons. Producers' stocks of oven and retort coke, excluding breeze, at the end of May amounted to 72,600 tons. (A).

WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTION  
AND EXPORTS IN JUNE

Production of wheat flour by Canadian mills, which was up seven per cent in May, fell off in June to 1,649,707 barrels as compared with 1,672,230 barrels in the corresponding month last year. Total flour production for the eleven months of the crop year ending June, however, remained above the output for the similar period of 1948-49, amounting to 19,025,006 barrels as against 18,899,678 barrels, an increase of slightly more than 125,000 barrels.

Exports of wheat flour during June were sharply higher than a year earlier, amounting to 893,314 compared with 716,557 barrels, but total exports during the eleven-month period ending June were down at 9,378,996 barrels in comparison with 9,889,906 barrels in the same period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were ground in June, totals for June a year earlier being in brackets: oats, 1,124,862 (1,585,637) bushels; corn, 242,365 (277,540); barley, 450,990 (663,434); buckwheat, 790 (1,778); mixed grains, 1,026,886 (1,137,890). (Mem. 5).

PRODUCTION OF EGGS IN JUNE

Production of eggs was 5.9 per cent higher in June, the month's output being estimated at 30,000,000 dozen as compared with 28,333,000 in the same month last year. Estimated production for the first six months of this year totalled 195,812,000 dozen as compared with 189,444,000 a year earlier, a gain of 3.4 per cent.

The rate of lay in June rose to 1,494 eggs per 100 layers from 1,461 in June last year. The average number of laying hens on farms in June was 22,474,000 birds as against 21,492,000 in the corresponding month last year. (Mem. 6).

FUR PRODUCTION LOWER

The value of pelts of fur-bearing animals taken in Canada from wild life and fur farms in 1948-49 was \$22,900,000, the lowest total since the 1940-41 season and a decrease from the preceding year of 29 per cent. Every province showed a marked decrease and average prices were lower for practically all kinds. The number of pelts taken during the year was 9,902,800, wild life accounting for 9,254,900, and ranch-raised animals for the remaining 647,900. In the preceding year the total number of pelts was 7,952,100.

Mink led other furs with a value of \$8,436,800, down from \$11,084,600 in 1947-48, followed by muskrat at \$6,127,700 (\$9,517,000 in 1947-48), beaver \$3,355,600 (\$4,382,200), silver fox, including mutations \$1,859,500 (\$2,497,300), squirrel \$977,800 (\$1,577,900), and ermine \$968,400 (\$1,201,300).

Ontario was the leading province in 1948-49 with a total value of \$5,661,300 as compared with \$8,132,500, Manitoba being next with \$4,036,500 compared with \$6,105,900, and Alberta third with \$3,761,700 compared with \$5,314,000. The value for Saskatchewan was \$2,248,400 (\$3,500,900 in 1948-49), Northwest Territories \$1,535,500 (\$1,872,500), British Columbia \$1,473,300 (\$1,973,900), Prince Edward Island \$640,300 (\$568,700), Nova Scotia \$612,000 (\$622,600), New Brunswick \$399,000 (\$453,200), and Yukon \$143,800 (\$230,000). (Mem. 7).



BUILDING MATERIALS PRICES  
RISE MORE SHARPLY IN JUNE

Wholesale prices of general and residential building materials both moved upward in June, the increase in each case being the largest in recent months, according to the index numbers compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The Bureau's wholesale price index for general building materials rose 8.8 points from May to June, advancing from 209.6 to 218.4. Since September, when it stood at 177.6, this index has shown an uninterrupted monthly increase. The latest figure is 17.1 points above the standing of 201.3 in June last year. High point for the index in 1949 was 205.4 in March.

Due mainly to increases in lumber and products, roofing materials and electrical equipment, the composite index of residential building materials showed an increase of 8.3 points in June, rising to 238.3 from 230.6 for May. The June increase follows upon a rise of 3.4 points in May after a year of minor changes. The latest figure compares with 228.0 for June last year.

Among the principal components of the residential building materials indexes, the sub-indexes for lumber and its products rose from 325.6 for May to 341.6 for June; roofing materials, from 232.7 to 244.8; and electrical equipment and fixtures, from 179.1 to 188.6. These for plumbing and heating increased slightly and for "other materials" from 176.2 to 178.4, while the sub-index for cement, sand and gravel declined from 129.4 to 129.2. Sub-indexes remained unchanged for brick, tile and stone; lath, plaster and insulation; and paint and glass. (4)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES  
IN JUNE AND HALF YEAR

Department store sales in June were up three per cent in June over the corresponding month last year, but were down one per cent in the first six months of the year. The value for June was \$69,295,000 as compared with \$67,279,000 a year earlier, and for the half-year aggregated \$377,727,000 compared with \$382,220,000.

