



D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 23 -- No. 5

Friday, February 4, 1955

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Foreign Trade: Canadian exports jumped to an 18-month high value in December and imports showed a small decline to produce the largest export surplus in three years. The December rise in exports followed a moderate increase in November but declines in earlier months resulted in an overall drop of 5.5% in value last year. With declines in all months except June and November, imports were down 6.6% from 1953. (Page 4)

Banking: Cheques cashed in 52 clearing centres across Canada had a total value of \$153,192,527,000 last year, a 7.5% increase over the 1953 value of \$142,533,068,000. Values were higher in 24 of the 52 centres and in all economic regions except the Prairie Provinces. (Page 5)

Food: Egg production was 7% above the 1953 level last year... Production and manufacturers' sales of refined beet and cane sugar were higher in 1954 than in 1953, but year-end stocks were lower... Wheat flour production totalled 21,300,000 barrels last year as against 22,200,000 in 1953. (Pages 7 & 8)

Prices: The Bureau's general index of wholesale prices rose 0.2% in December but was 1.7% below the level of a year earlier... Farm product prices at terminal markets rose 0.4% during December... Residential building material prices rose 0.1% during November, while non-residential building material prices fell 0.1%. (Page 15)

Merchandising: Sales of department stores across Canada were nearly 14% higher in the week ending January 22 than in the corresponding week last year. Regional increases ranged from 6% to 25%. (Page 3)

Labour: Ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register numbered 400,830 on December 31 as against 274,462 a month earlier and 372,363 on the same date in 1953... The Bureau's advance index on industrial employment registered 112.6 at the start of December, down from 113.0 at the start of November and 114.1 a year earlier. Expenditures in weekly payrolls declined 0.6% during the month but were 0.9% above 1953. Weekly earnings averaged \$59.62, down from the November 1 peak of \$59.78 but the highest December 1 figure on record. (Page 16)

Transport: Railway carloadings were more than 5% above the 1953 level in the second week of January, and receipts from connections were up 9.5%... Freight loaded through Canada's 10 canals decreased almost 10% to 30,070,543 tons from the modern record of 33,373,064 tons moved in 1953. (Pages 8 & 10)

3% More Households, 3.4% More Families In 1954 Than In 1953

There was a bigger rise in the number of families than in the number of households in Canada in the 12 months to June 1 last year, but in the two years from June 1, 1952 the number of households showed a larger increase, according to the annual estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The average size of households was smaller last year than in the two previous years, while the average size of families was the same as in 1952 and 1951 after a rise in 1953.

The Bureau's estimates show 3,785,000 households (exclusive of institutional households) for the June 1 date last year, 110,000 or 3% more than a year earlier and 224,000 or 6.3% more than on the same date in 1952. Average size was 3.9 persons as compared with 4.0 persons in each of the three previous years.

(The estimate of total households in Canada for June 1, 1954, exceeds by 41,000 the total shown in the report released last December on the September sample survey of household equipment and facilities. The difference is due to the inclusion in the estimate of allowance for Indian reserves and inaccessible areas in the northern parts of the country, which were not included in the survey.)

Canadian families were estimated at 3,595,000 at June 1 last year, an increase of 118,000 or 3.4% since the start of June 1953 and 182,000 or 5.3% since the same date in 1952. The average family size was 3.7 persons as compared with 3.8 persons in 1953 and 3.7 persons in both 1952 and 1951.

Between June 1, 1952 and 1954 the number of households decreased only in Prince Edward Island (by 4.2%) and New Brunswick (1.7%), increases in the other provinces ranging from 3.1% in Saskatchewan to 11.2% in Manitoba. Last year the average size rose in New Brunswick and Alberta, fell in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, and showed no change in the other provinces. The 1954 range was from 3.3 persons in British Columbia to 5.1 persons in Newfoundland.

In the two years to June 1 last year the number of families dropped in Prince Edward Island (by 4.3%), showed no change in New Brunswick, and increased in the other provinces, the gains ranging from 2% (in Nova Scotia) to 7.6% (in Saskatchewan). The average size rose last year in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta, fell in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Manitoba, and showed no change in the other provinces. The 1954 range was from 3.3 persons in British Columbia to 4.6 persons in Newfoundland.

More Families With Children At Home

An estimated 2,419,000 families had children 24 years of age and under living at home at the start of June last year, 81,000 more than on the same date in 1953. During the 12 months the number of families with no children at home increased by 37,000 to 1,176,000. Of the families with children at home, 780,000 or 32.2% had one child, 720,000 or 29.8% two children, 403,000 or 16.7% three children, 347,000 or 14.3% four or five children, and 169,000 or 7.0% with six or more children.

MORE

Biggest increase was in the number of families in which all children at home were under 14 years, which mounted by 56,000 or 1,465,000 last year. Families with children both under and over 14 increased by 11,000 to 488,000, and families with children over 14 only by 14,000 to 466,000.

All told, there were 6,171,000 children of 24 years of age and under living at home last year, 176,000 more than on the same date in 1953. Numbers increased during the 12 months in all parts of the country: by 3,000 to 203,000 in Newfoundland; by 27,000 to 596,000 in the Maritime Provinces; by 46,000 to 2,025,000 in Quebec; by 47,000 to 1,815,000 in Ontario; by 37,000 to 1,096,000 in the Prairie Provinces; and by 16,000 to 436,000 in British Columbia.

Children under 14 accounted for 4,548,000 or 73.7% of the total number at home on June 1, 1954 as against 4,357,000 in 1953, or an increase of 191,000 or 4.4% over the year period. During the year the number of children of 14 to 24 years living at home decreased to 1,623,000 from 1,638,000.

The number of children at home related to the total number of families showed an average of 1.7 children per family at the start of June last year, unchanged from the three previous years. The average number declined last year in Newfoundland to 2.5 from 2.6 children, increased in the Maritime Provinces to 2.1 from 2.0 children, and was unchanged in Quebec at 2.2 children, Ontario at 1.4 children, the Prairie Provinces at 1.6 children, and British Columbia at 1.3 children. (1)

MERCHANDISING

Department Store Sales Up Nearly 14% In Week Department store sales in all Canada were 13.7% higher during the week ending January 22 than in the corresponding week last year. As in the previous week, all regions shared in the rise, British Columbia again leading with an increase of 24.8%, followed by Manitoba with 21.5%. Atlantic Provinces 18.8%, Ontario 11.4%, Alberta 8.7%, Quebec 7.1% and Saskatchewan 5.8%.

