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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES, at about the same value for the last four months of 1953, declined to \$3,966,000,000 in January from \$4,831,200,000 in December, but remained 3% above the level of a year earlier. (Page 4)

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STEEL MILLS PRODUCED 258,765 tons of steel ingots in February, an 18% reduction from last year's February output of 316,741 tons. (Page 4)

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SALES OF TV SETS by Canadian manufacturers were 46% higher this January, but RADIO SALES were 5% lower than in January last year. (Page 4)

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RAILWAY CARLOADINGS were 2% above the 1953 level in the last 10 days of last month. Except for an increase of less than 1% in the first week of February, loadings had been consistently below year earlier levels over the previous six months. Cumulative loadings for the first quarter of this year were over 10% less than in the first three months of 1953. (Page 6)

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT at the start of February was 2.7% below the level of the preceding month and 3% under the level of a year earlier...January 2 LABOUR INCOME totalled \$941,000,000, some \$48,000,000 less than in December and \$13,000,000 less than in January last year. (Page 2)

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NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES were down again in February, with the number sold off 22% from last year and the retail value 20.5% lower. FINANCED SALES of new vehicles were 17% fewer, and of used vehicles 23%. (Page 7)

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VEHICLE ENTRIES from the United States were up 2% this February, with nearly 3% more Canadian vehicles and close to 2% more foreign vehicles crossing the border into Canada. (Page 5)

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CHAIN STORE SALES were generally higher this February, with sales of grocery and combination stores up 11%, shoe stores 5%, women's clothing stores 2.4%, variety stores 2.4% and drug stores 2%. Only decline: chain hardware stores with a 6% sales drop. (Page 3)

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CREAMERY BUTTER PRODUCTION was 7% higher this March, but CHEDDAR CHEESE output was 3% lower than last year. Production of CONCENTRATED MILK PRODUCTS was up by 20%, PROCESS CHEESE by 28%, MARGARINE by 22%. (Pages 8 & 9)

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SEA-FISH CATCH was 62% greater this February at 58,019,000 pounds versus 35,784,000 last year, due mainly to larger landings of Atlantic cod and Pacific herring. (Page 9)

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## EMPLOYMENT &amp; EARNINGS

Industrial Employment At  
Lower Level In February

Industrial employment at the beginning of February was down 2.7% from January and 3% from February a year earlier. This year's February 1 index stood at 107.0 compared with 109.9 a month earlier and 110.3 a year ago. The February 1, 1952 index was also slightly higher at 107.4. These three are the top mid-winter figures in the record.

The disbursements in weekly wages and salaries rose 0.5% as compared with the holiday week of January 1, and were a shade larger than last year. The latest per capita weekly earnings, at \$58.42, were the highest in the record, 3.3% above the January 1 figure, and 3% higher than at February 1, 1953.

Employment was at a lower level than a month earlier in all provinces, and was higher only in Saskatchewan as compared with February 1, 1953. Among the main industrial groups there were declines in both comparisons in forestry (chiefly logging), construction, transportation, storage and communication, and services. Employment in mining and manufacturing advanced over January, but declined from a year earlier. (1)

Weekly Wages In Manufacturing  
At February 1 Up From Last Year

Average weekly wages in Canadian manufacturing industries at the beginning of February rose to \$57.14 from \$56.23 a year earlier, according to an advance statement. In mining the weekly average rose to \$67.19 from \$65.92, electric and motor transportation to \$63.94 from \$60.42, construction to \$60.15 from \$59.20, and service to \$33.62 from \$32.44.

On average, hourly earnings in manufacturing climbed to 140.4 cents from 134.2, mining to 158.1 cents from 153.3, electric and motor transportation to 139.0 cents from 132.5, construction to 151.5 cents from 142.3, and service to 82.0 cents from 76.5. Work-week in manufacturing averaged 40.7 hours compared with 41.9 a year earlier, mining 42.5 hours compared with 43.0, electric and motor transportation 46.0 hours compared with 45.6, construction 39.7 hours compared with 41.6, and service 41.0 hours compared with 42.4.

Labour Income In January

Canadian labour income for January was estimated at \$941,000,000, down \$48,000,000 from the preceding month, but a rise of \$13,000,000 over last year's January total, which included retroactive wage payments to railway employees.

All major industrial divisions shared in the decline in aggregate wages and salaries as compared with the preceding month, with amounts ranging from \$4,000,000 for the finance and service group to \$13,000,000 for construction and for manufacturing. Declines in farming and logging accounted for a drop of \$7,000,000 in the primary industries. Trade accounted for three-fourths of a decline of \$10,000,000 in the distributive group.

The rise in total labour income over last year was due to an advance in finance and services which rose \$21,000,000. No change occurred in manufacturing and utilities and transportation, but the primary and construction industries had smaller totals. (2)

Annual Report On Benefit Years Established And  
Terminated Under The Unemployment Insurance Act

The Bureau has released the annual statistical report dealing with benefit years established and terminated under the Unemployment Insurance Act for 1952. Basic data was supplied by offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

In 1952 there were 751,098 benefit years established by 731,048 claimants (711,076 of whom established only one benefit year, while 19,972 established two or more benefit years). The total of benefit days authorized in 1952 was 110,504,789 or an average of 147 per benefit year established. On the 660,419 benefit years terminated during 1952, benefit days paid totalled 36,311,202 or an average of 55 per benefit year terminated. (3)



## P R I C E S

Consumer Price Indexes For Regional Cities At March 1

Seven of the ten regional consumer price indexes declined between February 1 and March 1 while three advanced. Food indexes were lower for all except the Edmonton-Calgary series which showed no overall change. Lower quotations for beef, tomatoes and shortening were mostly responsible for the decline in foods as they offset a general advance in coffee and scattered increases for pork, oranges and carrots.