Sales in June were higher in all provinces except the Maritimes and Saskatchewan, the largest gain of 8.4 per cent being shown in British Columbia. In the half year, Quebec and Alberta were the only provinces to show advances, the former increasing one per cent, and the latter 1.2 per cent.

Household appliances and electrical supplies, and food and kindred products led the advances in June with respective gains of 18.8 per cent and 11.2 per cent. Shoes and other footwear sales rose 7.8 per cent, hardware and kitchen utensils 6.5 per cent, men's and boys' clothing 4.5 per cent, and drugs and toilet articles 4.4 per cent. Sales of women's and children's apparel decreased 0.4 per cent, piece goods 5.9 per cent, and radios and musical instruments 7.1 per cent.

In the half year, household appliances and electrical supplies had the largest sales gain of 17.7 per cent, followed by drugs and toilet articles at 2.6 per cent, stationery, books and magazines 1.7 per cent, smallwares 1.5 per cent, and shoes and other footwear 1.1 per cent. Piece goods sales fell 6.7 per cent, radios and musical instruments 5.9 per cent, women's and children's apparel 3.2 per cent, hardware and kitchen utensils 2.2 per cent, and housefurnishings 1.2 per cent. (9).

NEW PEAKS IN CHEQUES CASHED IN  
JUNE AND FIRST HALF OF 1950

New all-time peaks in financial transactions in the form of cheques cashed in clearing centres were reached in June and the first six months of this year. The total for the month was \$10,044,701,000 as against \$7,216,255,000 in June last year, bringing the half-year aggregate to \$46,514,277,000 as compared with \$41,170,316,000 a year earlier, a gain of 13 per cent.

Marked increases were shown in June for each of the five economic areas, largest gain of 52 per cent being recorded in Ontario. Large percentage increases were recorded in Edmonton, Regina, and Calgary, contributing to an advance of 37 per cent in the aggregate for the Prairie Provinces. The gains in the Atlantic Provinces and in Quebec were nearly 28 per cent, while British Columbia had an increase of 25 per cent. Toronto's total was up 65 per cent, while that for Montreal rose 23 per cent, Winnipeg 19.4 per cent, and Vancouver 26 per cent.

The June total for Ontario was \$4,530,249,000 as compared with \$2,979,998,000 in the corresponding month last year, while that for Quebec was \$2,662,520,000 compared with \$2,034,451,000. For the Prairie Provinces the figure was \$1,758,223,000 compared with \$1,281,280,000, British Columbia \$815,182,000 compared with \$652,679,000, and the Atlantic Provinces \$278,527,000 compared with \$211,847,000.

There were gains in each of the five economic areas in the first half of the year. Totals were as follows, those for the same period of 1949 being in brackets: Atlantic Provinces, \$1,231,998,000 (\$1,040,360,000); Quebec, \$13,406,350,000 (\$11,814,043,000); Ontario, \$20,104,323,000 (\$17,197,477,000); Prairie Provinces, \$7,841,926,000 (\$7,426,061,000); and British Columbia, \$3,929,679,000 (\$3,692,374,000). (10).

PRODUCTION OF LEADING MINERALS

Output of 11 of 16 of Canada's leading minerals was higher in April and the first four months of this year than in the corresponding periods of 1949, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Output was as follows in April, totals for the same month last year being in brackets: asbestos, 63,725 (16,002) tons; cement, 1,383,134 (1,536,897) barrels; clay products, \$1,249,123 (\$1,229,936); coal, 1,315,814 (1,228,782) tons; copper, 44,987,334 (45,175,710) tons; gold, 369,747 (326,903) fine ounces; gypsum, 199,539 (163,870) tons; and iron ore, 28,553 (104,031) tons.

Lead production in the month amounted to 21,108,960 tons (22,545,703 in April, 1949); lime, 85,008 (86,568) tons; natural gas, 5,513,176 (4,372,162) M cubic foot; nickel, 22,384,758 (22,292,345) tons; petroleum, 2,045,004 (1,845,434) barrels; salt, 55,555 (43,398) tons; silver, 1,453,993 (1,245,708) fine ounces; zinc, 46,776,255 (34,590,290) tons. (11).

