



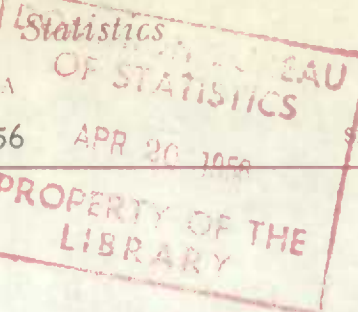
# D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of

OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 24 -- No. 16

Friday, April 20, 1956



\$2.00 a year

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Corporation Profits: Total profits before taxes of Canadian corporations last year amounted to an estimated \$3,022,000,000, 26% larger than the estimated total of \$2,390,000,000 in 1954. Income tax liabilities for 1955 are estimated at \$1,366,000,000, up from \$1,160,000,000 the previous year. Total profits after taxes last year thus were an estimated \$1,656,000,000, up 35% from the estimated \$1,230,000,000 for 1954. (Page 2)

...

Manufacturing: Manufacturers' shipments in January reached an estimated value of \$1,597,000,000, nearly 15% above the value of \$1,391,000,000 in January last year. Unfilled orders at the month-end amounted to \$2,698,000,000, some 6% higher than a year earlier, while new orders in the month were up to \$1,653,000,000 compared to \$1,459,000,000 last year ... Increases over last year were reported in February production of pig iron and steel ingots, cement, asphalt roofing and leather ... Total shipments of motor vehicles were down in the month, with passenger cars lower and commercial vehicles higher. (Pages 3 & 4)

...

Prices: Consumer price indexes for ten regional cities showed little change during February, slight increases occurring in six, minor decreases in two and no change in two. The food index, which has trended downward for all Canada, was lower in seven, fractionally higher in two, and unchanged in the other. (Page 6)

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Labour Income: January labour income continued the upward trend of 1955, showing a rise of 9% over a year earlier at an estimated \$1,080,000,000. (Page 8)

...

Transportation: Railway car loadings for the first three months this year rose 12% over last year to 964,700 cars, while receipts from connections were up over 12% at 449,972 cars. For the first week of April car loadings moved up nearly 7% at 76,464 cars. (Page 11)

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Merchandising: Canadian retailers had February sales estimated at \$864,230,000, over 8% larger than in February last year, with gains recorded for all trades and every province. For chain stores, the sales gain approached 9% ... Department store sales in March climbed 14% over the previous year; for the first April week were just under 5% higher than a year ago. (Pages 12 & 13)

...

Corporation Profits In Fourth  
Quarter And Full Year 1955

Profits before taxes of Canadian corporations were estimated at \$786,000,000 for the fourth quarter of 1955, an increase of \$225,000,000 or 40% over the 1954 fourth-quarter estimate of \$561,000,000. Cumulative profits before taxes for the year 1955 aggregated \$3,022,000,000, an estimated increase of \$632,000,000 or 26% over the preceding year's \$2,390,000,000.

Income tax liabilities estimated for the fourth quarter of 1955 amounted to \$342,000,000, an increase of \$72,000,000 or 26% over 1954's fourth-quarter estimate of \$270,000,000. For the 12 months of 1955 income tax liabilities were estimated at \$1,366,000,000 as compared with \$1,160,000,000 in 1954, an increase of \$206,000,000 or 18%. Income taxes for the year 1955 were estimated at 45% of profits.

Corporation profits after taxes in the fourth quarter of 1955 rose an estimated \$153,000,000 or 53% to \$444,000,000 from \$291,000,000. Cumulative profits after taxes for the 12 months of 1955 were estimated at \$1,656,000,000, an increase of \$426,000,000 or 35% over the preceding year's \$1,230,000,000.

In the manufacturing sector increases in profits before taxes for the fourth quarter of 1955 over the fourth quarter of 1954 were shown in all industry groups with an overall increase of \$143,000,000 or 51% in the sector as a whole to \$423,000,000 from \$280,000,000. The most sizeable increases occurred in the iron and steel group which rose an estimated \$57,000,000 from \$44,000,000 in the fourth quarter of 1954 to \$101,000,000 in the fourth quarter of 1955, the non-ferrous metal group which increased \$20,000,000 from \$8,000,000 to \$28,000,000, and the wood and paper group which increased \$19,000,000 from \$98,000,000 to \$117,000,000.

