D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 24 -- No. 15 Friday, April 13, 1956 $2.00 a year

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Foreign Investment: Long-term investments in Canada of non-residents amounted to $13,200,000,000 at the end of 1955; direct investment in companies controlled outside Canada accounting for $7,500,000,000, the major part being controlled in the United States. Canadian long-term investments in other countries at the same time totalled $4,800,000,000. Canada's gross liabilities to other countries at the year-end reached $14,500,000,000 while gross assets abroad totalled $7,000,000,000, making a net international indebtedness balance of $7,500,000,000. (Pages 2 & 3)

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International Commodity Trade: Canada's commodity exports in February were 17% higher in value than last year, and estimated commodity imports 32% higher, resulting in a substantial import surplus ... Detailed data on January commodity exports show that gains in all main commodity groups except animals and animal products contributed to the substantial total gain of 18%, and that there were increases in sales to most geographical areas. (Pages 4 & 5)

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Cheque Cashings: Cheques cashed during February in Canada's 52 clearing centres were up nearly 17% above last year at $13,370,000,000; for January-February increased 19% to $28,441,000,000. All regions had gains in both months. (Page 6)

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Farm Income: Cash income of Canadian farmers last year from sale of farm products and participation payments on grain crops of previous years was 1.8% lower than in 1954 at an estimated $2,352,600,000. The drop in the all-Canada total was due mainly to decreases in the Prairie Provinces, largest in Saskatchewan. Four provinces - Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island - had increases. (Page 8)

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Food: Farm milk production was 3% larger this February than last year (allowing for the extra day this year) and creamery butter output about 7% larger ... Creamery butter stocks at April 1 in nine cities were 22% above a year earlier; cheddar cheese 17% below ... Total canned meat stocks were 6% smaller at end of February than a year earlier ... Sea-fish catch in February was up sharply over last year, both in quantity and value, with increases on both coasts. (Pages 9 & 10)

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Manufacturing: First-quarter output of steel ingots was 24% larger than last year, and of pig iron nearly 23% larger ... Total motor vehicles off assembly lines was down 5.5% in the quarter, with a rise in commercial vehicles but larger drop in passenger cars. (Page 11)

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Canada's Foreign Investment Position Canada's gross liabilities to other countries amounted to $14,500,000,000 at the end of 1955, including non-resident long-term investments in Canada of $13,200,000,000, according to a new DBS report which reviews Canada's international investment position over the past quarter of a century. The largest part was direct investment in companies controlled outside Canada, amounting to $7,500,000,000. In the ten years since the end of the war these foreign direct investments in Canada increased by $4,800,000,000 and other foreign long-term investments in Canada by $1,300,000,000.

Canada's gross assets abroad at the end of 1955 totalled $7,000,000,000, including $4,800,000,000 of long-term investments. The net balance of Canada's international indebtedness at the end of 1955 thus reached $7,500,000,000, having doubled in 6 years. The new study shows that Canada is an even larger debtor in respect of equity investments.

The study provides new statistical information on many aspects of Canada's international investment position which assists in appraising the significance of foreign investment in Canada. It is shown that great variations exist in the extent of foreign ownership and control and financing in different Canadian spheres.

The importance of foreign capital to Canadian development has been an outstanding characteristic of Canadian economic history. In turn Canadian development has been a leading influence on the form and course which non-resident investments have taken. The report shows that much of this growth has recently been occurring in investments in Canadian equities, which in many cases is accompanied by control. There has been a particularly notable rise in foreign-controlled concerns during the recent period of accelerated development in Canada.

While overall dependence on foreign capital for financing Canadian development is much less than in earlier periods, foreign capital continues to occupy a leading place in many areas of Canadian activity. This dependence has been greatest in the case of certain kinds of development where large amounts of risk capital and industrial technology are involved. A very great increase has occurred in the extent of non-resident investment in Canadian industry in the period since 1948, but this varies markedly in different branches of industry.

The contribution of non-resident capital to Canadian post-war development in the spheres of both resource industry and secondary manufacturing has been very substantial. For example, in the last half-dozen years well over half of the increased investment in the broad area of industry covered by manufacturing, mining and petroleum has been provided by non-residents of Canada, either through transfers of capital or the retention of earnings. In manufacturing alone the non-resident capital has contributed over half the total, while in petroleum and some branches of mining much the largest parts have been provided by non-residents. In the longer period from 1926 to the present much the same relative dependence upon non-resident resources by the financing of Canadian industry is revealed.

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At the same time there has been a spectacular rise in Canadian investment in spheres lying outside of industry, like residential and other personal property, agriculture, and in railways and public utilities, including those owned by municipalities and governments. Largely for this reason the various overall ratios of non-resident financing of total Canadian investment in the post-war period have been much less than in earlier periods of high Canadian investment activity. The nature and distribution of Canadian savings and the opportunities open for individual and public investment have had the effect of concentrating much of Canadian investment in less dynamic forms than some of the investments by non-resident concerns, which have been prominent in certain areas of large-scale development of Canadian production.