Continued advances in rents resulted in higher indexes for the shelter component in all cities except St. John's. The principal changes in clothing were increases for women's cloth coats and decreases for men's nylon socks and women's nylon hosiery and rayon undergarments. As a result of these and other scattered changes, clothing indexes were lower in six cities, higher in two and unchanged in two.

Household operation indexes moved higher in five cities due mainly to advances for electrical appliances, dishes, glassware and cleaning supplies. Higher local transportation fares in Saint John and Saskatoon were reflected in substantial advances in the other commodities and services indexes for these two cities. Of the remaining eight cities, four showed no change, while four registered mixed movements due to changes in automobile operation and higher toilet soap prices.

Total indexes for March 1 and February 1, and March 1 group index detail, are shown in the following table. The indexes show changes in retail prices of goods and services in each city. They do not indicate whether it costs more or less to live in one city than another.

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities of Canada at March 1, 1954  
(Base 1949 = 100)

	Total Indexes		Group Indexes - March 1, 1954				
	February 1, 1954	March 1, 1954	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities & Services
St. John's *	102.4	102.2	99.5	107.3	102.0	104.0	102.0
Halifax	113.8	113.7	105.6	122.2	116.6	119.1	115.8
Saint John	115.8	116.2	109.8	117.6	119.7	117.3	122.8
Montreal	116.8	116.3	113.4	132.0	110.7	116.2	115.6
Ottawa	115.5	115.3	109.8	126.0	113.4	116.4	117.6
Toronto	117.6	117.4	108.9	138.2	112.2	117.8	117.7
Winnipeg	115.0	114.7	110.2	122.6	115.4	113.1	115.6
Saskatoon-Regina	113.5	113.7	110.0	113.1	117.0	118.3	112.4
Edmonton-Calgary	114.3	114.4	109.9	119.3	114.2	115.1	117.8
Vancouver	116.4	116.3	110.7	124.1	111.8	124.7	117.6

\* Index on the base June 1951 = 100.

## M I N E R A L S

Copper Production Lower In January, But Nickel Higher

Output of copper declined in January but there was a small gain in the month's production of nickel. Primary copper production amounted to 17,783 tons compared with 17,901 in the preceding month and 23,824 a year earlier, and nickel output totalled 12,670 tons as compared with 11,996 in December and 12,466 in January, 1953. (4)

Salt Production Lower In January

Canadian production of dry common salt in January declined to 38,105 tons from last year's corresponding total of 46,267 tons. Producers' stocks at the end of the month rose to 20,050 tons from 17,978 a year earlier. (5)

## MANUFACTURING

Manufacturers' Inventories After remaining at approximately the same level for the last  
And Shipments In January four months of 1953, the total value of inventories held by  
 Canadian manufacturers in January declined to \$3,96,000,000  
 from \$4,031,200,000 in December. This was still 3% above last year's January total of  
 \$3,872,800,000.

Total inventory investment, or inventory actually owned by manufacturers declined 1% in January to \$3,583,700,000 from December's \$3,626,000,000, but rose 3% from last year's January value of \$3,482,700,000. Inventories held but not owned by reporting manufacturers were valued at \$412,300,000 compared with \$405,200,000 in December and \$390,100,000 a year earlier.

Shipments declined 4% in value from December and were 3% below January, 1953. Value of unfilled orders for the group of 950 firms reporting this item fell 2% during January and 19% from January, 1953; total unfilled orders for the group averaged 5.2 current month's sales value.

The value of inventories held by manufacturers of consumers' goods fell to \$2,155,-600,000 from December's \$2,170,200,000, but was above last year's January total of \$2,-116,800,000. Shipments dropped 1% from December but rose 2% from January, 1953. In the capital goods industries, total inventory value moved down to \$775,600,000 from December's \$792,100,000, but was above last year's January total of \$756,800,000. Shipments were down 23% in value from December and 7.8% from January, 1953.

In the producers' goods industries the total value of inventories in January was \$716,-000,000, slightly above the preceding month's \$714,000,000, and up 4.8% from 1953's January value of \$684,000,000. Total shipments for the group were down 4% in value from December and 11.8% from January last year. Total inventory held by the construction goods manufacturing industries rose to \$348,800,000 from \$345,900,000 a month earlier and \$315,-200,000 a year ago. Shipments were up 4.3% from December, but down about 2% from January, 1953. (6)

TV Sales Higher In January Producers' sales of TV receiving sets continued to rise in  
But Radio Sales Lower January but there was a moderate decline in sales of radio  
 receiving sets. TV set sales in January totalled 34,396  
 valued at \$12,684,669 as compared with 23,478 valued at \$8,981,697, and radio sales num-  
 bered 35,863 valued at \$2,940,238 compared with 37,544 valued at \$2,391,487.

The month's sales of television sets comprised 18,631 table models (13,324 a year ago), 14,676 consols (9,224), and 1,089 three-way combinations (930). Radio sales were made up of 19,739 home sets (19,638), 10,411 portable and auto (14,767), and 5,710 combinations (3,139).