The non-manufacturing sector showed an overall increase in profits before taxes of \$82,000,000 or 29% to \$363,000,000 in the fourth quarter of 1955 from \$281,000,000 a year earlier. Mining, quarrying and oil wells showed the greatest proportionate increase -- \$31,000,000 -- to \$94,000,000 from \$63,000,000, followed by retail trade which increased \$16,000,000 to \$58,000,000 from \$42,000,000, and transportation, storage and communication which rose an estimated \$14,000,000 to \$58,000,000 from \$44,000,000 in the fourth quarter of 1954.

A comparison of the total of the four quarters of 1955 with the total of the four quarters of the preceding year indicates that the increase in profits before taxes was reflected in all industry groups except one. The most sizeable increases occurred in the mining, quarrying and oil wells group which rose an estimated \$129,000,000 or 56% to \$360,000,000 from \$231,000,000; the iron and steel group which rose an estimated \$87,000,000 or 33% to \$353,000,000 from \$266,000,000; the wood and paper group which rose an estimated \$71,000,000 or 21% to \$402,000,000 from \$331,000,000; and the transportation, storage and communication group which rose an estimated \$66,000,000 or 35% to \$253,000,000 from \$187,000,000. The one group in which profits before taxes did not increase was the service group which dropped an estimated \$3,000,000 or 6% to \$45,000,000 in 1955 from \$48,000,000. (1)



Manufacturers' Shipments,  
Inventories And Orders

Manufacturers' shipments were valued at an estimated \$1,597,000,000 in January, a decrease of 3.8% from the preceding month's \$1,660,000,000, but an increase of 14.8% over last year's corresponding total of \$1,391,000,000, DBS reports. The decline from December was largely in 11 industries: distilleries, tobacco, furniture, miscellaneous wood products, sheet metal products, aircraft, automobiles, shipbuilding, heavy electrical machinery, radios and parts, and petroleum products. The total decline in this group of industries was \$63,000,000. Sawmills was the only industry to show a significant increase and this was largely seasonal.

Total value of inventory owned continued the rise begun last Fall. At \$3,731,000,000, inventory was \$32,000,000 or 0.9% above December levels and 5.3% above January 1955. Inventory held under progress payments arrangements declined \$11,000,000 to \$506,000,000, giving a value for total inventory held \$21,000,000 higher than at the end of December. This latter increase was made up of an increase of \$12,000,000 in raw materials and \$15,000,000 in finished products, while goods in process declined \$6,000,000.

The overall increase in inventory values as compared with December concealed some large declines, many of them seasonal. Industries showing the largest declines were: pulp and paper, fabricated and structural steel, canned fruits and vegetables, sugar refining, malt products, railroad rolling stock, vegetable oil mills, miscellaneous electrical products, boilers and plate work, and coke and gas products.

Industries showing increases of over \$1,000,000 each included: tobacco products, shipbuilding, petroleum products, automobiles, heavy electrical machinery, industrial machinery, sheet metal products, rubber products, and heating and cooking apparatus. Again, many of these increases are seasonal. Changes in other industries were smaller but generally in an upward direction.

New orders in January were valued at \$1,653,000,000, down from \$1,697,000,000 in the preceding month and last year's \$1,459,000,000. Unfilled orders at the end of the month were \$2,698,000,000, \$56,000,000 or 2.1% higher than at the year-end and 6.3% above January 1955. The main increases in unfilled orders were in pulp and paper, motor vehicles parts, sawmills, miscellaneous wood products and furniture industries. (2)

Leather Production Up In February

Production of leather increased in February over the corresponding month last year.

Cattle and sole leather output for the month rose to 1,314,331 pounds from 1,061,436, upper leather to 5,899,139 square feet from 4,755,140, and glove and garment leather to 832,450 square feet from 742,257. Calf and kip upper leather production increased to 978,767 square feet from 790,172 and horse leather to 144,798 square feet from 85,999.