There have also been important underlying changes in the international ownership and control of Canadian industry, partly as a result of the changing sources of financing. Non-resident ownership of Canadian manufacturing now amounts to about a half of the total capital employed and to well over a half in the case of mining, smelting and petroleum. These proportions of ownership have risen rapidly since 1948. Yet in the broader area of Canadian industry which includes railways, public utilities and commercial establishments, as well as the production industries, the non-resident ownership of around one-third remained at about the same ratio as in 1948, and less than in 1939 or 1926. In spheres of personally owned property, like agriculture and residential real estate, the proportions of Canadian ownership are, of course, very high and in the case of Canadian bonds and debentures likewise only a minor proportion is still owned by non-residents.

A highly significant aspect of the rapidly increasing foreign investments is their concentration in direct investments in Canadian industry which carry with them control and ownership of equities in areas of Canadian mining and industrial production undergoing accelerated Canadian development. In the field of industry which includes manufacturing, mining and petroleum, non-resident controlled companies represent more than half of the estimated total capital invested. In manufacturing alone (excluding petroleum refining) the non-resident controlled portion in 1953 was some 47%, in petroleum 70%, and in other mining 55%. These percentages are much higher than formerly. In 1926 the percentages of Canadian manufacturing and mining controlled abroad were 35% and 38%, respectively. The percentages of ownership and control in the major groups of Canadian industries are likewise shown in the report.

Most of the concerns controlled by non-residents are controlled in the United States. There is a substantial concentration in a relatively small number of concerns. In the field of manufacturing some 25 United States controlled concerns each with aggregate investments of more than $25 million, accounted in 1953 for much more than half the investment in United States controlled establishments. Concerns with an investment of $1 million or more made up some 90% of investments in United States controlled concerns in manufacturing.

Another basis of judging the place of foreign-controlled business in Canadian industry is provided by a special study of production and employment in the larger Canadian manufacturing concerns controlled in the United States. These larger concerns with an investment of $1 million or more accounted for some 30% of Canadian manufacturing production in 1953, and 21% of employment in that field. In both cases these ratios in non-resident controlled plants were considerably higher than in 1946, the previous post-war year for which a study of this kind has been made. In some industries the proportions of production and employment in plants controlled in the United States were much higher than this. (1)

Foreign Commodity Trade Rose Again In February

Canada's foreign commodity trade showed further large gains in February, with exports nearly 17% higher in value than a year earlier and estimated imports up slightly more than 32%, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Most of the gain both in exports and imports was with the United States.

Commodity imports in February climbed $99,200,000 in value over a year earlier to an estimated $407,100,000 from $307,900,000, bringing the two-month total to $811,200,000 from $614,500,000 in 1955. Imports from the United States accounted for $76,000,000 of the month's gain with a rise to $308,700,000 from $232,700,000. Estimated purchases from the United Kingdom advanced moderately to $30,900,000 from $25,600,000, from other Commonwealth countries to $13,200,000 from $10,800,000, and from all other countries to $54,300,000 from $38,800,000.

Total exports in the month advanced $51,100,000 to $352,600,000 from $301,500,000 in February last year, raising the two-month aggregate to $718,100,000 compared to $611,600,000 a year ago. February shipments to the United States were up $34,200,000 from a year earlier at $215,800,000. Sales to the United Kingdom increased to $58,800,000 from $55,300,000, to other Commonwealth countries to $18,800,000 from $16,800,000, and to all other countries to $59,200,000 from $47,800,000.

With the sharper rise in imports than exports, Canada had an increased overall import surplus of $54,500,000 in February compared to one of $6,300,000 last year, bringing the estimated two-month deficit to $93,100,000 against last year's $2,900,000. Trade with the United States resulted in an estimated import surplus of $92,900,000 in February compared to $51,100,000 a year ago, raising the deficit for January-February to an estimated $170,800,000 against $95,900,000. With the United Kingdom, there was an estimated export surplus of $27,900,000 in the month compared to $29,700,000, and of $68,000,000 in the two months against $65,200,000.

The preliminary figures for February and the two-month period, with comparative figures for 1955, are summarized in the table following. The import figures are estimates and subject to revision; those for exports are based on final figures.

	February		January-February	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
	Millions of Dollars			
Exports: (domestic & foreign)				
United Kingdom	55.3	58.8	118.3	131.7
Other Commonwealth countries ..	16.8	18.8	33.4	37.4
United States	181.6	215.8	364.8	433.1
Other Foreign countries	47.8	59.2	95.1	115.9
Totals.	301.5	352.6	611.6	718.1
Imports:				
United Kingdom	25.6	30.9	53.1	63.7
Other Commonwealth countries ..	10.8	13.2	22.1	26.0
United States	232.7	308.7	4[illegible].7	603.9
Other Foreign countries	38.8	54.3	78.6	117.6
Totals.	307.9	407.1*	614.5	811.2*

* Estimate only. Subject to revision.

Domestic Exports Rose Almost 18% In January. Besides large increases in shipments to the United States and the United Kingdom, Canada's domestic exports were higher in value in January than a year earlier to Latin American countries, European countries, all "other" foreign countries, and the rest of the Commonwealth except the Oceania group, according to the summary of the month's trade by countries and main commodity items.