TV sales in the Atlantic Provinces rose in January this year to 200 from only 2 a year ago, Quebec to 13,110 from 5,306, Ontario to 18,321 from 17,257, Prairie Provinces to 176 from nil, and British Columbia to 2,589 from 913. Radio sales in the Atlantic Provinces totalled 2,977 compared with 2,969, Quebec 5,667 compared with 5,773, Ontario 16,218 compared with 19,867, Prairie Provinces 8,787 compared with 6,712, and British Columbia 2,214 compared with 2,223. (7)

Output Of Steel Ingots Canadian steel mills produced 258,765 tons of steel ingots in  
Down 18% In February February, 18% less than last year's corresponding tonnage of 316,-741. Since January's output was down 14% to 290,487 tons from  
 339,215 a year earlier, the combined production for the January-February period declined to 549,252 tons from 655,956. The daily average output for February fell to 9,242 tons from 11,312, and the 2-month average was down to 9,309 tons from 11,118. (8)



Reduced Output Of Wire Products In January Smaller quantities of wire nails, steel wire, and wire fencing were produced in January than in the corresponding month last year. Output of wire nails amounted to 4,667 tons (4,801 a year earlier); steel wire, 17,915 tons (20,767); wire fencing, 1,001 tons (1,283); and wire rope, 1,143 tons (1,149). (9)

Electric Storage Battery Sales Increased In February Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers in February rose 27% in value to \$1,779,000 from last year's corresponding total of \$1,397,000. Added to January's sales of \$2,104,000 (\$1,716,000 a year earlier), combined sales for January-February climbed to \$3,883,000 from \$3,114,000. (10)

Coke Supplies Lower In January Smaller quantities of coke were available for consumption in January than in the corresponding month last year. The month's supplies amounted to 339,471 tons compared with 367,761. Production totalled 324,527 tons compared with 359,398, landed imports amounted to 23,609 tons compared with 31,582, and exports totalled 8,665 tons compared with 23,219. (11)

Production And Shipments Of Gypsum Products In February There was little change in February in production and shipments of gypsum products as compared with a year earlier. The month's production of wallboard, lath, sheathing, and block and tile amounted to 39,922,430 square feet (39,269,859 a year earlier), and shipments totalled 38,957,846 square feet (38,619,940). Month-end stocks climbed to 10,909,080 square feet from 7,909,507. Production of gypsum plasters totalled 17,053 tons (17,602), shipments amounted to 17,308 tons (17,423), and stocks were 756 tons (1,058). (12)

Consumption, Stocks And Production Of Rubber Consumption of natural, synthetic and reclaim rubber in February moved up to 7,814 tons from the preceding month's 6,759 tons, and month-end stocks declined to 12,820 tons from 13,200. Domestic production of synthetic and reclaim fell to 7,122 tons from 7,647. Consumption comprised 3,503 tons of natural (3,068 in January), 3,060 tons of synthetic (2,574), and 1,251 tons of reclaim (1,117). Month-end stocks were: natural, 5,388 tons (5,220); synthetic, 5,785 (6,235); and reclaim, 1,647 (1,745). Domestic production of synthetic rubber amounted to 6,739 tons (7,287); and reclaim, 383 tons (360). (13)

Leather Footwear Output Declined 12% In January Canadian production of leather footwear totalled 2,800,917 pairs in January, a drop of 12% from the 3,173,950 pairs made in the same month last year. This was the lowest January output since 1950. Number of pairs of leather footwear for men dropped to 606,661 from 708,786, for boys to 95,857 from 100,411, for women and growing girls to 1,378,556 from 1,554,360, for children to 233,867 from 252,300 and for babies and infants to 181,570 from 252,288. There was a slight increase in the number of pairs of leather footwear for youths to 22,719 from 22,565 and for misses to 281,687 from 281,240. (14)

## T R A V E L

Canada-U.S. Highway Traffic Up In February Volume of highway traffic between Canada and the United States was 2% greater in February than in the corresponding month last year. Aggregate border crossings numbered 675,800 vehicles compared with 662,200. The increase in the number of foreign vehicles was between 1 and 2%, and the increase in Canadian vehicles returning was nearly 3%.

Entries of vehicles with foreign registry amounted to 380,000 compared with 374,500. Non-resident traffic consisted of 59,600 vehicles entering on traveller's vehicle permits (57,400 a year ago), 292,110 non-permit or local entries (286,400), and 28,300 commercial vehicles (30,700). Re-entries of vehicles registered in Canada totalled 295,800, an increase of 3% over the same month of 1953. Total entries comprised 21,800 units remaining abroad over 24 hours (20,700), 236,200 vehicles absent for 24 hours or less (237,700), and 27,800 commercial vehicles (26,600). (15)



## T R A N S P O R T

Transit Operators Carried  
Fewer Passengers In December

Transit operators carried 121,402,000 revenue passengers in December, down 5% from the preceding year's December total of 127,848,000. Urban systems carried 5,800,000 fewer passengers at 113,900,000, and interurban passengers were down to 7,502,000 from 8,139,000. Despite generally higher fares, both urban and interurban services had lower revenues, the former dropping to \$10,477,000 from \$10,801,000, and the latter to \$3,616,000 from \$3,800,000. (16)

Railway Car Loadings  
Shade Higher In Week

Railway car loadings in the last ten days of March totalled 99,832 cars, slightly above last year's 98,152 cars. This brought cumulative loadings for the first three months of 1954 to 365,451 cars, down 10.2% from 1953's 407,029 cars. (17)

Railway Operating Revenues  
And Expenses Higher In 1952

Railways with operations in Canada had gross earnings of \$1,172,158,665 during the year 1952, a gain of \$83,574,876 or 7.7% over the 1951 total of \$1,088,583,739, but operating expenses rose 8.1% to \$1,057,186,304 from \$977,577,062. Despite a rise in the ratio of operating expenses to operating revenues to 90.19% from 89.80% in 1951, net operating revenues advanced to \$114,972,361 from \$111,006,727.