Operating Results of Chain Food Stores A survey of six firms operating chain grocery stores showed an average gross profit ratio or mark-up of 14.96% of average net sales in 1953 as compared with an average of 15.33% for eight firms surveyed in 1951, according to the Bureau's biennial report on operating results of chain food stores. Average gross profit ratio or mark-up of 24 firms operating chain combination food stores in 1953 was 16.50% of average net sales as compared with 15.32% for 21 firms surveyed in 1951.

Operating expenses of chain grocery stores averaged 13.80% of average net sales in 1953 as compared with 14.12% in 1951, net operating profit decreasing to 1.16% of average net sales from 1.41%. Operating expenses of chain combination food stores average 13.26% of average net sales in 1953 as compared with 12.67% in 1951, net operating profit increasing to 3.24% of average net sales from 3.15%. (2)

Total Exports Jumped To An 18-Month High In December

Canada's total exports jumped to an 18-month high value in December, while commodity imports showed a small decline, to produce the largest export surplus in 3 years, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The December rise in exports followed a moderate increase in November but declines in earlier months of the year resulted in an overall decrease of 5.5% in the year's value. Imports declined 6.6% in 1954, declines being common to all months except June and November.

Total exports in December were valued at \$395,300,000, an increase of 9.5% over the preceding year's \$360,900,000 and the highest since June and July 1953 when shipments of wheat were exceptionally high. Total value for the calendar year was \$3,945,700,000 versus \$4,172,600,000 in 1953. Commodity imports were slightly lower in value in December, being estimated at \$337,000,000 versus \$338,400,000, bringing the year's total to \$4,094,600,000 versus \$4,382,800,000 in 1953.

The substantial rise in exports coupled with the small decline in imports produced an estimated export surplus in December of \$58,300,000. This compares with an export surplus of \$22,500,000 in December, 1953. The estimated import balance for the full year 1954 amounted to \$148,900,000, substantially reduced from 1953's \$210,200,000.

Exports to the United States in December dropped to \$219,500,000 from \$223,500,000 a year earlier and the imports from that country fell to \$244,200,000 from \$246,800,000. The import surplus was little changed at \$24,700,000 versus \$23,300,000. In the full year 1954 exports to the United States dropped to \$2,363,100,000 from \$2,463,000,000 and imports to \$2,964,100,000 from \$3,221,200,000. The year's import surplus fell to \$601,000,000 from \$758,200,000 in 1953.

Total sales to the United Kingdom rose sharply in December to \$81,500,000 from \$47,600,000 a year earlier but the imports dropped to \$33,800,000 from \$38,300,000, and the export surplus rose sharply to \$47,700,000 from \$9,300,000. In the full year 1954 exports were slightly lower at \$661,600,000 versus \$668,900,000, and imports were down to \$392,400,000 from \$453,400,000. The result was an enlarged export surplus of \$269,200,000 versus \$215,500,000 in 1953.

December's exports to all other Commonwealth countries rose to \$16,500,000 from \$13,100,000 but imports fell to \$8,900,000 from \$9,400,000. The full year's exports to the group declined to \$196,500,000 from \$234,500,000 but the imports rose to \$182,900,000 from \$170,500,000. Commodity exports to all other foreign countries in December were slightly higher at \$77,800,000 versus \$76,700,000 and the imports climbed to \$50,100,000 from \$43,900,000. In the year 1954 the exports to the group fell to \$724,500,000 from \$806,200,000 but imports rose to \$555,200,000 from \$537,700,000.

The preliminary figures for December and the January-December period are summarized in the table on the following page. The import figures are estimates and subject to revision; final and detailed import figures will not be available for several weeks. Those for exports are based on final figures which will be issued in detail shortly.

MORE

	December		January-December	
	1953	1954	1953	1954
(millions of dollars)				
<u>Exports (Domestic and Foreign)</u>				
United Kingdom	47.6	81.5	668.9	661.6
Other Commonwealth countries	13.1	16.5	234.5	196.5
United States	223.5	219.5	2,463.0	2,363.1
Other foreign countries	76.7	77.8	806.2	724.5
Totals	360.9	395.3	4,172.6	3,945.7

	December		January-December	
	1953	1954 *	1953	1954*
<u>Imports</u>				
United Kingdom	38.3	33.8	453.4	392.4
Other Commonwealth countries	9.4	8.9	170.5	182.9
United States	246.8	244.2	3,221.2	2,964.1
Other foreign countries	43.9	50.1	537.7	555.2
Totals	338.4	337.0	4,382.8	4,094.6

* Estimate only. Subject to revision.

BANKING

Value Of Cheques Cashed Cheques cashed in 52 clearing centres across Canada
Upped By 7.5% Last Year had a total value of \$153,192,527,000 last year, a
 7.5% increase over the 1953 value of \$142,533,068,-
 000. December cashings were worth over 10% more than a year earlier at
 \$14,242,143,000 against \$12,903,321,000.

The value of cheques cashed in December was higher than in 1953 in all economic regions except the Atlantic Provinces, where the total was down about 3% to \$374,980,000 from \$387,271,000. The sharpest increase was a gain of over 14% in Ontario to \$6,293,843,000 from \$5,509,174,000. December cashings were up almost 12% in Quebec to \$4,200,334,000 from \$3,753,515,000, 5% in the Prairie Provinces to \$2,272,345,000 from \$2,163,877,000, and 1% in British Columbia to \$1,100,640,000 from \$1,089,485,000. Gains were recorded in December in 27 of the 52 centres, cashings in Toronto increasing 20%, in Montreal nearly 14% and in Winnipeg over 8%. Vancouver debits were down by close to 3%.