There were gains over a year earlier in all main commodity groups except animals and animal products, which showed only a small decline. Chief gains were in agricultural and vegetable products, wood and paper products, iron and products, non-ferrous metals and products, and non-metallic minerals and products.

Domestic exports in January were valued at $359,700,000, up 17.7% from $305,700,000 in January last year. At the same time foreign exports rose to $5,719,000 from $4,404,000. The volume of domestic exports rose 12.6% from a year earlier, while prices averaged 4.5% higher.

Largest dollar increase in domestic exports was in shipments to the United States which rose to $212,711,000 from $179,490,000 a year earlier. Exports to the U.S. were larger in value for all commodity groups except animals and animal products, the chief gains being in wood and paper products, non-ferrous metals and products, non-metallic minerals and products, and agricultural and vegetable products.

Exports to the United Kingdom jumped substantially to $72,565,000 from $62,691,000, gains being posted for all main groups of commodities. Chief increase was in non-ferrous metals and products. Gains in the other groups were small by comparison. Exports to the rest of the Commonwealth increased to $18,230,000 from $16,475,000 a year ago. Gains were registered in the exports to Jamaica and India, but declines to the Union of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Exports to Latin American countries rose in value to $13,363,000 from $12,535,000 a year earlier, increases for Mexico and Venezuela more than offsetting smaller totals for Brazil and Colombia. Shipments to European countries increased to $31,070,000 from $25,000,000 in January last year, larger exports to France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Poland, more than counterbalancing smaller totals for Belgium and Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland. To all "other" countries domestic exports rose in January to $10,573,000 from $8,273,000 a year earlier; exports to Japan, accounting for about three-fifths of the month's value, were higher.

Values of leading commodity exports in January were as follows (in thousands): newsprint paper, $58,503 ($50,127 a year earlier); wheat, $27,113 ($25,372); planks and boards, $25,846 ($27,164); wood pulp, $23,212 ($20,568); copper and products, $18,921 ($10,758); aluminum and products, $18,880 ($18,417); nickel, $18,621 ($17,136); seeds, $9,609 ($5,089); fish and fishery products, $9,403 ($9,733); precious metals, except gold, $7,541 ($3,176); petroleum and products, $7,254 ($1,770); asbestos, $7,015 ($5,253); zinc and products, $6,255 ($5,948); farm machinery, $6,211 ($4,672); wheat flour, $5,326 ($5,263); furs and products, $4,757 ($5,805); fertilizers, $4,548 ($5,123); and grains other than wheat, $4,235 ($5,632). (2)

Man-Hours And Hourly Earnings Average hours worked in manufacturing in the week of February 1 rose to 41.1, following a shortened work-week a month earlier due to the year-end holidays. Average weekly wages were also higher, but with increased employment and hours in industries employing large numbers of women, and less premium overtime work than in the holiday week, average hourly earnings fell slightly from their all-time peak of 147.5¢ at January 1 to 147.3¢ at the beginning of February.

Average hourly earnings in mining reached a new maximum of 166.2¢. The average work-week and average weekly wages were higher than at January 1, but slightly lower than at December 1. Lower hourly earnings in electric and motor transportation reflected a return to a more usual level than in the holiday week, when considerable overtime at premium rates had been reported. Activity in construction was much greater than a month earlier. Higher hourly earnings in the industry were partly due to a relatively greater increase in employment and hours on contracts where rates are above the general average. Only small changes were reported in the service industries.

Average Hours and Earnings of Hourly-Rated Wage Earners Reported in Specified Industries in the Weeks Ending Feb. 1 and Jan. 1, 1956, and Feb. 1, 1955.

	Average Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Wages		
	Feb. 1 1955	Jan. 1 1956	Feb. 1 1956	Feb. 1 1955	Jan. 1 1956	Feb. 1 1956	Feb. 1 1955	Jan. 1 1956	Feb. 1 1956
	no.	no.	no.	¢	¢	¢	$	$	$
Manufacturing	41.0	39.0	41.1	142.7	147.5	147.3	58.51	57.53	60.54
Durable Goods	41.1	39.1	41.2	153.8	157.6	159.0	63.21	61.62	65.51
Non-durable Goods ...	40.8	39.0	41.0	131.2	136.5	134.8	53.53	53.24	55.27
Mining	43.5	42.0	43.8	160.3	165.1	166.2	69.73	69.34	72.80
Electric and Motor Transportation	45.0	44.2	44.8	141.5	149.0	146.6	63.68	65.86	65.68
Construction	39.7	35.2	39.8	152.8	157.1	160.7	60.66	55.30	63.96
Service	40.2	39.8	40.2	85.2	88.1	87.8	34.25	35.06	35.30

B U S I N E S S

Values Of Cheques Cashed 16.9% Higher In February Cheques cashed in the 52 clearing centres rose 16.9% in February to $13,370,000,000 from last year's $11,434,000,000. All regions shared in the rise, British Columbia leading with a gain of 24.8%, closely followed by Quebec with 19.7%, Prairie Provinces 18.6%, Atlantic Provinces 16.7% and Ontario 13.4%.