Tanners, packers and dealers held stocks of raw hides and skins at the end of February as follows: cattle hides, 562,420 (505,181 a year earlier); calf and kip skins, 404,363 (327,628); goat and kid skins, 16,070 (24,885); horse hides, 18,388 (21,907); and sheep and lamb skins, 41,002 dozen (42,735). (3)

Motor Vehicle Shipments Passenger and commercial vehicle shipments declined  
Drop 13.2% In February 13.2% in February to 27,625 units from 31,827 a year  
 earlier. Commercial vehicle shipments climbed to  
 5,482 units from 4,253, but this increase was offset by the decline in passenger  
 car shipments to 22,143 from 27,574. Shipments of vehicles imported from the  
 U.S. soared to 6,295 from 1,905 last year.

Shipments of Canadian-made passenger cars for sale in Canada dropped to  
 19,597 units from 26,740, but export vehicles jumped to 2,546 units from 834.  
 On the other hand, shipments of commercial vehicles for use in Canada increased  
 to 4,873 units from 3,357 but vehicles for export fell to 609 units from 896. (4)

Production Of Asphalt Roofing Larger quantities of asphalt shingles were  
 produced in February than a year earlier, but  
 smaller quantities of both smooth and mineral surfaced roll roofing. Output of  
 asphalt shingles amounted to 226,530 squares (218,605 a year earlier); smooth  
 surfaced roll roofing, 84,642 squares (94,420); and mineral surfaced roll roofing,  
 45,620 squares (58,022). Output of roll-type sidings declined to 22,445 squares  
 from 24,273. (5)

Shipments Of Portland Shipments to customers by manufacturers of Portland  
Cement Up Sharply cement totalled 1,265,986 barrels in February, sharply  
 above last year's corresponding total of 889,262 barrels.  
 Actual production in February was 1,858,871 barrels versus 1,668,311. Stocks  
 at plants and warehouses at the end of February were down to 2,490,928 barrels  
 versus 2,666,198. (6)

Pig Iron And Steel Ingots Production of pig iron in February rose to 268,457  
Production Up In February tons from 215,075 a year earlier and output of  
 steel ingots increased to 391,287 tons from 314,657.  
 An increase of approximately 25% brought two-month -- January-February -- prod-  
 uction of pig iron to 553,541 tons as compared with 414,539. Production of  
 steel ingots in the two months increased to 816,454 tons as compared with 625,-  
 510. (7)

Battery Sales Lower In Value Factory sales of electric storage batteries de-  
 clined in value to \$1,784,387 in February from  
 \$1,927,812 in the corresponding month last year. A substantial increase in  
 January more than offset February's decline and cumulative sales for the first  
 two months this year rose to \$4,053,134 from \$3,948,223 a year ago. Sales of  
 batteries for starting and ignition of internal combustion engines were valued  
 at \$1,312,368 in February (\$1,399,264 a year earlier); and \$3,158,972 in the  
 two months (\$2,949,881). (8)

TV-Set Sales Lower In January Producers' sales of television receiving  
But Radio Sales Slightly Higher sets in January eased to 51,939 units from  
 last year's corresponding total of 54,788,  
 but the sales of radios showed a small increase to 30,387 units from 30,097,  
 DBS reports. Sales of table model TV sets fell to 27,396 units from 31,663,  
 but consoles rose to 23,161 sets from 22,337, and three-way combinations to  
 1,382 sets from 788. Among radio sales, home sets increased to 17,127 from  
 16,466 and portable and auto to 10,775 from 10,354, but combinations fell  
 to 2,485 from 3,277. (9)



Output Of Refined Petroleum  
Products Up 24% In November

Production of refined petroleum products rose 24% in November to 16,781,186 barrels from the preceding year's corresponding total of 13,520,989 barrels. Consumption of crude petroleum increased to 16,509,695 barrels from 14,498,728, and receipts of crude to 15,972,048 barrels from 14,188,331. The month's receipts comprised 7,429,100 barrels of imported oil (6,192,615 a year earlier) and 8,542,948 barrels of Canadian crude (7,995,716). (10)

## MINING

Production Of Crude Petroleum  
Reached All-Time High In 1955

Production of crude petroleum reached an all-time peak total of 129,451,805 barrels in 1955, more than one-third larger than the preceding year's 96,080,345 barrels. December's output climbed to 12,547,808 barrels from 9,644,550.

The year's output in Alberta rose to 113,035,046 barrels from 87,713,855 in the preceding year, Saskatchewan to 11,316,906 barrels from 5,422,899, Manitoba to 4,151,316 barrels from 2,148,184, Ontario to 524,945 barrels from 412,474, and the Northwest Territories to 411,046 barrels from 369,887. There was a decline in New Brunswick to 12,546 barrels from 13,046.