The only economic region to show a decrease in the value of cheques cashed in the 12 months was the Prairie Provinces, where the aggregate fell 3.5% to \$24,155,325,000 from the 1953 value of \$25,019,281,000. Quebec had the sharpest increase last year, advancing 12% to \$44,193,052,000 from \$39,466,247,000. In Ontario the value was up over 10% to \$68,296,156,000 from \$62,025,908,000, in the Atlantic Provinces more than 8% to \$4,591,668,000 from \$4,234,809,000, and in British Columbia over 1% to \$11,956,325,000 from \$11,786,823,000. Twenty-four of the 52 clearing centres reported advances over 1953. In Toronto the value was up nearly 19% and in Montreal almost 13%, but there were decreases of over 5% in Winnipeg and less than 1% in Vancouver. Percentage-wise, the largest increase in the value of cheques cashed last year was in Charlottetown, where the total was up more than 164%; the largest decrease was in Sault Ste. Marie, where the total was down over 19%. (3)

Most Illnesses Among Civil Servants Of Short Duration

Out of 58,141 certified illnesses among civil servants during the 1953-54 fiscal year, 43,372 or 74.6% were of two week's duration or less, and 32,058 or 55.1% were of one week's duration or less. While illnesses lasting more than a week were fewer in number than those of a week or less they accounted for the larger proportion (84.9%) of total days of illness. These duration periods, however, relate only to that portion of the illnesses occurring within the stated fiscal year without regard to the portion cut off at the beginning or the end of the year. These facts are disclosed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in its annual report on illnesses reported by civil servants.

Medically certified days of illness (including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) averaged 7.5 per civil servant in 1953-54 as compared with 7.2 in 1952-53. The average length of illness for 1953-54 thus rose about 2% over 1952-53, although below the peak of 7.8 days reached in 1950-51 mainly due to the influenza epidemic of that year. There was an increase in incidence, or the number of illnesses, of only 3.8%, but the number of days of illness increased by 6.3%.

These increases may be ascribed to the introduction of the five-day work-week, since the proportion of the number of new illnesses per employee remained virtually the same during the last two years. The number of days of illness as shown will include some days which were not actually days of illness or disability. In completing the medical certificate for cases where an employee returns to work on a Monday or the day after a holiday the illness is usually shown as ending on Sunday or the holiday, regardless of whether the illness actually ended on that day or the previous work-day.

Casual sick leave (no medical certificate) averaged 2.7 days (working days lost) per employee against 2.9 in the preceding year and 2.7 in 1951-52.

Illness Rate Up

The number of civil servants was 137,270 in March 1954 as compared with 131,164 a year earlier, and an estimated 116,700 were subject to civil service leave regulations in October 1953 as compared with 114,100 at the same time a year earlier. Of these, 38,526 or 33.0% were absent on certified sick leave in 1953-54 as compared with 36,645 or 32.1% in the preceding year. Based on these estimated numbers for the two years, the rates of illnesses per 1,000 employees was 498.2 in 1953-54 as compared with 489.9 in 1952-53. The corresponding rates for days of illness were 7,501.7 and 7,219.0.

Main causes of illness were the same in both years. Diseases of the respiratory system accounted for 39.2% of all illnesses in 1953-54 as against 42.6% in 1952-53, and diseases of the digestive system for 15.1% as compared with 14.2%. Influenza remained the most commonly occurring disease, causing 18.0% of all illnesses in 1953-54 against 22.4% and 19.5% respectively in the preceding two years. This disease accounted for 8.1% of all days of illness as against 9.9% and 8.9% respectively for the preceding two years. In 1950-51, the epidemic year, influenza accounted for 35.4% of the total illnesses and 18.5% of the total days of illness. (4)

Production Of Eggs
Increased 7% In 1954

Production of eggs in the year 1954 amounted to an estimated 378,900,000 dozen, an increase of 7% over 1953's 353,200,000. December production totalled 35,400,000 dozen versus 31,700,000 in November and 35,300,000 in the same month of 1953.

Production increases were shown for all provinces in 1954 as compared with 1953. In Ontario the year's total rose to 148,682,000 dozen from 142,623,000, in Quebec to 66,041,000 dozen from 55,242,000, and in Alberta to 40,278,000 dozen from 37,236,000.

Totals for the other provinces follow: Saskatchewan, 32,684,000 dozen (32,517,000 in 1953); Manitoba, 31,020,000 (30,136,000); British Columbia, 28,652,000 (26,879,000); Nova Scotia, 15,316,000 (13,423,000); New Brunswick, 9,144,000 (8,290,000); and Prince Edward Island, 7,042,000 (6,853,000). (5)

Production, Manufacturers' Sales
Of Sugar Increased In Year 1954

Production and manufacturers' sales of refined beet and cane sugar increased in the year 1954 as compared with 1953 but year-end stocks declined. The year's receipts, meltings and sales and year-end stocks of raw sugar all increased.

Production of refined cane and beet sugar in 1954 amounted to 1,436,575,000 pounds versus 1,351,403,000 in 1953, sales totalled 1,446,410,000 pounds versus 1,398,870,000 and year-end stocks were 281,241,000 pounds versus 294,032,000.

Receipts of raw cane sugar in 1954 amounted to 1,253,071,000 pounds versus 1,140,020,000 in 1953, meltings and sales aggregated 1,235,830,000 pounds versus 1,135,228,000, and year-end stocks were 173,436,000 pounds versus 157,194,000. (6)

Final Results of 1951
Census Of Fisheries

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has published Volume IX of the 1951 Census series, which presents final detailed results of the Census of Fisheries. Included are data on the number and status of fishermen, type and size of fishing craft, inventory of fishing gear and shore equipment, landings and disposition of fish, and revenues and expenditures. Copies are available at the price of \$9.00 each. (7)

Visible Supplies of Wheat

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America totalled 358,709,000 bushels on January 19, a slight increase over the preceding week's total of 355,755,000, but appreciably below the 378,780,000 bushels reported a year earlier. Overseas export clearances during the week amounted to 3,207,000 bushels as against 2,792,000 in the week ending January 20 last year, and in the August 1 - January 19 period of the current crop year totalled 106,644,000 bushels as against 105,705,000 a year earlier.