In the two months, January and February, the all-Canada total increased 19.1% to $28,441,000,000 from $23,887,000,000 last year. Quebec led with a cumulative increase of 23.7%, the Atlantic Provinces next with 20.8%, British Columbia 19.5%, Prairie Provinces 16.9%. Ontario had the smallest increase of 16.5%.

February totals for the five economic areas were as follows: Atlantic Provinces, $353,000,000 ($302,000,000 a year earlier); Quebec, $4,138,000,000 ($3,458,000,000); Ontario, $5,931,000,000 ($5,233,000,000); Prairie Provinces, $1,888,000,000 ($1,591,000,000); and British Columbia, $1,060,000,000 ($849,000,000). (3)

Security Price Indexes

Investors' Price Index	April 5	March 29	March 8
		1935-39 = 100	
Total Common Stocks	276.0	275.9	264.9
Industrials	289.3	288.9	277.0
Utilities	210.6	211.7	209.9
Banks	294.2	293.9	270.1
Mining Stock Price Index			
Total Mining Stocks	138.3	138.2	131.0
Golds	80.1	80.3	77.7
Base Metals	271.6	270.7	252.9

Farm Prices Of Agricultural Products Canada's index number of farm prices of agricultural products for February, on the 1935-39 base, stood at 218.3, fractionally above the revised figure of 218.1 for January. Somewhat higher prices for grains, live stock and potatoes slightly offset lower prices for dairy products, and poultry and eggs. (4)

Price Index Numbers Of Commodities And Services Used By Farmers Seasonal recessions in farm wage rates and declines in prices of foods purchased for farm family living outweighed advances in prices of farm equipment and materials to lower the all-Canada composite index of commodities and services used by farmers 1.8% from 226.3 to 222.3 between August 1955 and January 1956. Compared with January last year the index advanced 0.8%. Exclusive of farm family living, the index showed a decrease of 2.6% between August and January and an increase of 1.4% over January 1955.

The all-Canada farm wage rate index moved down 11.2% to 413.4 between August and January. Regional differences were notable, the eastern index decreasing 3.3% to 427.0, while the western series recorded a drop of 21.1% to 394.0. Compared with January 1955, indexes for both East and West showed increases of slightly more than 3%.

The farm operating equipment and materials component advanced 1.5% from 203.3 in August to 206.3 in January. With the exception of feed, all sub-groups participated in the general upward movement. The largest rise occurred in farm machinery, up 5.4%, followed by seed, up 4.6%. The rise in binder twine was 3.6%, hardware 1%, gasoline, oil and grease 0.5%, building materials 0.4%, and compounded fertilizer 0.3%. The feed index receded 3.6%.

The farm family living component declined 0.3% from 203.8 in August to 203.2 in January. This was 0.3% below last year's January index of 203.9. Easier prices for foods outweighed increases in fuel and health maintenance. The miscellaneous index was unchanged at 125.0. Clothing and household equipment indexes, which are computed only twice a year, stood nominally at August 1955 levels of 227.2 and 229.0, respectively. Higher price tendencies for fuel were noted in the East as the fuel index for this region moved up 2.4% against a rise of 0.4% for the western series. (5)

Farm Cash Income Slightly Lower In 1955 Canada's farm cash income from the sale of farm products and participation payments on previous years' grain crops in 1955 amounted to an estimated $2,352,600,000, slightly above the advance preliminary estimate of $2,323,300,000 published in January but 1.8% below 1954's $2,395,300,000 and 17.4% under the all-time high of $2,849,300,000 in 1952.

In addition to cash income from the sale of farm products, supplementary payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act to farmers in western Canada amounted to $33,300,000 in 1955 as compared with $2,400,000 in 1954 and $1,600,000 in 1953.

Cash income was down from 1954 in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario. Declines ranged from less than 1% in British Columbia to 10% in Saskatchewan and increases from 1.7% in Nova Scotia to 4.5% in Prince Edward Island. On a commodity basis the more important increases were recorded for wheat, flaxseed, corn, potatoes, tobacco, cattle, poultry and dairy products. The more important reductions occurred in the case of total participation payments, oats, barley, rye, clover and grass seed, and hogs.

Farm cash income from the sale of wheat amounted to $330,800,000 as compared with $322,000,000 in the preceding year; higher marketings were offset to some extent by lower average prices. Wheat participation payments, totalling $25,700,000, were well below the 1954 payments of $97,400,000. In contrast, oats and barley participation payments totalled $21,500,000 as against $15,500,000 in 1954. Marketings of these two coarse grains, substantially below the 1954 levels, far outweighed slightly higher prices to provide total returns of $98,300,000 in 1955 as against $137,600,000 a year earlier. A very substantial increase in marketings of flaxseed, together with higher prices, provided returns totalling $40,400,000, 100% above those realized in 1954.

Farm cash income from the sale of live stock totalled $703,300,000 approximately equal to the $704,200,000 recorded for the preceding year. Cash returns from hogs were down by approximately $33,000,000,but this decline was balanced by an equal increase in returns from the marketings of cattle. A decline in income from calves more than offset a slight gain in cash receipts from sheep and lambs.