Passenger services had earnings of \$167,507,450 compared with \$155,529,340 in 1951, freight and switching revenues rose to \$957,208,285 from \$889,124,846, and other earnings from operations were \$47,442,930 as against \$43,929,603. Costs of transportation by rail totalled \$501,873,165, some \$35,196,119 more than in 1951. Maintenance of equipment cost \$19,157,255 more at \$243,341,926, and way and structures maintenance was up \$12,920,198 to \$215,411,186. Accrued taxes of \$40,263,395 were almost \$3,900,000 above the 1951 figure. Current assets of all railways at the end of 1952 totalled \$404,054,335, up \$20,682,704 from 1951. Most of the gain was registered by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company with current assets up from \$184,914,327 to \$202,364,139. The rise in current liabilities amounted to \$3,801,464, bringing the total to \$294,671,200. (18)

## I N T E R N A T I O N A L   T R A D E

Trade In Outstanding  
Securities In January

Trade in outstanding securities between Canada and other countries in January resulted in a capital inflow of \$6,300,000 compared with \$4,700,000 in December. This inflow was the largest of five consecutive sales balances recorded since September, 1953. The volume of trading was down when compared with the preceding month but was heavier than for any other month since June, 1953. Transactions with the United States led to a sales balance of \$1,800,000, in contrast to a purchase balance of \$2,000,000 in December. In each month from July to December, 1953, United States residents on balance disposed of Canadian stocks, but in January they again added to their holdings. Repatriation of outstanding Canadian bonds and debentures also fell in January and the balance of trading with the United States in all Canadian securities changed from net purchases of \$8,300,000 in December to net sales of \$800,000 in January.

There were counter movements in trading in foreign securities, and the relatively large sales by Canadians of United States non-government bonds which occurred in December did not continue in January. Mainly as a result of this factor, the sales balance of foreign securities with the United States fell to \$1,000,000 from \$6,300,000 in December. The sales balance with the United Kingdom was \$2,400,000, or less than half the December balance. While the volume of sales continued at a relatively high level, Canadian repurchases were larger than in any month since 1946, with the exception of October, 1950. Increases repurchases of Government of Canada bonds was the principal factor contributing to the change from December. Transactions with other overseas countries led to a capital inflow of \$2,100,000, somewhat larger than in December. (19)



## PROVINCIAL FINANCE

Revenues And Expenses Of  
Provincial Governments

Both total gross general revenues and total gross general expenditures of provincial governments of Canada were higher in 1951 than in the preceding year, according to the Bureau's final report for the year. Total gross general revenues -- ordinary and capital -- for all provinces in 1951 amounted to \$1,260,943,000, up from \$1,154,499,000 in 1950. At the same time, total gross expenditures for all provinces -- exclusive of debt retirement -- amounted to \$1,257,926,000, up from \$1,144,351,000.

Revenues from taxes increased to \$566,380,000 from \$478,508,000 in 1950. Federal tax rental agreements accounted for \$95,887,000, up from \$92,782,000; motor vehicle licence revenues rose to \$72,645,000 from \$67,060,000; privileges, licences and permits from natural resources advanced to \$113,307,000 from \$99,325,000; and liquor profits increased to \$115,540,000 from \$111,939,000. Revenues from liquor control privileges, licences and permits increased to \$28,370,000 from \$26,907,000. Gross provincial general expenditures on health and social welfare rose to \$392,587,000 from \$382,605,000, education to \$203,336,000 from \$189,630,000, transportation and communication to \$313,639,000 from \$257,484,000, and natural resources and primary industries to \$90,595,000 from \$79,724,000. Expenditures on the protection of persons and property rose to \$64,589,000 from \$54,331,000, and debt charges advanced to \$168,271,000 from \$143,471,000. (20)

## MERCHANDISING &amp; SERVICES

New Motor Vehicle Sales  
Again Lower In February

Canadians continued to buy fewer new motor vehicles in February, the number dropping 22% to 30,024 from 38,528 in the same month last year and the retail value declining 20.5% to \$76,737,000 from \$96,516,000. In January the number sold was down 23% from a year earlier and the retail value by 21%.

The February sales drop was common to all provinces and to both passenger cars and commercial vehicles. The percentage decline in new motor vehicles sold ranged from 4% in number and 4.5% in value in Nova Scotia to 40% in number and 39% in value in New Brunswick. Passenger car sales were 22% lower in number at 23,722 against 30,282 and 21% lower in value at \$60,410,000 against \$76,212,000. Sales of commercial vehicles dropped 24% in number to 6,302 from 8,246 and 20% in value to \$16,327,000 from \$20,304,000.

Fewer new vehicle sales were financed in February, the number declining 17% to 10,197 from 12,311 and the financed value 12% to \$18,976,000 from \$21,671,000. The number financed was lower this February in all regions, percentage declines ranging from 11% in Ontario to 38% in British Columbia. The number of passenger cars financed was down 16% to 8,057 from 9,625 and the amount of financing by 11.5% to \$14,132,000 from \$16,066,000. Commercial vehicles financed numbered 2,140, a 20% drop from 2,686, and the amount of financing was \$4,764,000, a 15% decline from \$5,605,000.

There were also fewer used motor vehicles financed in February, the number declining 23% to 22,051 from 28,722 and the amount of financing by 24% to \$18,794,000 from \$24,735,000. The number was down in all provinces, percentage declines ranged from 17% in Manitoba to 32% in Alberta. The number of used passenger cars financed dropped to 18,698 from 24,637 a year earlier and the amount of financing by 24.5% to \$15,803,000 from \$20,918,000. Used commercial vehicles financed numbered 3,353, a drop of 18% from 4,085, while the amount of financing was 23% lower at \$2,991,000 against \$3,867,000. (21)

Department Store Sales  
Increased 1.6% In Week

Department store sales rose 1.6% during the week ended April 3 as compared with a year earlier. There were small advances of 0.6% in Quebec and 0.4% in Alberta, but a sharp rise of 27.7% in British Columbia. Sales were down 1% in the Maritimes, 3.4% in Ontario, 8.2% in Manitoba, and 15% in Saskatchewan.



Department Store Sales  
Up 4.2% In February

Department store sales in February totalled \$66,021,000, an increase of 4.2% over last year's \$63,343,000. The increase almost completely offset, in dollar terms, the 4.5% decrease recorded in January. The Atlantic Provinces, with a decline of 7.7%, was the only region to show a sales decline. In Quebec there was a rise of 5.8%, Ontario 5.2%, Manitoba 0.3%, Saskatchewan 6.8%, Alberta 4.6%, and British Columbia 6.9%.