During the week ending January 19 Prairie farmers marketed 5,346,000 bushels of wheat, considerably less than the 8,656,000 marketed in the preceding week but substantially more than the 3,836,000 marketed in the corresponding week last year. This put Prairie marketings in the August 1 - January 19 period of the current crop year at 126,960,000 bushels as against 243,115,000 a year earlier. (8)

Less Wheat Flour Made In December Canadian mills produced 1,676,067 barrels of wheat flour in December as compared with 1,885,284 barrels in November and 1,818,787 barrels in December 1953. Production in the August-December period of the current crop year amounted to 9,237,160 barrels as compared with 8,758,802 a year earlier. Preliminary figures show production in the calendar year 1954 at 21,300,000 barrels as against 22,200,000 in 1953.

Canadian mills used 7,463,128 bushels of wheat to make flour in December as compared with 8,035,100 bushels in the same month in 1953. The total amount used in the August-December period of the current crop year was 41,011,869 as against 38,699,029 a year earlier. Wheat used for flour in the calendar year 1954 totalled 94,200,000 bushels as compared with 98,700,000 in 1953. (9)

Fluid Milk And Cream Sales Up 2% In 11 Months Of 1954 Combined sales of fluid milk and cream in the first 11 months of 1954 totalled 4,649,033,000 pounds, up 2% from a year earlier. November sales rose 6% to 432,679,000 pounds. January-November sales were down 1% in Prince Edward Island, unchanged in Quebec, but higher in the other provinces. (10)

Canned Meat Stocks Lower Stocks of canned meats held at manufacturers' and wholesalers' levels at the end of December totalled 15,164,820 pounds, less than half last year's corresponding total of 36,101,188 pounds, according to a special statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Spiced pork and ham, which fell to 3,296,405 pounds from 25,702,060, accounted for most of the decline.

Holdings of other canned meats were: beef stews and boiled dinners, 5,179,482 pounds (3,333,415 a year earlier); roast of beef, 133,743 (155,430); corned beef, 776,486 (787,592); other beef products, 1,456,300 (1,679,126); roast pork and ham, 1,403,987 (1,110,799); other pork products, 1,095,533 (1,441,425); canned fowl, 550,053 (592,455); meat paste, 697,824 (850,336); and other meats, 575,007 (448,540).

TRANSPORTATION

10% Less Freight Locked Through Canals Last Year Freight locked through Canada's 10 canals decreased almost 10% last year to 30,670,543 tons from the modern record of 33,373,064 tons moved in 1953. All systems except the Richelieu reported reduced freight traffic in 1954.

Decreased shipments of wheat, other grain and soft coal through the Canadian lock at Sault Ste. Marie; barley, soft coal and iron ore through the Welland Canal; and barley, soft coal and crude oil through the St. Lawrence system were the main contributors to the overall decline in 1954. Decreases were also reported for the number of vessel passages (to 25,292 from 27,563); the registered net tonnage of vessels (to 29,442,575 net tons from 32,542,585), and the number of pleasure craft (to 54,031 from 54,282). The number of passengers transported through canals increased almost 4% to 116,231 from 112,082.

The 1954 navigation season was shorter than the 1953 season by 16 days for the Canadian lock at Sault Ste. Marie and the St. Lawrence systems, but the same length for the Welland. (11)

54% Decrease in Net Operating Revenue
Of Water Transportation Firms In 1953

Operating revenues of Canadian water transportation companies totalled \$247,100,618 in 1953, some \$32,084,174

or 11.5% less than in 1952, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Operating expenses showed a smaller decline of about 6% to \$233,004,455 from \$248,747,757, with the result that net operating revenues dropped almost 54% to \$14,096,163 from \$30,437,035. Net profit fell to \$9,729,944 from \$17,096,513.

In 1953 vessels of Canadian registry transported 40.2% of the 70,900,000 tons of cargo loaded and unloaded at Canadian ports in international seaborne or foreign shipping as compared with 40.1% of the 1952 total of 71,300,000 tons. Canadian ships also carried more than 90% of the freight unloaded in the coast-wise trade in both years, which totalled 32,500,000 tons in 1953 as against 30,900,000 in 1952, and handled all freight traffic on inland lakes and rivers.

The decline in operating revenue was mainly in the Atlantic division, where water transportation concerns reported an 18% drop to \$149,577,858 from \$182,883,100. Operating revenue in the inland division was off to \$50,077,144 from \$50,614,456, but in the Pacific division rose nearly 4% to \$47,445,616 from \$45,687,236.

Freight revenue dropped in 1953, particularly in the Atlantic division, and totalled \$191,792,529 as against \$218,838,818 in 1952. Charter revenue declined in all divisions and totalled \$21,118,748 as against \$29,377,166. Passenger receipts rose to \$8,057,796 from \$6,076,304, and receipts from towing service to \$18,909,940 from \$16,943,583. Receipts were also higher from salvage and storage operations, but other operating revenues declined.

10 Vessels Lost During Year

During the year 1,589 Canadian-owned vessels and 484 chartered vessels were in operation. At the end of the year there were 1,558 Canadian-owned and 221 chartered vessels in operation. In addition, 69 Canadian-owned vessels did not operate at all during the season. The total of 1,848 vessels represented a gross investment of \$274,346,593 before depreciation. Total investment in the industry was \$305,477,917; accrued depreciation of \$173,907,261 left a net worth of \$131,570,656, down slightly from the 1952 total of \$132,289,255.

The number employed in the industry decreased to 20,109 from 20,192 in 1952, but the payroll increased to \$51,084,867 from \$47,567,336. In addition, owner operators withdrew \$139,471 for their services in 1953, and meals supplied were valued at \$5,954,665. The fuel bill was approximately the same as in 1952 at \$26,316,094.

There were 10 vessels lost in 1953 as compared with 9 in 1952, and the value was almost doubled at \$724,183 as against \$366,794. Deaths decreased to 23 from 26 and injuries to 1,790 from 1,809. All fatalities and most of the injured were crew members. Crew members injured numbered 1,323 against 1,363 in 1952, other employees 412 as against 390, passengers 50 as against 38 and other persons 5 as against 18. (12)

Railway Carloadings Up 5.2%
In Second Week Of January

Railway carloadings in the second week of January totalled 70,009 cars, up 5.2% from last year's corresponding total of 66,521 cars. At the same time receipts from connections increased 9.5% to 29,088 cars from 26,575.