Income from the sale of dairy products in 1955 reached $438,000,000, approximately $11,500,000 above the 1954 estimate, and $22,100,000 above that for 1953. The increase over 1954 is attributable entirely to increased production. Farm income from the sale of eggs at $125,600,000 was practically unchanged from that of 1954. Although marketings in 1955 were below the previous year, this decline was offset by higher average prices. Income from the sale of poultry meat, estimated at $150,500,000 for 1955, was substantially above the 1954 level of $136,500,000 with almost all of the increase in Quebec and Ontario.

Farm cash income totals were as follows by provinces, in millions: Prince Edward Island, $25.5 ($24.4 in 1954); Nova Scotia, $45.1 ($44.3); New Brunswick $47.3 ($48.8); Quebec $425.0 ($407.0); Ontario $744.1 ($714.4); Manitoba $170.1 ($187.9); Saskatchewan, $425.1 ($472.4); Alberta, $363.1 ($387.8); British Columbia $107.3 ($108.3). (6)

Butter Stocks Larger On April 1 But Holdings Of Cheese Smaller

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on April 1 amounted to 45,868,000 pounds, up 22% from last year's corresponding total of 37,680,000 pounds, but the holdings of cheddar cheese declined 17% to 13,893,000 pounds from 16,692,000. Stocks of cold storage eggs declined to 3,000 cases from 119,000.

Stocks of creamery butter in the nine cities were as follows (in thousands): Quebec, 4,034 pounds (927 a year earlier); Montreal, 22,510 (18,275); Toronto, 5,897 (7,157); Winnipeg, 11,481 (9,368); Regina, 452 (736); Saskatoon, 459 (111); Edmonton, 304 (251); Calgary, 173 (155); and Vancouver, 558 (700). (7)

Visible Supplies Of Wheat Slightly Larger

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on March 28 totalled 334,764,000 bushels, slightly larger than last year's 332,057,000 bushels. Marketings of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week jumped to 6,384,000 bushels from 2,187,000, and overseas export clearances increased to 3,748,000 bushels from 2,332,000. (8)

Milk Production Increased in February

Canada's farm milk supply amounted to an estimated 921,000,000 pounds in February, an increase of 6% over a year earlier. However, adjusted for a shorter month (28 days in February 1955 compared with 29 days in February 1956) the increase would be only 3%

Adjustments made on account of the difference in length of month also reduces percentage gains in the creamery butter output from 11% to 7.3%, cheddar cheese from a gain of 3% to a decline of 1%, and ice cream from an advance of 19% to 15%. Similarly, evaporated whole milk, which was reported to be about the same as last year, would be reduced by 3.3%. The domestic disappearance of creamery butter reported to be 14% above the quantities utilized a year earlier, is actually 9.6% when the statistics for the two months are placed on a comparable basis, and the domestic disappearance of ice cream, which showed a 12% increase, would be reduced to 7.8% on the adjusted basis.

The numbers of milch cows on farms were 2% above those of the previous February, and 52.8% were milked as compared with 51.6 a year earlier. There was a slight gain in the milk production per cow, the average being 12.6 pounds per day based on all cows in the herds, and 23.8% pounds based on those actually milked.

Milk produced on farms in January reached a total of 977,551,000 pounds, 5.2% more than in January 1955. Of this amount, 47% was utilized in dairy factory production. Fluid sales, at 456,357,000 pounds, increased 5%. Fluid milk represented approximately 39% of the farm milk supply and fluid cream represented 7.5%.

Farm cash income from the sale of dairy products in January reached a total of $27,439,000, and the weighted average price of $3.32 per hundred pounds of milk compared with $3.37. Fluid milk yielded farmers an average of $4.33 per hundred pounds, only 1¢ less than that received a year earlier, and cheese milk, at $2.50 per hundred, advanced 17¢. Creamery butter-fat, on the other hand, decreased from 62.5¢ to 60.2¢ per pound. (9)

Canned Meat Stocks 6% Smaller At End Of February

Stocks of canned meats held by manufacturers and wholesalers at the end of February amounted to 22,706,142 pounds, a decrease of 6% from last year's 24,031,317 pounds, DBS reports in a special statement. End-of-February stocks by kinds were as follows: ready dinners, stews, etc., 9,822,251 pounds (6,466,596 a year earlier); roast beef, 348,889 (394,892); corned beef, 2,670,009 (1,894,579); other beef products, 2,128,236 (2,293,940); spiced pork and ham, 2,640,612 (5,579,593); roast pork and ham, 789,112 (2,819,158); other pork products, 1,890,135 (1,716,074); canned fowl, 524,413 (823,640); meat paste, 1,118,610 (775,738); and all other kinds, 773,875 (1,267,107).

Production of Sea-Fish Up Sharply In February

Boosted by increased catches of herring on the Pacific and haddock on the Atlantic, landings of sea-fish in February jumped to 212,032,000 pounds from 56,564,000 a year earlier. At the same time the value rose to $4,480,000 from $1,903,000.