Production of natural gas in 1955 increased to 151,304,556 M cubic feet from 120,735,214 M in the preceding year. Sales of natural gas rose in 1955 to 117,800,311,000 M cubic feet from 87,466,838,000, but the sales of manufactured gas declined to 18,937,587,000 M cubic feet from 26,314,648,000. (11)

Mineral Production Value  
Reached New Peak In 1954

Value of minerals produced in Canada during 1954 reached a new all-time high total of \$1,488,382,000, DBS reports in its annual general review of the mining industry. Direct comparisons with previous years cannot be fairly made as the 1954 total includes the value of pitchblende products which were excluded during the years 1941 to 1953. The total for 1953 was \$1,336,304,000.

The index of the physical volume of mineral production, on the 1935-39 base, was 209.7 in 1954 compared with 185.8 in 1953 and 174.7 in 1952. Mining activity is indicated by the ore mined and rock quarried. In 1954 this amounted to 120,400,000 tons, of which 59,000,000 tons were from metal mines, 20,900,000 tons were non-metallics, and 40,500,000 tons were quarried stone.

The mining industry employed 129,445 persons to whom \$465,306,000 was paid in salaries and wages versus 130,038 employees paid \$453,066,000 in the preceding year.

The ten leading minerals in order of production value in 1954 were as follows, 1953 totals being in brackets: crude petroleum, \$243,877,000 (\$200,582,000); nickel, \$180,173,000 (\$160,430,000); copper \$175,713,000 (\$150,954,000); gold, \$148,765,000 (\$139,598,000); coal, \$96,600,000 (\$102,722,000); zinc, \$90,207,000 (\$96,101,000); asbestos, \$86,409,000 (\$86,053,000); cement, \$59,036,000 (\$58,842,000); sand and gravel, \$58,988,000 (\$53,485,000); and lead, \$58,251,000 (\$50,077,000). (12)

Consumer Price Indexes For Regional Cities

Consumer price indexes increased slightly in six of ten regional

cities between February 1 and March 1, two were unchanged while two showed minor decreases. Changes did not exceed 0.3%. Food indexes were lower in seven cities, unchanged in one, and up fractionally in two. Decreases ranged up to 0.7% in Toronto, with the increases in both St. John's and Winnipeg only 0.1%. Meat prices continued to move to lower levels. Further price declines for all cuts of beef occurred in most cities, while prices for most other meat items decreased during the current period. Prices were somewhat lower for a number of fresh and canned fruits. Higher prices were reported for eggs, margarine, coffee, and some fresh vegetables.

The shelter index was unchanged in six cities and showed only small upward movements in the other four cities. Clothing indexes were higher in eight of the ten regional cities and unchanged in two. Household operation indexes were up in five cities, unchanged in four and down slightly in the other regional city. The "other" commodities and services index was up in all but one of the ten cities as higher prices were general for new passenger cars on March 1, compared with last fall's prices. Increases for auto repairs, tires and rates for hospital care also contributed to the change in this group index.

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

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities of Canada  
at the Beginning of March 1956 (base 1949 = 100)

	Total Indexes		Group Indexes - March 1, 1956				
	Feb. 1 1956	Mar. 1 1956	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
St. John's*	104.9	105.0	101.1	109.7	100.8	103.4	111.7
Halifax	114.1	114.3	103.3	125.2	114.9	120.1	119.7
Saint John	117.1	117.4	108.7	127.5	116.7	117.6	124.5
Montreal	117.0	116.7	111.4	136.2	108.2	115.2	120.0
Ottawa	117.3	117.3	107.0	136.2	111.8	116.8	123.1
Toronto	118.3	118.2	106.9	148.1	111.0	115.5	119.5
Winnipeg	116.5	116.8	111.6	127.1	113.2	114.1	120.6
Saskatoon-Regina	114.7	114.7	109.7	118.1	114.8	116.8	116.6
Edmonton-Calgary	114.1	114.3	107.3	121.2	113.6	116.1	119.5
Vancouver	118.5	118.6	111.4	128.2	112.9	128.6	120.4