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF  
REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Production of refined petroleum products rose almost 32 per cent in February over the corresponding month last year, while the inventories at refineries at March 1 were down eight per cent from last year. The month's output amounted to 6,701,314 barrels as compared with 5,048,860 a year ago, and the March 1 stocks totalled 12,948,642 barrels against 14,077,067.

Crude oil received by the refineries during February advanced to 6,680,963 barrels from 5,832,794 in the corresponding month last year. Receipts of domestic crude rose to 2,013,353 barrels from 1,307,202, while imported crude rose to 4,667,610 barrels from 4,525,592. (12).

CRUDE PETROLEUM OUTPUT IN APRIL Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline moved up 11 per cent in April over a year earlier, the month's output amounting to 2,045,000 barrels as compared with 1,845,400. During the four months ending April, 8,384,200 barrels were produced as compared with 6,393,000 in the like period of 1949, a rise of 31 per cent.

Alberta's output in April rose to 1,916,600 barrels from 1,714,000 a year earlier, and in the four months totalled 7,930,600 barrels compared with 5,997,100. April output from Redwater rose to 647,000 barrels from 344,000, but Leduc was down to 771,500 barrels from 893,900, and Turner Valley to 288,000 barrels from 311,900.

April output from wells in Saskatchewan amounted to 85,200 barrels compared with 74,900, Northwest Territories 26,900 barrels compared with 36,300, Ontario 15,000 barrels against 18,600, and New Brunswick 1,400 barrels compared with 1,700.(13)

PRODUCTION OF SALT HIGHER IN MAY Production of common salt was higher in May and the first five months of this year than in the corresponding periods of 1949. The month's output amounted to 70,500 tons as compared with 57,200 in May, 1949, bringing the cumulative total for the five months to 306,600 tons as against 286,100 in the like 1949 period.(14).

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF MINERAL WOOL IN JUNE Production of mineral wool in June comprised 13,551,500 square feet of batts and 1,115,500 cubic feet of granulated, bulk or loose, and industrial wool. There were 2,594,000 square feet of the former and 369,900 cubic feet of the latter in the factories at the end of the month. (Mem. 9).

JUNE OUTPUT OF GYPSUM PRODUCTS Production of gypsum wallboard in June amounted to 19,817,000 square feet, raising the cumulative total for the first six months of this year to 116,269,000 square feet. June output of gypsum lath totalled 19,556,000 square feet, and in the first half of the year amounted to 104,473,000 square feet. (Mem. 10).

SALES OF RADIO RECEIVING SETS INCREASED THREE PER CENT IN MAY Sales of radio receiving sets were three per cent higher in May than in the corresponding month last year, while in the first five months of this year sales rose seven per cent. May sales numbered 51,616 valued at \$3,805,166 as compared with 50,102 units at \$3,537,133 a year earlier, and in the five months totalled 256,781 units valued at \$20,920,769 as against 240,885 at \$18,002,040 in 1949.

Sales in May were as follows by provinces totals for the same month last year being in brackets: Ontario, 26,464 (30,470) units; Quebec, 13,053 (7,452); Maritime Provinces, 3,282 (2,647); British Columbia, 3,258 (3,029); Alberta, 2,508 (2,657); Saskatchewan, 1,341 (1,518); Manitoba, 1,242 (2,020); and Newfoundland, 468 (309).(15).

SALES OF ELECTRIC STORAGE BATTERIES Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers in June were valued at \$1,396,300, about one-third higher than in the corresponding month last year. In the first half of the year, sales were valued at \$7,041,200, slightly below last year's corresponding total of \$7,180,500.(16).

PASSENGER CARS SALES AND FINANCING IN 1949 With the much larger number of cars imported from the United Kingdom helping to swell the volume, Canadians bought almost 40 per cent more new passenger cars in 1949 than in 1948. Removal of restrictions which had curtailed imports from the United States also contributed to the increased volume but to a less important degree.

New passenger cars sold in Canada during the year totalled 202,318 as compared with 145,655 in 1948, according to the Bureau's annual report on new motor vehicle sales and motor vehicle financing. This represented 71 per cent of total sales of new motor vehicles as against 65 per cent the previous year.

In all, 286,341 new motor vehicles with a retail value of \$588,724,685 were sold in Canada during 1949 as compared with 221,300 with a retail value of \$439,216,988 in 1948. Truck sales increased 11 per cent over 1948, while sales of buses fell off 27 per cent.

In spite of the high volume of 1949 passenger cars sales, there was a considerable backlog of orders at the year's end. In the first three months of 1950, passenger car sales reached an unprecedented high of 71,071, more than one-third of the 1949 total and 128 per cent above the first quarter of last year.