Landings of sea-fish on the Pacific in February amounted to $164,336,000 pounds valued at $2,472,000 versus 23,638,000 pounds worth $456,000. The record herring catch continued to dominate the picture with landings of 160,469,000 pounds worth $2,287,000 versus 20,166,000 pounds valued at $252,000. Last year this fishery was closed down to ensure adequate spawning stocks.

On the Atlantic coast the total catch amounted to 47,696,000 pounds valued at $2,008,000 versus 32,926,000 pounds worth $1,447,000 a year ago. The most significant increase appears to be in the haddock fishery, both in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. To date the lobster catch is running ahead of last year's in value but slightly lower in quantity. (10)

Honey Crop 26% Larger in 1955

Canada's 1955 honey crop amounted to 25,031,000 pounds, 26% larger than the preceding year's 19,800,000 pounds, but 25% smaller than the 10-year (1944-53) average. The increase in production as compared with 1954 resulted from higher average yields. Value of the honey crop was $4,399,000 versus $3,418,000 in 1954 and an average of $5,732,000 over the 10 years, 1944-53.

Improved production as compared with 1954 was particularly noticeable in the Prairie Provinces where about 4,300,000 pounds of the all-Canada increase of 5,200,000 pounds occurred. To a large extent this was attributable to the extension of the honey flow later in the season.

Production of honey in the provinces in 1955 was as follows: Prince Edward Island, 66,000 pounds (69,000 in 1954); Nova Scotia, 134,000 (125,000); New Brunswick, 86,000 (92,000); Quebec, 3,717,000 (3,874,000); Ontario, 7,119,000 (6,012,000); Manitoba, 5,057,000 (4,163,000); Saskatchewan, 3,271,000 (1,825,000); Ablerta, 4,611,000 (2,636,000); and British Columbia, 970,000 (1,054,000). (11)

MERCHANDISING

Department Store Sales Down 4.6% at March 31

Department store sales declined 4.6% during the week ending March 31 as compared with a year earlier. All regions except Quebec and Alberta had sales decreases. Manitaba had the largest drop of 20.6%, followed by Saskatchewan with 11.7%, British Columbia 8.4%, Ontario 3.8% and the Atlantic Provinces 3.1% . Quebec sales rose by 3.9% and Alberta by 0.8%.

Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents In November There were 14,290 motor vehicle traffic accidents reported in Canada (excluding Quebec) in November, according to a special statement released by DBS. The record showed 153 persons were killed and 4,307 injured. There were 142 accidents involving fatalities, 2,989 causing injuries and 11,159 involving property damage only. In eight provinces (excluding Quebec and Manitoba) and the Territories $4,548,641 worth of damage was caused. The minimum property damage (excluding Quebec and Manitoba) reportable to the police varies from $50 to $100 in different provinces.

Province	Number of Accidents				Persons Killed	Persons Injured	Property Damage
	Fatal	Injury	Property Damage Only	Total			
Nfld	3	32	133	168	3	47	38,571
P.E.I.	1	16	77	94	1	24	29,590
N.S.	14	167	865	1,046	14	254	260,123
N.B.	10	122	357	489	10	154	184,092
Que.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ont.	74	1,499	4,182	5,755	80	2,184	1,996,790
Man.	4	161	1,248	1,413	4	229	..
Sask.	11	182	924	1,117	12	266	370,013
Alta.	9	222	1,410	1,641	10	290	556,062
B.C.	16	569	1,924	2,509	19	833	1,036,934
Yukon & N.W.T.	-	19	39	58	-	26	26,466
TOTAL	142	2,989	11,159	14,290	153	4,307	4,548,641

.. Not Available; -Nil

MANUFACTURING

Fewer Passenger Cars Made In March & First Quarter Production of motor vehicles eased 6% in March to 47,359 units from 50,445 in the corresponding month last year. This followed a drop of about 12% in February and a small rise in January. The overall result was a decline of 5.5% in the first quarter to 106,284 units from 112,452 a year earlier.

The decline was due to a cut-back in the production of passenger cars to 37,949 units in March from 43,517 and to 85,891 in the quarter from 98,730. Output of commercial vehicles increased to 9,410 units in March from 6,928 and to 20,393 units from 13,622 in the quarter. (12)

Production Of Pig Iron And Steel Ingots Increased Again In March Canadian production of both pig iron and steel ingots continued to rise in March. Output of steel ingots jumped 13.5% to a new high for a month at 427,730 tons versus 376,866 a year earlier. The production of pig iron also rose 6.2% to a near-record 292,919 tons from 275,729 a year ago.

Production of steel ingots in the first quarter of 1956 was up 24% to 1,244,184 tons from 1,002,376 in the like 1955 period, while the output of pig iron increased 22.6% to 846,460 tons from 690,268. (13)

Production Of Mineral Wool Up In February — Production of mineral wool in two-, three- and four-inch batts amounted to 15,999,319 square feet in February (11,336,322 a year earlier), while the output of granulated, bulk and loose wool totalled 820,156 cubic feet (757,481).