Most individual departments had increased sales in February with outstanding gains of 35.7% for major appliances and 29.5% for radio and music. Fur department sales rose 15.1%, men's clothing 10.8%; stationery, books and magazines, 10.9%; and photographic equipment and supplies, 6.3%. Men's furnishings department sales were down 9.3%; linens and domestics, 5%; china and glassware, 2.5%; and home furnishings 2%.

Department store sales rose 2.5% in March as compared with the corresponding month last year, according to preliminary figures. There was a steep rise of 20.5% in British Columbia, and moderate increases of 3.1% in Manitoba and 1.9% in the Maritimes. Declines were common to the other areas, Quebec's sales being down 0.3%, Ontario's 0.3%, Saskatchewan's 9%, and Alberta's 2.7%. (22)

Chain Store Sales  
Higher In February

Grocery and combination chain stores boosted their sales by 11% in February as compared with a year earlier. At the same time, shoe chain sales increased 5%, women's clothing chains 2.4%, variety chains 2.4%, and drug chains 2%, while hardware chain sales fell 6%. February 1 inventories held by grocery and combination chains were up 20.5% in value, hardware chains 43.5%, women's clothing chains 13.4%, shoe chains 7.4%, drug chains 2.8%. Stocks held by variety chains were down 1.1%.

February's sales for the six types of chains were as follows, last year's corresponding figures being in brackets: grocery and combination stores, \$63,981,000 (\$57,521,000); women's clothing stores, \$2,723,000 (\$2,660,000); shoe stores, \$2,642,000 (\$2,516,000); hardware stores, \$723,000 (\$769,000); drug stores, \$2,777,000 (\$2,722,000); and variety stores, \$10,682,000 (\$10,427,000). (23)

Wholesale Sales 2.4%  
Higher In February

Wholesale sales in February were a moderate 2.4% higher in value than in the corresponding month last year, and month-end inventories increased 3%, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from wholesalers in nine lines of trade. The composite index, on the 1935-39 base, stood at 312.4 compared with 294.1 a month earlier and 304.5 a year ago.

Grocery wholesalers increased their sales 10% in February, confectionary wholesalers by 6%, and footwear wholesalers by 3%. Wholesale sales of auto parts and equipment, clothing and drugs each moved up 1%. Decreased sales of 15% were recorded by wholesalers of dry goods, while sales of hardware declined 7%, and fruits and vegetables by 2%. (24)

## FOOD &amp; AGRICULTURE

Production Of Process  
Cheese Up Sharply

Production of process cheese in March amounted to 4,996,000 pounds, an increase of 33% over the revised February output of 3,749,000 pounds, and 28% above the 3,907,000 pounds produced in March last year. The cumulative output for the first three months of this year climbed to 12,403,000 pounds from 11,667,000 a year earlier.

Creamery Butter Stocks Higher  
On April 1; Cheese Stocks Down

Creamery butter stocks on April 1 rose to 42,277,000 pounds from last year's corresponding total of 26,812,000, but the holdings of cheddar cheese declined to 22,397,000 pounds from 26,577,000. Evaporated whole milk stocks dropped to 16,982,000 pounds from 22,942,000, and skim milk powder declined to 6,767,000 pounds from 12,563,000. Holdings of poultry meat climbed to 22,457,000 pounds from 12,130,000. (25)



### Larger Output Of Butter In March But Cheese Declined

11% in March and 5% in the January-March period.

Creamery butter production increased 7% in March as compared with a year earlier and the cumulative output for the first quarter of the year rose 5%. Domestic disappearance increased

The month's output of creamery butter amounted to 14,735,000 pounds as compared with 13,748,000 a year ago, bringing the first-quarter total to 35,635,000 pounds compared with 33,906,000. Domestic disappearance in March totalled 22,901,000 pounds compared with 20,542,000, and the three-month cumulative disappearance stood at 64,523,000 pounds compared with 61,365,000.

Cheddar cheese production in March amounted to 2,751,000 pounds (2,850,000 a year earlier), and in the January-March period totalled 6,497,000 pounds (6,382,000). The month's output of ice cream was 1,802,000 gallons (1,714,000), bringing the first-quarter total to 4,268,000 gallons (4,294,000).

Concentrated milk products totalled 29,824,000 pounds in March, up 20% from the preceding year's 24,842,000, whole milk products rising 28%, and by-products falling 1%. Combined output for the quarter was 68,377,000 pounds, 10% above last year's 62,264,000 pounds, with whole milk products up 10%, and by-products down 5%. (26)

### Margarine Production Up In March And First Quarter

Margarine production in March rose to 9,823,000 pounds from 8,041,000 in the preceding month and 8,302,000 in the corresponding month last year. This brought the cumulative output for the first three months of the current year to 28,055,000 pounds, 3.6% above last year's first-quarter total of 26,469,000 pounds. Stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and other warehouses at the beginning of April amounted to 3,000,000 pounds compared with 3,405,000 a month earlier and 2,600,000 a year ago. (27)

### Larger Catch Of Sea-Fish In February

Due mainly to larger catches of Atlantic cod and Pacific herring, landings of sea-fish in February rose to 58,019,000 pounds from 35,784,000 in the same month last year. The value increased to \$1,725,000 from \$1,458,000. In the two months, January-February, landings totalled 149,510,000 pounds, up from 79,986,000, and the value climbed to \$4,266,000 from \$4,089,000.

The Atlantic coast catch increased to 29,238,000 pounds worth \$1,278,000 from 27,271,000 pounds valued at \$1,217,000. Landings of cod, haddock, and rose-fish were greater, especially in Newfoundland. However, the catches of lobsters, smelts and pollock were smaller.