\* Index on the base June 1951 = 100



Security Price Indexes

<u>Investors' Price Index</u>	<u>April 12</u>	<u>April 5</u> 1935-39 = 100	<u>March 15</u>
Total Common Stocks .....	272.7	276.0	269.9
Industrials .....	285.9	289.3	283.3
Utilities .....	210.7	210.6	210.6
Banks .....	283.6	294.2	272.4
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks .....	135.0	138.3	136.2
Gold .....	78.0	80.1	80.9
Base Metals .....	265.4	271.6	262.7

## I N T E R N A T I O N A L   T R A N S A C T I O N S

Sales And Purchases Of Securities  
Between Canada & Other Countries

The sales balance from trade in outstanding Canadian securities continued to grow in January, but exceptionally heavy net purchases by Canadians of outstanding foreign securities reduced the net capital inflow to \$5,300,000 from \$16,600,000 in December, DBS reports.

Net sales of outstanding Canadian issues amounted to \$21,500,000, an increase of \$7,000,000 over December. Trading of Government of Canada direct and guaranteed issues and of other Canadian bonds and debentures produced capital inflows of \$19,000,000 and \$3,600,000, respectively. These figures compared with \$5,300,000 and \$4,000,000, respectively, in December 1955. Trading in outstanding Canadian common and preference stocks, on the other hand, led to a small purchase balance or capital outflow of \$900,000 in contrast to the capital inflow of \$5,000,000 in the preceding month.

The net purchase balance of \$16,200,000 arising from trade in outstanding foreign securities was practically all accounted for by net purchases of United States stocks. Contributing to the figure was a substantial participation by Canadian investors in a redistribution of stock of the Ford Motor Company previously held by the Ford Foundation.

The overall capital inflow of \$5,300,000 reflected inflows of \$2,100,000 and \$4,800,000 from the United Kingdom and from other overseas countries, which were offset in part by net outflows of \$1,600,000 to the United States. Net sales of outstanding Canadian securities included \$15,000,000 to the United States, \$1,800,000 to the United Kingdom, and \$4,700,000 to other countries. Net purchases of foreign securities from the United States totalled \$16,600,000, but there were sales of \$300,000 and \$200,000 to the United Kingdom and other overseas countries, respectively. (13)

Labour Income In January Following the usual seasonal reduction of activity in industries such as agriculture, construction, transportation and retail trade, labour income in Canada dropped \$45,000,000 in January to an estimated \$1,080,000,000 from \$1,125,000,000 in the preceding month. The total was, however, \$89,000,000 or 9% above last year's \$1,032,000,000.

With the exception of supplementary labour income, which remained steady, total wages and salaries in the principal industrial divisions contributed to the decline from December. Losses of \$12,000,000 each took place in construction and in the distributive industries, and \$11,000,000 in manufacturing; total wages and salaries in the finance and services group and in the primary industries dropped \$4,000,000 and \$6,000,000, respectively.

As compared with January last year increases of 6 to 8% occurred in the primary and distributive industries and in the finance and services group. The manufacturing total and supplementary labour income advanced approximately 11%, while construction wages and salaries rose 13%. (14)

# TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents In December There were 17,113 motor vehicle traffic accidents reported in Canada (excluding Quebec) in December, according to a special statement released by DBS. The record showed 170 persons were killed and 4,443 injured. There were 147 accidents involving fatalities, 3,104 causing injuries and 13,862 involving property damage only. In eight provinces (excluding Quebec and Manitoba) and the Territories, \$5,643,101 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. ....	2	28	150	180	2	39	\$ 68,865
P.E.I. ....	-	13	59	72	-	18	25,033
N.S. ....	10	182	1,335	1,527	10	250	360,882
N.B. ....	6	124	528	658	7	154	237,709
Que. ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ont. ....	88	1,593	5,572	7,253	105	2,266	2,941,797
Man. ..	3	143	1,500	1,646	3	199	..
Sask. ....	6	113	742	861	6	157	256,606
Alta. ....	6	190	1,747	1,943	11	268	542,233
B.C. ....	25	713	2,184	2,922	25	1,086	1,187,945
Yukon & N.W.T. ..	1	5	45	51	1	6	22,031
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>3,104</b>	<b>13,862</b>	<b>17,113</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>4,443</b>	<b>5,643,101</b>