January-February totals show increases over a year earlier with batts rising to 36,418,261 square feet as opposed to 23,744,892 square feet, and granulated, bulk and loose wool to 2,062,296 cubic feet from 1,540,882 cubic feet. (14)

Sales Of Phonograph Records — Sales of phonograph records in February were valued at $1,338,714 as compared with $1,384,221 in the preceding month, according to a special statement released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Coke Supplies Larger In January — Supplies of coke available for consumption increased to 394,019 tons in January from 314,921 in the corresponding month last year. Domestic production rose to 355,240 tons from 300,233, landed imports to 47,862 tons from 22,881, and exports to 9,083 tons from 8,193. (15)

Net Sales Of Petroleum Products — Net sales of refined petroleum products in November amounted to 21,162,738 barrels, 14% larger than the preceding month's 18,609,840. Sales of some of the larger products were: motor gasoline, 5,963,845 barrels (6,669,526 in October); light furnace oil, 4,923,198 (2,697,249); heavy fuel oil, 4,509,794 (3,814,245); kerosene and stove oil, 2,059,306 (1,378,152); diesel fuel oil, 1,566,123 (1,557,750). (16)

M I N I N G

Gold Production In January Increased From Year Ago — Gold production in January amounted to 370,664 fine ounces, moderately above last year's corresponding total of 366,330 fine ounces. There were increases in Ontario and the Northwest Territories but declines in the other provinces. Production totals were as follows: Ontario, 214,114 fine ounces (202,880 a year earlier); Northwest Territories, 28,068 (25,922); Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 687 (860); Quebec, 94,522 (98,947); Prairie Provinces, 17,698 (18,192); British Columbia, 15,564 (19,489); and the Yukon, 11 (40). (17)

Production Of Most Leading Minerals Increased In 1955 — Production of 13 of Canada's 16 leading minerals showed increases in 1955 as compared with a year earlier. Totals for the 16 minerals were as follows, 1954 figures being in brackets: asbestos, 1,061,951 tons (924,116); cement, 25,168,464 barrels (22,437,477); clay products, $34,199,742 ($32,360,098); coal, 14,809,384 tons (14,913,579); copper, 324,756 tons (302,732); gold, 4,544,554 fine ounces (4,366,440); gypsum, 4,644,482 tons (3,950,422); iron ore, 16,445,411 tons (7,361,598); lead, 201,583 tons (218,495); lime, 1,333,203 tons (1,214,839); natural gas, 151,304,556 M cubic feet (120,735,214); nickel, 175,173 tons (161,279); petroleum, 129,451,805 barrels (96,080,345); salt, 1,280,575 tons (969,887); silver, 27,696,319 fine ounces (31,117,949); and zinc, 428,474 tons (376,491). (18)

TELEPHONES

Telephones In Service More Than Doubled In 10 Years

Due to the insistant demand for telephone service the number of telephones in Canada has more than doubled in the last 10 years. At the end of 1954 there were 3,860,269 telephones in service compared with 1,848,794 in 1945. During 1954 a total of 253,862 telephones were installed, almost equalling the record of 1953, but at the year-end many unfilled orders remained for both main service and for higher grades of service.

Residential telephones increased 8% in 1954 to 2,213,154 from 2,053,944 in the preceding year, business telephones rose 6% to 1,053,852 from 988,660, and public pay telephones to 54,603 from 50,913. Telephones on automatic switchboards numbered 2,764,340 compared with 2,486,451 in 1953, while telephones on manual switchboards dropped to 1,095,929 from 1,119,956. Many exchanges have been converted to dial operation and by the year-end 72% of all telephones in Canada were dial and 28% were operated from manual switchboards.

The number of completed calls for all systems was estimated at 6,347,531,-909 as compared with 6,084,655,328 in 1953, an increase of 4%. This represents an average of 1,644 calls per telephone or 418 calls per capita as against an average of 1,687 calls per telephone or 412 per capita in 1953. The number of long distance calls increased by 5,861,581 to a total of 137,760,909.

Ontario had the greatest density of telephones with 31.8 per 100 population, followed by British Columbia with 29.6. The total for Canada increased to 25.4 from 24.4, all provinces registering gains. The largest relative gains were in British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba. Residential telephones rose from 17.1 per 100 population in 1953 to 17.8 in 1954.

At the end of 1954 there were an estimated 94,500,000 telephones in the world. Among the principal countries Canada ranked third with 25.40 telephones per 100 population. The United States held first place with 32.21; Sweden came second with 28.99. (19)

TRANSPORTATION

Revenues And Expenses Of Air Carriers Up Sharply

Operating revenues reported by Canadian air carriers in October amounted to $12,354,431, a gain of $3,592,-732 or 41% over the corresponding month of 1954. Total operating expenses increased $3,519,247 or 41.1% to $12,073,750 from $8,554,503, resulting in an operating income of $280,681 versus $207,196.