February's catch on the Pacific totalled 28,781,000 pounds worth \$447,000, although higher than last year's 8,513,000 pounds valued at \$241,000, still appears to be below normal for the month. Landings of herring were larger, but most kinds of shell-fish were lower. (28)

### Stocks & Marketings Of Wheat & Coarse Grains

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on March 31 totalled 355,403,000 bushels, moderately below the 359,188,000 bushels in store a week earlier, but 29.4% larger than last year's corresponding total of 274,588,000 bushels. Prairie farmers marketed 2,873,000 bushels of wheat during the week ending March 31, up from 2,308,000 a week earlier and 2,690,000 a year ago.

Prairie farm deliveries of oats and barley were larger than a year earlier, but both rye and flaxseed were moved in smaller volume. Marketings of oats amounted to 978,000 bushels (863,000 a year ago); barley, 1,260,000 bushels (1,066,000); rye, 83,000 bushels (142,000); and flaxseed, 36,000 bushels (45,000).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending March 31 increased to 4,927,000 bushels from 3,278,000 a week earlier and 2,192,000 a year ago, but cumulative clearances from the beginning of the crop year to the end of March were down to 135,702,000 bushels from 170,051,000. (29)



**Current World Wheat Supplies** Supplies of wheat remaining on or about March 1 this year in the four major exporting countries for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 1,869,900,000 bushels, some 27% greater than the 1,471,600,000 available a year ago, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's March 1 supplies were held as follows, last year's totals being in brackets: United States, 906,700,000 bushels (654,400,000); Canada, 671,200,000 (546,900,000); Argentina, 147,700,000 (151,600,000); and Australia, 144,300,000 (118,700,000). (30)

**Wheat And Wheat Flour Exports Lower In February** Total exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour in terms of wheat in February amounted to 13,700,000 bushels, down from both the preceding month's 17,800,000 bushels and last year's February exports of 17,600,000 bushels. This brought the cumulative total for the August-February period of the present crop year to 152,000,000 bushels, a drop of 27% from the preceding year's 207,800,000 bushels.

Exports of wheat as grain in February totalled 10,600,000 bushels compared with 13,800,000 in January and 14,000,000 a year earlier. In the August-February period the exports aggregated 126,300,000 bushels compared with 175,600,000.

February's exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat amounted to 3,100,000 bushels as compared with 4,000,000 in January and 3,600,000 in February, 1953. This brought the cumulative total for the August-February period to 25,700,000 bushels as compared with 32,200,000.

The United Kingdom continued to be the principal market for Canadian wheat, taking 42,100,000 bushels -- 33% of the total -- in the August-February period. Other major markets were: Japan, 25,400,000 bushels; Federal Republic of Germany, 9,200,000; Belgium, 8,700,000; Switzerland, 6,000,000; the Netherlands, 5,000,000; India, 4,300,000; United States, 4,100,000 (of which 1,400,000 was for milling in bond); Spain, 3,400,000; Union of South Africa, 3,300,000; Israel, 2,600,000; Norway, 1,800,000; Ireland, 1,800,000; Peru, 1,100,000; and Malta, 1,100,000.

The United Kingdom was also the chief purchaser of Canadian wheat flour in the August-February period, taking some 8,187,000 bushels (wheat equivalent). Next in order were the Philippine Islands with 2,895,000; Venezuela, 1,898,000; Jamaica, 1,215,000; Trinidad and Tobago, 1,120,000; Korea, 953,000; Japan, 793,000; Hong Kong, 716,000; and Gold Coast, 605,000. (30)

**April 1 Holdings Of Meat Sharply Below Year Earlier** Cold storage holdings of meat at the beginning of April totalled 74,240,000 pounds, moderately larger than March 1 holdings of 71,111,000 pounds, but sharply under last year's corresponding stocks of 119,847,000 pounds. The large drop from a year earlier occurred in the holdings of frozen meat which fell to 41,326,000 pounds from 91,364,000. Stocks of fresh meat increased to 17,270,000 pounds from 14,969,000, and cured meat to 15,644,000 pounds from 13,514,000. (31)

### Security Price Indexes

	<u>April 8, 1954</u>	<u>April 1, 1954</u> (1935-39=100)	<u>March 11, 1954</u>
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>			
Total Common Stocks .....	172.3	171.6	166.6
Industrials .....	173.1	172.2	166.3
Utilities .....	158.5	158.6	156.2
Banks .....	196.0	196.1	194.5
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>			
Total Mining Stocks .....	88.6	87.9	85.6
Gold .....	63.6	63.6	61.8
Base Metals .....	146.0	143.4	142.0



## ANNUAL INDUSTRY REPORTS

Output Of Flour & Feed Mills Up 3% In  
Volume But Down 1.5% In Value In 1952

651,894 from \$305,327,041.

Output of all grades of wheat flour increased to 23,492,848 barrels in 1952 from 23,377,835 in the preceding year, but a drop in the average price per barrel to \$8.91 from \$9.14 lowered the total mill selling value to \$209,321,275 from \$213,638,077. Production of oatmeal and rolled oats was reduced to 44,410 from 51,434 tons, and the mill selling value to \$6,909,386 from \$8,413,802 despite an increase in the average price per ton to \$155.58 from \$154.57.

Production of bran, shorts and middlings was off to 838,347 from 845,982 tons, and the mill selling value was lower at \$48,389,388 from \$47,773,789 despite an advance in the average price per ton to \$57.72 from \$56.47. Output of chopped feed fell to 182,733 from 199,669 tons and the mill selling value to \$10,931,088 from \$12,251,737 with the average price per ton declining to \$59.82 from \$61.36. (32)

Record Production Value In  
Machinery Industry In 1952

Gross factory value of products turned out by the machinery industry of Canada rose to an all-time high value in 1952 of \$342,302,000, an increase of 12% over the preceding year's \$305,009,000. Total factory value of machinery of all kinds produced in all industries aggregated \$517,327,000, an increase of 7% over 1951's \$482,723,000.