.. Not Available ; - Nil



Creamery Butter Stocks Up 22.6% At April 12, 1956 Total stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on April 12 increased 22.6% to 45,488,000 pounds from 37,098,000 pounds a year earlier. Stocks in Quebec city increased to 3,968,000 pounds from 811,000, Montreal to 22,397,000 from 18,176,000, Winnipeg to 11,447,000 from 9,552,000, Saskatoon to 456,000 from 73,000, Edmonton to 369,000 from 252,000, and Calgary to 168,000 from 110,000. The remaining cities showed smaller holdings: Toronto, 5,806,000 pounds (6,889,000 a year earlier); Regina, 421,000 (679,000); and Vancouver, 456,000 (556,000).

Stocks Of Dairy Products On April 1 Stocks of creamery butter, evaporated whole milk, skim milk powder, and poultry meat were larger on April 1 than a year earlier, but there were smaller holdings of cheddar cheese, ice cream, cold storage eggs. April 1 stocks were as follows: creamery butter, 65,021,000 pounds (58,854,000 a year earlier); cheddar cheese, 27,209,000 pounds (32,446,000); evaporated whole milk, 18,287,000 pounds (13,870,000); skim milk powder, 11,218,000 pounds (4,416,000); ice cream, 1,065,000 gallons (1,079,000); eggs, 243,000 cases (455,000); and poultry meat, 18,130,000 pounds (16,048,000). (15)

Butter & Cheese Output Up In March, Quarter Larger quantities of creamery butter, cheddar cheese, ice cream and concentrated milk products were made in Canada in March and the first quarter of this year than in the corresponding periods last year, DBS reports.

Production of creamery butter rose to 14,524,000 pounds in March from 13,714,000 a year ago and to 36,710,000 pounds in the first quarter from 34,173,000. Domestic disappearance rose to 24,474,000 pounds in March from 23,830,000 and to 70,245,000 pounds in the quarter from 66,290,000.

Output of cheddar cheese increased to 3,197,000 pounds in March from 2,703,000 and to 6,947,000 pounds in the quarter from 6,330,000. Production of ice cream advanced to 1,966,000 gallons in March from 1,884,000 and to 5,140,000 gallons in the quarter from 4,657,000.

Output of concentrated milk products increased to 31,691,000 pounds in March from 27,515,000 and to 78,515,000 pounds in January-March from 69,501,000. (16)

Production & Stocks Of Process Cheese Production of process cheese in March amounted to 4,480,000 pounds, a decrease of 1% from the revised 4,544,000 pounds made in February but an increase of 1% over the 4,425,000 pounds produced in March last year. Cumulative production for the first three months of this year totalled 12,782,000 pounds as against 11,656,000 a year earlier. Stocks held by manufacturers totalled 1,770,000 pounds at the end of March as compared with 1,512,000 at the end of February and 1,299,000 a year ago.

Production & Stocks Of Margarine Production of margarine rose to 11,849,000 in March from 11,769,000 a year ago, bringing the first quarter total to 33,963,000 pounds as compared with 33,847,000 a year ago. Stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and other warehouses at the beginning of April declined to 3,653,000 pounds from 4,304,000 a year earlier. (17)

Production Of Poultry And Eggs As a result of the reduction in size of laying flocks in 1955 compared with 1954 estimated net egg production declined to an estimated 383,200,000 dozen from 392,400,000, DES reports in an advance statement. Average production per layer on farms increased to 171 eggs in 1955 from 170 in 1954. The value of eggs produced in 1955 was \$157,341,000.

Egg imports dropped only slightly from the 1954 total but exports dropped sharply to 4,000,000 dozen from 7,300,000. Year-end stocks were 4,300,000 dozen lower in 1955. The net result was that slightly more eggs were available for domestic consumption than in 1954. However, with the increase in population, per capita consumption of eggs decreased to 24 dozen in 1955 as compared with 24.4 dozen in 1954.

Due largely to expanding broiler production, output of fowl and chicken meat increased to 359,600,000 pounds from 332,600,000 in 1954. Turkey and duck meat production was down slightly from the previous year, while that of goose meat increased slightly. Total production of poultry meat in 1955 amounted to an estimated 443,169,000 pounds valued at \$175,305,000. Although year-end stocks remained almost unchanged, exports and imports increased. Exports rose to 1,188,000 pounds from 728,000 and imports to 21,300,000 pounds from 11,400,000. Imports of turkey meat increased to 13,200,000 pounds from 5,600,000, and fowl and chicken meat to 7,200,000 pounds from 5,200,000.