Commodities loaded in larger volume in the week were: grain, 8,517 (versus 7,340 cars a year ago); non-ferrous ores and concentrates, 2,651 cars (2,020); sand, gravel and crushed stone, 1,728 (1,270); logs, etc., 1,172 (899); lumber, timber and plywood, 3,449 (2,572); and miscellaneous carloads, 4,204 (3,803). Carried in fewer cars were: coal, 5,488 (6,056); and fuel oil, 2,744 (3,198). (13)

Pipe-Line Deliveries Of Oil

Deliveries of oil through Canadian pipe lines in November amounted to 14,512,246 barrels, down from October's 14,824,697 barrels, but up 12% from 1953's November total of 12,918,411 barrels. This brought cumulative deliveries for the January-November period to 156,140,795 barrels, up 17% from 132,904,219 a year earlier. (14)

MANUFACTURING

Production, Domestic Shipments
Of Hard Board Declined In 1954

Both production and domestic shipments of hard board were moderately lower in the year 1954 than in 1953 but export shipments were higher. The year's production amounted to 151,095,531 square feet (157,402,480 in 1953), domestic shipments were 106,801,469 square feet (117,084,748), and export shipments totalled 5,271,946 square feet (2,061,439). (15)

Production of Asphalt
Roofing Lower In 1954

Production of asphalt shingles and roll roofing was lower in the year 1954 than in 1953. The year's output of asphalt shingles amounted to 2,718,706 squares (2,578,322 in 1952); smooth surfaced roll roofing, 1,039,519 squares (1,070,415); mineral-surfaced roofing, 822,442 squares (860,767); and roll-type sidings, 242,548 squares (304,480). Production of tar and asphalt felts amounted to 47,279 tons (46,254); tar and asphalt sheathings, kraft basis, 3,069 tons (4,796); and tar and asphalt sheathings, non-kraft basis, 13,151 tons (12,472). (16)

More Bath Tubs
Sold Last Year

Canada's sanitaryware manufacturers sold more bath tubs, wash basins and closet tanks last year than in 1953, according to a special compilation by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Factory shipments of flat rim and roll rim sinks also increased, but sales of sink and drainboard combinations and laundry trays declined.

Here are the numbers shipped in 1954 and 1953: bath tubs, 158,629 (146,013); flat rim and roll rim sinks, 189,048 (172,884); sink and drainboard combinations, 18,124 (19,455); sink and laundry tray combinations, 2,917 (3,761); laundry trays, 30,954 (32,071); urinals, 9,452 (10,994); wash basins, 168,466 (166,338); closet tanks, 200,249 (192,047); toilet seats, 306,568 (297,500).

Iron And Steel Output In 1954 Canadian output of pig iron last December was down to 185,634 tons from 220,526 tons a year earlier, and in the full year 1954 totalled 2,213,433 tons as against 3,012,269 in 1953, according to the Bureau's monthly report on production of pig iron and steel. Production of steel ingots decreased to 269,329 tons in December from 296,345 and in the full year to 3,113,822 from 4,009,813 tons. (These figures show a revision downward for pig iron and upward for steel ingots for both December and the year from those published in the January 6 issue). Output of steel castings, not earlier published, dropped to 5,743 tons from 9,085 in the month and to 80,300 from 105,656 tons in the 12 months. (17)

Paint Sales Down In November, 11 Months Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers normally accounting for 96% of the total Canadian production were valued at \$7,057,790 in November as compared with \$7,521,130 in the same month in 1953. In the first 11 months of last year sales totalled \$96,351,339 as against \$103,118,337 a year earlier.

January-November sales of latex emulsion paints increased to \$7,640,591 from \$6,743,704, but all other sales were lower. Trade sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers decreased to \$49,046,076 from \$51,994,425, industrial sales of paints and varnishes to \$29,579,737 from \$31,424,488, industrial sales of lacquers to \$5,774,442 from \$5,995,940, sales of water paints to \$1,969,442 from \$1,981,495, and unclassified sales to \$2,341,051 from \$4,978,285. (18)

Shipments Of Primary Plastics Industry Upped By 29% In 1953 Shipments of Canada's primary plastics industry were valued at \$44,541,882 in 1953, an increase of almost 29% over the 1952 output value of \$34,638,754. The number employed increased nearly 17% to 2,160 and the payroll almost 22% to \$7,916,418. Material costs rose 30.5% in the year to \$24,497,716 and the cost of fuel and electricity over 23% to \$904,454.

In 1953 the industry included 19 plants (3 more than in 1952) engaged chiefly in the manufacture of synthetic resins in the form of sheets, rods, tubes, granules or liquids for use in further manufacture. Some concerns in other industries make synthetic resins as secondary or minor products. Estimated production of synthetic resins from all industries in 1953 was \$26,251,000 as compared with \$19,100,000 in 1952. (19)

Output Of Chemicals Increased In 1953 Chemicals made in Canada for sale were valued at \$255,582,000 in 1953 as against \$230,050,000 in 1952. Output of the acids, alkalies and salts industry was worth \$127,299,437, an increase of 11.5% over the 1952 production value of \$114,187,526.

Output of acids from all industries in 1953 was valued at \$14,651,000 as against \$12,926,000 in 1952. Calcium compounds showed a decrease in total value to \$16,032,000 from \$16,640,000. Production of sodium compounds increased to \$30,814,000 from \$29,795,000, organic chemicals to \$61,539,000 from \$51,896,000, compressed and liquified gases to \$31,130,000 from \$28,896,000, fertilizer chemicals to \$50,882,000 from \$47,993,000, synthetic resins to \$26,251,000 from \$19,100,000, and other chemicals to \$24,483,000 from \$22,804,000. (20)

More Suits, Fewer Dresses
Produced In Third Quarter

More all wool one-pant suits for men and youths but fewer dresses for women and misses were manufactured in the third quarter last year than in the same three months of 1953, according to the Bureau's quarterly report on the production of selected garment items.