There were 402 establishments in the industry in 1952 -- 23 more than in 1951. Their employees numbered 34,651 as compared with 34,154, and salary and wage payments aggregated \$110,982,000 compared with \$99,084,000.

Household machinery and parts was produced in the industry in 1952 to the value of \$42,483,000 (\$34,623,000 in 1951); office, business and store machinery and parts, \$35,135,000 (\$33,590,000); pulp mill and paper mill machinery and parts, \$19,282,000 (\$16,033,000); mining and metallurgical machinery and parts, \$18,751,000 (\$12,518,000); pumps and parts, \$17,294,000 (\$15,485,000); transmission machinery and parts, \$16,380,000 (\$15,964,000); engines - steam, diesel, gas -- \$13,805,000 (\$12,426,000); conveying and elevating machinery, \$11,233,000 (\$10,919,000).

Plants in Ontario accounted for \$206,775,000 of the 1952 output (\$185,715,000 in 1951), those in Quebec for \$107,543,000 (\$87,396,000), and those in British Columbia for \$17,445,000 (\$18,432,000). (33)

Miscellaneous Non-Metallic  
Mineral Products Industry

Output of the miscellaneous non-metallic mineral products industry was valued at \$12,110,532 in 1952. In 1951 this miscellaneous group of industries produced \$16,144,550 worth of products, but the two totals are not comparable due to the transfer of firms manufacturing fuel briquettes and asphalt and tar paving and roofing materials to the miscellaneous products of petroleum and coal industry in 1952.

Comparable production figures show increased output value for refractories (to \$4,641,189 from \$4,445,311), expanded vermiculite (to \$1,169,696 from \$975,661), and oil gas (to \$619,806 from \$603,856), and decreases for foundry facings and partings (to \$393,010 from \$420,520), core oil and core compounds (to \$111,790 from \$186,461), and all other products (to \$5,175,041 from \$7,987,768). (34)

MORE



Decrease Of 4% In Sporting Goods Output Value In 1952

Factory shipments of Canadian-made sporting goods were valued at \$11,305,266 in 1952, 4% below the record 1951 value of \$11,766,102, according to the Bureau's annual report on the sporting goods industry, which accounted for the greater part of the production.

Fewer golf balls, baseballs and softballs were made in 1952, but more of other kinds of balls, while output of baseball and softball bats was reduced. More billiard and bowling supplies and archery tackle was produced but output of fishing tackle was lower. Fewer golf clubs were made but output was up for other golf equipment. More hockey sticks were produced but fewer hockey pucks and hockey and baseball gloves and mittens. Output of gymnasium equipment and supplies increased but playground, track and field equipment declined. Production of tennis rackets increased, as did the output of badminton and squash rackets. Fewer ice skates were made but more roller skates. More skis were produced but production of ski poles and fittings was down. Output of snowshoes and toboggans declined but production of other sporting goods was higher.

There were 77 firms engaged primarily in the manufacture of sporting goods in 1952, one less than in 1951, and they employed 1,541 against 1,732. Gross production value declined to \$9,979,386 from \$10,436,812, with 76% of the total produced in Ontario. Material costs were reduced to \$3,694,839 from \$4,064,663, but the payroll was slightly higher at \$3,687,606 against \$3,659,189. (35)

Less Quartz, Nepheline Syenite And Feldspar Mined During 1952

Shipments of feldspar, nepheline syenite and quartz from Canadian mines was valued at \$3,696,085 in 1952 as compared with \$3,909,967 in the preceding year. Feldspar production came entirely from Ontario and Quebec, nepheline syenite from Ontario, and quartz (silica) from Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Output of crude and ground feldspar declined to 20,267 tons valued at \$330,635 from 40,749 tons worth \$551,097 in 1951, and quartz or siliceous material to 1,783,081 tons valued at \$2,253,500 from 1,904,885 tons worth \$2,258,468. Shipments of nepheline syenite were valued at \$1,111,950 as against \$1,114,943.

The number of shipping mines increased to 34 from 30 during the year but employees decreased to 426 from 532. The payroll was reduced to \$1,251,943 from \$1,402,294, the cost of process supplies to \$253,174 from \$318,493, and gross production value, including containers to \$3,704,425 from \$3,926,523. (36)

Slight Drop In Output Value Of Motor Vehicle Parts And Accessories In 1952

Canadian production of motor vehicle parts and accessories was valued at \$487,909,000 in 1952, a slight decline of less than 1% from the 1951 output value of \$492,478,000, according to the Bureau's annual report on the motor vehicle parts industry, which accounts for the greater share of the production of parts and accessories made of metal.

Among the most important items, production value increased for axle and axle shafts, auto storage batteries, dump truck bodies and cabs, brakes and parts, asbestos brake linings, cable and wire assemblies, tire chains, auto and engine heaters and defrosters, headlights and parts, complete radiators, radiator cores, spark plugs and parts, chassis springs, and tire flaps and tire flap material. Lower output values were recorded for bumpers and bumperettes, asbestos clutch facings, rubber fan belts, auto hardware, oil filters and elements, pistons, piston rings and expanders, propeller drive shafts and universal shafts, automobiles radios and tires.

The motor vehicle parts industry included 172 firms in 1952 as against 161 in 1951 and employed 21,791 as against 21,197. The payroll was up 11% to \$72,607,789 from \$65,283,163, fuel and electricity costs 19% to \$3,895,986 from \$3,271,070, material costs 2% to \$145,666,823 from \$142,840,935 and gross production value 5% to \$276,785,167 from \$263,133,094.