A total of 214,816 passengers were carried in unit toll transportation services as compared with 174,882 in October 1954, a gain of 22.8%. Revenue passengers transported in bulk transportation services numbered 33,713 versus 24,705. Goods airlifted in revenue toll transportation amounted to 4,452,444 pounds, an increase of 769,427 pounds or 20.9%, and goods carried in bulk transportation services weighed 12,884,302 pounds, nearly triple the total of 4,479,-977 reported a year earlier. The amount of mail carried by air advanced to 1,-959,963 pounds from 1,773,604 pounds. (20)

City Families Spent An Average Of $1,400 Per Person In 1953

A survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in five metropolitan areas across Canada indicates families with two to six persons in the nation's larger cities spent an average of $1,400 per person in 1953.

The Bureau collected records of expenditure from 969 families in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver. These families averaged 3.11 persons and their incomes ranged from $1,800 to $6,500 a year. The pattern of expenditure for all 969 families is summarized as follows:

Of the average dollar spent, 27.3 cents went for food. Housing, fuel, light and water took 15.6 cents. For some families this meant rented apartments, heated and lighted by the landlord; for others, it meant payment of property taxes, insurance, mortgage interest, repairs on a house and expenses for heat, light and water. Household operation expenses, for such items as the telephone, cleaning supplies, laundry sent out and baby sitters, took 3.6 cents. Furnishings and equipment accounted for 6.2 cents, and included furniture, floor coverings, electrical household equipment, kitchen equipment, glassware, chinaware, silverware, household textiles and items ranging from light bulbs to lawn mowers.

Clothing for these families required 9.5 cents of the average dollar spent, or a total of $413 per family. The family spent $24 for girls' clothing, $199 for women's clothing, $25 for boys' clothing, $134 for men's clothing, $12 for children's clothing and $18 for materials.

About 52% of the families reported no automobile expense. However, when all the families were considered together, car purchase, operation and maintenance accounted for 7.8 cents of the average dollar expenditure. All other transportation took another 2.2 cents.

Medical care averaged 4.3 cents. Fifty-seven per cent of the families reported expenses for dental care, 61% reported visits to their doctor, and 11% reported operation expenses. Other medical expenditure items covered were payments to medical and hospital plans, hospital and nursing care, drugs and medicines, eyeglasses and medical appliances.

Another 1.9 cents went for personal care. The largest item was haircuts, but other services, toilet articles and preparations claimed a share. Expenditure for recreation took 3.6 cents, or a total of $157 per family. Admissions to movies amounted to $28, and purchase of television sets or combination television and radio sets averaged $65.

Reading and education took 1.1 cents: tobacco and alcoholic beverages, 3.5 cents; and a miscellaneous group of other current living expenses accounted for 1.1 cents. This last group of expenses covered bank charges, funeral expenses and vocational expenses such as union dues.

Other expenditures for these families were gifts and contributions, taking 2.3 cents of the average dollar spent; personal taxes, 5.8 cents; and security payments, 4.2 cents. Gifts and contributions included outlays to persons and organizations outside of the family. Personal tax payments refer to income, personal property and poll taxes, custom duties and succession duties. Security payments covered life insurance premiums, retirement or pension payments, and payments by the family to a mutual benefit society. (21)

Jump Of 28% In Border Crossings In February — An extra day in February this year helped to boost the volume of highway traffic crossing the border between Canada and the United States nearly 28% as compared with a year earlier. Total number of crossings was 846,900, a numerical increase of 184,600. Entries of foreign vehicles numbered 390,200 as against 323,600 a year earlier, an increase of 66,600 or nearly 21%. Re-entries of vehicles registered in Canada amounted to 456,700, a gain of 118,000 or nearly 35% over the same month last year. (22)

R E L E A S E D T H I S W E E K

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

1-Canada's International Investment Position, 1926 - 1954, $1.00
2-Trade Of Canada: Domestic Exports (Summary), January, 20¢
3-Cheques Cashed In Clearing Centres, February, 10¢
4-M: Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, February, 10¢
5-Price Index Numbers of Commodities & Services Used By Farmers, January, 1956,10¢
6-M: Farm Cash Income, 1955, 25¢
7-M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products in 9 Cities, Advance Statement, April 1,10¢
8-M: Grain Statistics Weekly, March 28, 10¢
9-The Dairy Review, February, 25¢
10-Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, February, 25¢
11-M: Final Estimate of Honey Production, 1955, 10¢
12-Preliminary Report on the Production of Motor Vehicles, March, 10¢
13-Steel Ingots & Pig Iron, March, 10¢
14-M: Mineral Wool, February, 10¢
15-Coal & Coke Statistics, January, 25¢
16-M: Refined Petroleum Products, November, 10¢
17-M: Gold Production, January, 10¢
18-Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, December, 10¢
19-Telephone Statistics, 1954, 25¢
20-Civil Aviation, October, 15¢
21-R: City Family Expenditure, 1953, 50¢ -- Reference Paper No. 64.
22-Travel Between Canada & the United States, February, 20¢
-- Canadian Statistical Review, March, 35¢
-- Trade of Canada: Imports, December & 12 Months Ended December, 1955, 50¢
M: Memorandum; R: Reference Paper.

Prepared in Press & Publicity Section, Information Services Division.

Edmond Cloutier, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P.,
Queen's Printer & Controller of Stationery,
Ottawa, 1956

4502-503-46