Output of all wool one-pant suits for men and youths increased to 249,370 from 214,609 a year earlier, and all wool two-pant suits to 76,652 from 74,273. Production of boys all wool one-pant suits decreased to 2,741 from 4,588. Output of all wool pants and slacks for men and youths fell to 169,793 from 197,487. Production of fine cotton shirts for men and youths decreased to 129,156 dozen from 130,162 dozen, but output of fine nylon shirts increased to 8,650 dozen from 6,607 dozen. There were 2,448,010 dresses for women and misses produced in the third quarter last year as compared with 2,703,445 a year earlier. Output of wool coats for women and misses dropped to 457,051 from 495,892. Production of nylon blouses for women and misses totalled 46,107 dozen as against 71,718 dozen in the third quarter of 1953. (21)

Railway Rolling Stock Industry
Production Increased 1.8% In 1953

The 36 plants in Canada's railway rolling stock industry produced \$338,321,229 worth of locomotives, railway cars, and other products in 1953, an increase of 1.8% over the 1952 output value of \$332,164,783. Employment in the industry fell 1.8% during the year to 35,447 persons but the payroll climbed 9% to \$118,026,350. Material costs were off 1% to \$179,892,257 and the cost of fuel and electricity 0.7% to \$4,751,193, net value of production increasing 5.4% to \$153,677,779.

Output of locomotives increased to 260 worth \$42,259,233 from 226 worth \$38,306,186 in 1952; in both years all were diesel-electric locomotives. Output of standard railway cars dropped to 8,464 worth \$85,879,182 from 11,954 worth \$92,258,661; the number of passenger cars made increased to 206 from 49 and refrigerator cars to 852 from 500, but box cars decreased to 3,350 from 4,890, cabooses to none from 15, flat cars to 276 from 1,030, gondola cars to 1,111 from 2,597, tank cars to 58 from 144 and other types to 2,611 from 2,729. Value of railway car wheels produced dropped to \$7,779,926 from \$8,273,693. Sales of railway spikes fell to 14,401 tons worth \$2,087,052 tons valued at \$2,396,596. (22)

More Polishes
Made In 1953

Canadian manufacturers produced \$14,404,422 worth of polishes in 1953 as compared with \$13,328,355 worth in 1952 and \$11,392,886 worth in 1951. Compared with the preceding year, less furniture, stove, brass and silver polishes were made, measured by factory value, but more floor wax, and shoe, auto and other polishes.

The quantity of paste floor wax produced decreased to 8,353,304 pounds from 8,616,592 in 1952, but the factory value was slightly higher at \$3,040,407 versus \$2,926,071. Output of liquid floor wax and polish increased to 3,210,265 imperial gallons worth \$8,242,914 from 2,933,680 imperial gallons valued at \$7,523,703. Shoe polishes and dressings were worth \$1,232,792 as compared with \$1,098,656 in 1952; furniture polish, \$762,730 as against \$872,467; stove polish, \$4,474 as against \$57,934; brass polish, \$101,950 as against \$108,795; silver polish, \$153,226 as against \$187,052; auto polishes \$485,160 as against \$349,991; and other polishes, \$335,769 as against \$203,686.

MORE

The bulk of the output is produced in the polishes and dressings industry, which in 1953 included 49 plants, two less than in 1952. The industry's shipments (including such secondary products as floor mops, paints, insecticides and washing blue) were worth \$17,230,068 in 1953, an increase of nearly 8% over the 1952 output value of \$15,966,171. Employment in the industry increased 12.5% in 1953 to 845 persons, and the payroll rose 24.5% to \$2,401,858. Material costs were 0.4% lower than in 1952 at \$7,704,870 and the cost of fuel and electricity was down over 6% at \$95,121. (23)

Manufactured And Natural Gas Sales Up In October

Both manufactured and natural gas sales in Canada were larger last October and in the ten months ending October than in the corresponding periods of 1953. Sales of manufactured gas in October increased slightly to 2,097,515 M cubic feet compared to 2,003,108 M cubic feet in October 1953, small gains occurring both in eastern and western Canada. Total sales in the ten months were also slightly higher last year at 21,715,753 M cubic feet compared to 21,375,140 in 1953.

Natural gas sales rose substantially in October to 6,450,407 M cubic feet from 4,859,344 M cubic feet the previous year, western Canada sales accounting for most of the gain with a rise to 5,605,093 M cubic feet from 4,022,918 M cubic feet. In the ten months last year the quantity sold climbed to 70,406,312 from 55,845,895 in 1953, western Canada accounting for 59,288,604 as against 45,818,330 M cubic feet. (24)

MINERALS

Natural Gas Output Increased

Canadian production of natural gas rose sharply last October to 10,224,422 M cubic feet as compared to 8,153,476 M cubic feet in October 1953, bringing the output for the first ten months of 1954 to 95,908,062 M cubic feet as against 78,442,388 M cubic feet in the corresponding 1953 period. Alberta accounted for 85,276,385 M cubic feet of last year's ten-month total (69,674,379 in 1953), followed by Ontario with 7,837,318 (7,740,143), and Saskatchewan with 2,619,198 M cubic feet (937,124), New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories making up the remainder and almost unchanged from 1953. (24)

Crude Petroleum Production In October And Ten Months

Crude petroleum production in Canada during last October amounted to 8,720,919 barrels, down from 8,864,074 in September but up sharply from 7,237,219 barrels in October 1953. Output in the ten months ending October aggregated 78,134,049 barrels, nearly 20% above the total of 65,224,729 barrels in the like 1953 period. Natural gasoline output (not included in the foregoing figures) rose to 64,649 barrels in October compared to 52,376 a year earlier, and in the ten months totalled 539,412 against 483,128 barrels. (24)

More Salt Shipped

Shipments of dry common salt by Canadian producers totalled 50,820 tons in November as compared with 43,844 in the same month in 1953, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Eleven-month shipments were up to 463,654 tons last year from 451,541 in 1953, but November-end stocks were down to 20,033 tons compared to 23,539 a year earlier. (25)

Coal Production 7% Lower In 1954

Canadian production of coal continued to decline in 1954, dropping almost 7% to 14,843,000 tons from the preceding year's 15,901,000 tons. At the same time landed imports were cut 13% to 18,533,000 tons from 22,522,000 tons.

Production increased in Nova Scotia to 5,825,000 tons from 5,787,000 in 1953, in New Brunswick to 760,000 tons from 721,000, and in Saskatchewan to 2,113,000 tons from 2,021,000, but declined in Alberta to 4,850,000 tons from 5,917,000, and in British Columbia and the Yukon to 1,295,000 tons from 1,454,000. (26 & 27)

Gold Production Higher In November And Eleven Months

Canadian production of gold in November amounted to 385,406 fine ounces, sharply above the preceding year's strike-reduced total of 273,309 fine ounces. This brought the cumulative output for the January-November period to 3,981,374 fine ounces, about 5% above 1953's 3,793,900 fine ounces.