## RELEASED THIS WEEK

(Publications are numbered similarly to news items to indicate source of latter)

- 1- Employment & Payrolls, Feb., 25¢
  - 2- Estimates of Labour Income, Jan., 10¢
  - 3- M: Production of Leather Footwear, Jan., 10¢
  - 4- M: Copper & Nickel Production, Jan., 10¢
  - 5- M: Salt, Jan., 10¢
  - 6- Inventories, Shipments & Orders in Manufacturing Industries, Jan., 25¢
  - 7- Radio & Television Receiving Sets, Jan., 10¢
  - 8- Steel Ingots, Feb., 10¢
  - 9- M: Steel Wire & Specified Wire Products, Jan., 10¢
  - 10- M: Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, Feb., 10¢
  - 11- Coal & Coke Statistics, Jan., 25¢
  - 12- M: Gypsum Products, Feb., 10¢
  - 13- Consumption, Production & Inventories of Rubber, Feb., 25¢
  - 14- Annual Report of Benefit Years Established & Terminated Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1952, 40¢
  - 15- Travel Between Canada & the United States, Feb., 20¢
  - 16- M: Transit Report, Dec., 10¢
  - 17- M: Railway Car Loadings, Weekly, 10¢
  - 18- Railway Transport, Part II, (Financial & Employment Statistics) 1952, 50¢
  - 19- Sales & Purchases of Securities Between Canada & Other Countries, Jan., 10¢
  - Trade of Canada: Imports, January, Detailed, 50¢
  - 20- Financial Statistics of Provincial Governments, 1951, 25¢
  - 21- New Motor Vehicle Sales & Motor Vehicle Financing, Feb., 20¢
  - 22- Department Store Sales & Stocks, Feb., 10¢
  - 23- Chain Store Sales & Stocks, Feb., 10¢
  - 24- Wholesale Trade, Feb., 10¢
  - 25- M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products, Apr. 1, 10¢
  - 26- Dairy Factory Production, Mar., 10¢
  - 27- M: Margarine Statistics, Mar., 10¢
  - 28- Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, Feb., 25¢
  - 29- M: Grain Statistics Weekly, 10¢
  - 30- The Wheat Review, Mar., 25¢
  - 31- M: Stocks of Meat & Lard, Apr., 25¢
  - 32- Flour & Feed Milling Industries, 1952, 25¢
  - 33- The Machinery Industry, 1952, 25¢
  - 34- Miscellaneous Non-Metallic Mineral Products Industry, 1952, 25¢
  - 35- Sporting Goods Industry, 1952, 25¢
  - 36- Feldspar & Quartz Mining Industry, 1952, 25¢
  - Miscellaneous Chemical Products Industry, 1952, 25¢
- M - Memorandum
-



## D.B.S. NEWS NOTES

Engineers: From the end of June 1946 to the end of June last year 2,407 emigrated to the United States, according to figures supplied by the U.S. Immigration Service. Of this total, 1,018 or 42% left after June 1951. There were 27,036 engineers in Canada on the Census date of June 1, 1951.

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Chalices and other church goods made in the jewellery and silverware industry were valued at only \$59,998 in 1952 as compared with \$331,398 in 1951.

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Sea-Fish: In terms of quantity landed, cod is the biggest catch of fishermen on the Atlantic Coast and herring of fishermen on the Pacific Coast. However, in terms of total value, lobsters are the biggest catch in the east and salmon in the west.

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Chemicals output was valued at \$230,050,000 in 1952, down 4% from the 1951 peak of \$238,925,000 but still nearly one-quarter more than 1950's \$184,648,000.

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Sailboats: 164 were built in 1952, an increase of 45 or 38% over the 1951 output. However, average cost was 30% lower at \$469 versus \$669, and total value was reduced to \$76,871 from \$79,603.

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Creamery butter output rose 5% in the first quarter of this year to 35,635,000 lb. from 33,906,000 in 1953. Domestic disappearance showed a similar percentage increase to 22,901,000 from 20,542,000 lb.

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Divorce rate per hundred thousand population was lowest last year in Newfoundland at 2.3, highest in British Columbia at 120.2. Quebec had the second-lowest rate (6.4), followed by Prince Edward Island (14.2), Saskatchewan (25.3), Nova Scotia (27.9), New Brunswick (33.8), Manitoba (46.2), Ontario (55.5) and Alberta (60.2).

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Beef: Per capita consumption jumped over 32% last year to 59.1 lb. from 44.7 lb. in 1952. This was 8% more than the 1935-39 average per capita consumption of 54.7 lb.

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Naval Vessels: Three worth \$4,249,816 were completed in 1952 as compared with two valued at only \$330,803 in 1951.

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Wash Basins: 166,139 were made last year, 44,540 or 37% more than in 1952.

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Sex Hormones: Production was valued at \$2,502,689 in 1952, nearly double the 1951 output value of \$1,255,574.

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Telephone calls from Canada to Africa numbered 107 in 1952, nearly double the 58 made in the preceding year.

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Peat occurs in nature in two distinct forms which differ markedly in physical properties and in chemical composition. Unhumified peat is the dead moss of the sphagnum plant. It is fibrous, elastic, of light greyish green or yellowish to light brown colour, becoming somewhat darker on drying. It has an absorptive value of up to 25 times its own weight. It is used as a bedding litter for animals and poultry, for horticultural purposes, and as a filler for fertilizers. Because of its elasticity and low heat conductivity, it is used also for insulating and sound-proofing and as a packing material. Humified or fuel peat in its natural state is dark brown to black, colloidal, plastic, homogeneous and somewhat elastic. It dries into a hard solid mass of a specific gravity higher than water. It has almost no absorptive value. Peat moss left in its natural state will humify in course of time and all fibrous matter eventually disappears. The bulk of Canada's peat moss output comes from British Columbia and Quebec, although bogs are worked also in New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and Nova Scotia. In recent years, peat fuel has been produced only in Ontario and Quebec.

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