Provincial distribution of passenger car sales in 1949 was closely similar to that for 1948, the only noteworthy exception being for British Columbia where sales accounted for 10 per cent of the total as against 8.6 per cent. Sales in Ontario represented 44.6 per cent; Quebec, 18.2; Maritime Provinces (including Newfoundland from April 1), 7.3; Manitoba 5.5; Saskatchewan, 6.5; and Alberta 7.4 per cent.

The average purchase price of new motor vehicles rose in 1949 to \$2,038 per unit for passenger cars from \$1,942 in 1948, and to \$2,100 from \$2,066 for commercial vehicles.

New vehicle sales financed in 1949 numbered 81,502 units with a financed value of \$115,511,459, up 57 per cent in number and value from the 1948 totals of 51,867 vehicles financed for \$73,805,672. Passenger cars accounted for 53,185 or 65 per cent of the total number of new vehicles financed. This was an increase of 78 per cent over 1948, when the number financed was 29,923.

The proportion of new car sales financed rose in 1949 to 29 per cent of total new car sales from 23 per cent in 1948 and 20 per cent in 1947. The 1949 proportion compares with a pre-war financing ration between 32 and 39 per cent of sales. Now passenger car buyers last year, in 26 per cent of all cases, purchased their cars under instalment purchase agreements with finance companies. Corresponding percentages for 1948 and 1947 were 21 and 17 per cent, respectively. The average financed value of new passenger cars rose six per cent in 1949 to \$1,336 from \$1,259 in 1948.(17).

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CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Car loadings on Canadian railways during the week ended July 22 established a new record for the period at 80,663 cars, up 2,462 cars over the preceding week and 6,137 cars or eight per cent over the same week last year. Loadings have been well in advance of 1949 volume since the middle of May and for the last seven weeks have been at peak levels. (18).

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WOOLLEN TEXTILE INDUSTRIES The gross value of products manufactured by the woollen textile industries of Canada in 1948 reached an all-time high figure of \$142,323,000. This was almost 14 per cent above the previous peak total of \$125,039,000 shown for 1947, and was three and one-third times as large as in 1939. The industry provided employment for 18,590 persons in 1948, practically the same as in 1947, but salary and wage payments rose from \$29,371,400 to \$34,080,800. Cost of materials used advanced from \$67,236,000 to \$79,088,400. (19).

RELEASED DURING THE WEEK --(The numbers in this list correspond with those at the end of news items, indicating the report on which an item is based).

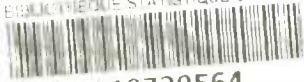
#### Reports and Bulletins

1. Trade of Canada: Domestic Exports, June (20 cents).
2. Estimates of Labour Income, April (10 cents).
3. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, May (10 cents).
4. Price and Price Indexes, June (25 cents).
5. Travel Between Canada and United States, May (20 cents).
6. Inventories & Shipments by Canadian Manufacturing Industries May (25 cents).
7. Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, June (25 cents).
8. Coal and Coko Statistics, May (25 cents).
9. Department Store Sales & Stocks, June (10 cents).
10. Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, June (10 cents).
11. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, April (10 cents).
12. Refined Petroleum Products, February (10 cents).
13. Crude Petroleum Production, Natural Gas and Manufactured Gas April (10 cents).
14. Salt, May (10 cents).
15. Radio Receiving Sets, May (25 cents).
16. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, June (10 cents).
17. New Motor Vehicle Sales and Motor Vehicle Financing, 1949 (30 cents).
18. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
19. Woollen Textile Industries, 1948 (40 cents).
20. Awning, Tent and Sail Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
21. Refined Petroleum Products, 1949 (50 cents).
22. Canal Statistics, 1949 (25 cents).

#### Memoranda

1. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products in 9 Cities, August 1 (10 cents).
2. Grain Statistics, Week ended July 20, 1950 (10 cents).
3. Maple Products, 1950 (10 cents).
4. Fruit & Ornamental Nursery Stock Sales, 1949 (\$1.00).
5. Grain Milling Statistics, June (10 cents).
6. Poultry Estimates, June (10 cents).
7. Fur Production, 1948-49 (25 cents).
8. Pack of Asparagus, 1950 (10 cents).
9. Mineral Wool, June (10 cents).
10. Production, Shipments & Stocks of Gypsum Products, June (10 cents).
11. Rigid Insulating Board Industry, June (10 cents).
12. Stoves and Furnaces, June (10 cents).
13. Fluid Milk Sales, May (10 cents).

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