Eleven-month totals show increased production in all areas except Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Totals follow: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 10,269 fine ounces (10,577 a year earlier); Quebec, 1,006,664 (960,910); Ontario, 2,133,423 (2,042,841); Prairie Provinces, 220,457 (202,699); British Columbia, 251,946 (245,382); Yukon, 77,955 (63,694); Northwest Territories, 280,660 (267,797). (28)

Production Of Zinc & Silver Up In November; Lead Lower

Production of both zinc and silver increased in November over a year earlier but lead decreased. In the January-November period production totals were larger for lead and silver but smaller for zinc. November production of lead amounted to 18,365 tons (19,170 a year earlier); zinc, 34,310 tons (30,774); and silver, 2,793,490 fine ounces (2,207,170). Eleven-month totals follow: lead, 199,913 tons (174,661); zinc, 337,191 tons (370,137); and silver, 28,327,897 fine ounces (26,063,343). (29)

P R I C E S

Security Price Indexes

	<u>January 27</u>	<u>January 20</u> (1935-39=100)	<u>December 30</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total Common Stocks	209.6	206.1	212.1
Industrials	213.8	209.7	215.8
Utilities	181.6	180.0	187.1
Banks	232.6	230.9	232.3
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks .	104.6	102.1	103.2
Golds	68.0	68.4	69.1
Base Metals ...	138.4	179.2	181.4

Wholesale Prices In December
Slightly Below A Year Earlier

Wholesale prices registered an intermittent decline over the year 1954, and the Bureau's general index was up 0.2% in December to 215.3 from November's 214.8 but down 1.7% from 219.0 in December 1953. Increases in 5 of the 8 major groups were responsible for the rise over November. One group declined, while two remained unchanged.

The largest increase over November was recorded by non-ferrous metals, which rose 1.3% to 170.6 from 168.4, as higher prices for nickel and zinc sheet overbalanced slightly lower quotations for copper, gold, tin and silver.

Vegetable products moved up 0.5% to 195.9 from 195.0, reflecting increases in livestock and poultry feeds, tea, raw rubber, vegetable oils and products, grains, onions and rosin, which outweighed decreases in imported fresh fruits, potatoes and milled cereal foods. In the animal products group increases in livestock, fresh meats and butter more than offset decreases in eggs, fowl, cured meats, hides and skins, fishery products and lard, to move the index up 0.2% to 225.3 from 224.8.

Higher prices for fir timber and cedar shingles proved more important than small declines in export prices for newsprint and woodpulp, the index for wood, wood products and paper advancing 0.1% to 289.0. Non-metallic minerals at 175.9 rose 0.1% from 175.7 in November as increases in United States bituminous coal and sands and gravel at Vancouver outweighed declines in cement and sulphur.

Fibres, textiles and textile products, the only group to record a decline, fell 0.4% to 226.9 from 227.8. Decreases in rayon yarns, worsted yarns and woollen hosiery and knit goods were more important than increases in raw cotton and raw wool, both domestic and imported. Iron and steel products remained unchanged at 213.5, while increases in nitric acid, copper sulphate and shellac balanced a decrease in industrial gases to leave the chemical products also unchanged at 176.9.

Farm Product Prices

The index of Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets rose 0.4% to 204.7 in December from 203.8 in November. Animal products increased 0.9% to 245.9 from 243.6, due to increases in livestock, eastern butterfat and eastern raw wool. Declines were recorded for eggs and eastern cheese milk. Field products dropped 0.3% to 163.5 from 164.0, as decreases in eastern potatoes, oats and barley and western rye more than offset increases in potatoes at Vancouver, western flax and eastern corn and wheat.

Building Material Prices

The index of residential building material prices rose 0.1% to 278.7 from 278.4 in November, as gains in fir timber, millwork, cedar shingles and shellac outweighed decreases in cement and rock wool. Non-residential building material prices declined 0.1% to 120.4 from 120.5, as decreases in cement and rock wool were more important than increases in millwork, shellac and sand and gravel at Vancouver. Over the past 12 months, building material prices have shown remarkable stability as the residential building materials series advanced 0.2% and the non-residential series declined 2.6%. (30)

Wholesale Price Indexes
(1935 = 1939 = 100)

	December 1953	November 1954	December 1954
General Index.....	219.0	214.8	215.3
Vegetable Products.....	197.7	195.0	195.9
Animal Products.....	239.1	224.8	225.3
Textile Products.....	235.0	227.8	226.9
Wood Products.....	285.0	289.0	289.3
Iron Products.....	222.0	213.5	213.5
Non-ferrous Metals.....	166.1	168.4	170.6
Non-metallic Minerals.....	179.1	175.7	175.9
Chemical Products.....	174.2	176.9	176.9
Combined Index, Iron and Non-ferrous Metals (excluding gold)....	221.9	218.8	220.5

L A B O U R

More On Unemployment Insurance
Register At Close Of December

Ordinary or regular benefit claimants on the live unemployment register numbered 400,830 on December 31 against 274,462 a month earlier and 372,363 on the same date in 1953, according to the Bureau's monthly report on the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act. In addition, supplementary benefit claimants numbered 30,940 at the end of last December as against 18,670 a year earlier.

The number on the live unemployment register at the end of last year was higher than at the end of 1953 in all but three provinces. In Newfoundland the number was 10,597 versus 11,851 a year earlier, in Prince Edward Island 2,570 versus 2,561, in Nova Scotia 18,311 versus 17,926, in New Brunswick 18,157 versus 20,272, in Quebec 135,023 versus 136,428, in Ontario 138,945 versus 105,332, in Manitoba 21,901 versus 19,231, in Saskatchewan 14,594 versus 10,049, in Alberta 19,887 versus 17,913, and in British Columbia 51,795 versus 49,470.

During December 310,490 initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit were filed as compared with 187,744 in November and 292,236 in December 1953. New beneficiaries numbered 164,660 as against 110,736 in November and 161,723 in December 1953. December payments totalled \$19,428,206 for 6,190,206 days as compared with \$14,020,255 for 4,512,055 days in November and \$16,882,107 for 5,413,801 days in December 1953. (31)

Industrial Employment At A
Lower Level At December 1

Employment in the major non-agricultural industries showed a further decline at December 1 when the Bureau's advance index stood at 112.6 versus 113.0 a month earlier and 114.1 a year ago. Expenditures in weekly payrolls fell 0.6% in the month but were 0.9% above 1953. The advance figure of per capita weekly wages and salaries, at \$59.62, though slightly below the all-time maximum of \$59.78 of November 1, was the highest in the record for December 1.

MORE

On the whole, smaller staffs than at November 1 were reported in all provinces except New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. The gain in the employment index in New Brunswick amounted to 3%, while the improvement in the other two was slight. The declines elsewhere indicated ranged from 0.4% in each of the prairie provinces to 2.9% in British Columbia. Except in Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta, industrial activity generally was at a moderately lower level than at December 1, 1953. Among the major industrial divisions, the trend in most areas was downward in manufacturing, construction, transportation, storage and communication and in the service industries. Trade in all provinces afforded more employment, and logging also showed seasonal improvement in many parts of the country. (32)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

(Publications numbered similarly to reviews to indicate source of latter)

- 1- Estimates of Households & Families in Canada, 1954, 10¢
- 2- Operating Results of Chain Food Stores, 1953, 25¢
- 3- Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, December, 10¢
- 4- Illness In The Civil Service, Year Ended March 31, 1954, 50¢
- 5- M: Production of Eggs, December, 10¢
- 6- M: Sugar Situation, December, 10¢
- 7- 1951 Census Volume IX (Fisheries), \$3.00
- 8- M: Grain Statistics Weekly, January 19, 10¢
- 9- M: Grain Milling Statistics, December, 10¢
- 10- M: Fluid Milk Sales, November, 10¢
- 11- M: Summary of Canal Statistics, December & Season of Navigation, 1954, 10¢
- 12- Water Transportation, 1953, 25¢
- 13- M: Carloadings on Canadian Railways, 10¢
- 14- M: Pipe Lines (Oil) Statistics, November, 10¢
- 15- M: Hard Board, December, 10¢
- 16- M: Asphalt Roofing, December, 10¢
- 17- M: Production of Pig Iron & Steel, December, 10¢
- 18- M: Sales of Paints, Varnishes & Lacquers, November, 10¢
- 19- The Primary Plastics Industry, 1953, 25¢
- 20- The Acids, Alkalies & Salts Industry, 1953, 25¢
- 21- Quarterly Production of Garments, Third Quarter, 25¢
- 22- Railway Rolling-Stock Industry, 1953, 25¢
- 23- The Polishes & Dressings Industry, 1953, 25¢
- 24- M: Crude Petroleum, Natural Gas & Manufactured Gas, October, 15¢
- 25- M: Salt, November, 10¢
- 26- M: Preliminary Report on Coal Production, December, 10¢
- 27- The Coal Mining Industry, 1953 Calendar Year, \$1.00
- 28- M: Gold Production, November, 10¢
- 29- M: Silver, Lead & Zinc Production, November, 10¢
- 30- Prices & Price Indexes, December, 20¢
- 31- Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act,
December, 25¢
- 32- Advance Statement on Employment & Weekly Earnings, December, 10¢

M - Memorandum

Edmond Cloutier, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P.,
Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery,
Ottawa, 1955
4502-503

Fewer Pleasure Craft During 1954
On Canals Last Year 54,031 pleasure craft were
locked through Canadian canals, 53 less than in 1953.

Large Families One out of every five families in Newfoundland has seven or more persons, while only three out of every 100 British Columbia families are this large. About 15% of the families in Quebec are this size, 12.5% of those in the Maritimes, 7% of those in the Prairies and less than 4.5% of those in Ontario.

More Bicycle Tires Canadian manufacturers produced 524,403 bicycle tires in 1953, nearly 48% more than the 355,182 turned out in 1952.

2½ Times As Much Liquid In value
As Paste Floor Wax Made terms manufacturers turned out more than 2½ times as much liquid as paste floor wax in 1953 -- \$8,242,914 worth as against \$3,040,407 worth.

Fewer Box Cars There were 3,350 railway box cars made in Canada in 1953 as against 4,890 in 1952. Factory value was \$22,522,573 versus \$33,424,034.

More Bars There were 48,214,315 dozen chocolate bars made in 1953, nearly 3,286,000 dozen more than in 1952.

Over 45% Fewer Only 3,426 cream
Cream Separators separators were made in Canada in 1953 as compared with 6,288 in 1952, a drop of 45.5%. Factory value fell to \$389,292 from \$721,702.

Fewer Spikes There were 14,401 tons of railway spikes made in Canada in 1953, some 2,420 tons less than in 1952.

More Bath Tubs Canadian manufacturers shipped 158,629
Sold Last Year bath tubs last year, 12,616 more than in 1953.

Coal: 3½ Tons Average output of
Per Man Per Day coal per man-day in Canadian mines rose to 3,502 tons in 1953 from 3,380 tons in 1952.

Ten Canadian There were 10 Canadian
Vessels Lost ships lost at sea in 1953, one more than in 1952, but the total value was almost twice that of the preceding year at \$724,183 versus \$366,794.

Over 58% Of Cheques Over 58% of
Cashed In 2 Cities the \$153,192,527,000 worth of cheques cashed in 52 clearing centres across Canada last year were cashed in either Toronto or Montreal. Cheques cleared through Toronto were worth \$50,646,605,000, some \$12,148,317,000 or 31% more than cheques cleared through Montreal.

More Car Polish Canadian production of auto polishes and wax was worth \$485,160 in 1953, \$105,169 or 30% more than in 1952.

Less Harness Polish Only \$1,466 worth of harness polish was produced in 1953, less than half the \$3,045 worth made in the preceding year.

January To March Worst The first
Time For Illness In CS. three months of the year are the worst months for illness in the federal civil service, a DBS report shows. In the 1953-54 fiscal year 36.2% of all illnesses occurred in these months, while only 15.2% of the total occurred in June, July and August. January showed the largest proportion of the total illnesses (12.8%), and July the smallest (4.7%).

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