Per capita consumption of poultry meat in 1955 (1954 data in brackets) was estimated as follows: total poultry meat, 29.7 (28.7); fowl and chicken, 23.5 (22.6); turkey, 5.7 (5.6); goose, 0.2 (0.2); and duck, 0.3 (0.3).

Visible Stocks Of Wheat Larger Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on April 4 rose slightly to 339,960,000 bushels from 330,528,000 recorded a year earlier. Marketings from farms in the Prairies dropped to 3,103,000 bushels from 3,575,000 but overseas clearances increased substantially to 6,045,000 bushels as compared with the 3,174,000 exported a year earlier. (18)

Wheat Flour Production Little Changed In February Canadian production of wheat flour in February amounted to 3,124,518 cwt., up slightly from 3,113,487 a year earlier, but the cumulative output for the August-February period declined to 23,360,594 cwt., from 24,265,115. Wheat flour exports in February amounted to 1,497,615 cwt., bringing total shipments for the August-February period to 9,604,938 cwt., compared with 10,190,483 a year earlier. (19)

Stocks Of Meat Increased Stocks of meat in cold storage on April 1 amounted to 84,840,000 pounds, substantially larger than last year's 69,532,000 pounds. Holdings of frozen meat weighed 53,212,000 pounds (37,776,000 a year earlier); fresh meat, 19,264,000 pounds (17,396,000); and cured meat, 12,364,000 pounds (14,360,000). (20)

Carbonated Beverage Production Up 7.9% Production of carbonated beverages rose 7.9% in March to 8,385,992 gallons from 7,771,597 a year earlier, Cumulative production in the first quarter increased 11.3% to 23,309,826 gallons from 20,939,261 in the corresponding period last year. (21)



Stocks Of Fruit & Vegetables Larger stocks of potatoes, onions, carrots and celery were held in cold and common storage on April 1 than a year ago, but stocks of cabbage were smaller.

Stocks of potatoes were 8,645,000 bushels (7,603,000 a year earlier); onions, 77,000 (73,000); carrots, 100,000 (88,000); cabbage, 33,000 (35,000); celery, 22,000 crates (20,000). Stocks of apples amounted to 1,174,000 bushels (1,046,000); and pears, 14,000 (7,000).

Stocks of vegetables, frozen and in brine, amounted to 20,094,000 pounds on April 1 versus 14,697,000, and the stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives, totalled 31,150,000 pounds versus 29,334,000. (22)

## TRANSPORTATION

Railway Car Loadings In Quarter And First Week Of April Railway car loadings in the last 10 days of March eased 5.1% to 98,522 cars from 103,861 a year earlier, but loadings for the month of March rose 5.4% to 323,677 cars from 307,043. In the first three months this year loadings increased 12.1% to 964,700 cars from 860,781.

Receipts from connections rose 7.7% in the 10-day period to 49,574 cars from 46,025 a year earlier, 11.6% in March to 156,275 cars from 139,765, and 12.4% in the first quarter to 449,972 cars from 400,320.

Commodities loaded in fewer cars in the last 10 days of March included: grain, 8,478 cars (versus 9,287 in 1955); grain products, 3,273 (4,090); live stock, 1,005 (1,595); coal, 5,403 (6,827); "other" mine products, 2,004 (2,579); lumber, timber and plywood, 6,253 (6,617); and merchandise L.C.L., 18,462 (21,015). Carried in more cars were: iron and steel products, 2,533 (1,678); and pulpwood, 4,543 (2,811).

Carried in greater volume in March were: grain, 28,823 cars (23,770 in 1955); iron ore, 2,146 (728); iron and steel products, 7,637 (5,499); crude petroleum, 3,634 (2,222); fuel oil, 12,703 (11,545); building sand, gravel and crushed stone, 9,016 (7,664); logs, posts, poles and piling, 5,580 (3,736); and pulpwood, 16,722 (12,086). Commodities carried in fewer cars included: grain products, 10,496 (11,604); coal, 19,507 (20,930); beverages, 1,746 (1,864); fertilizers, 4,685 (5,750); and merchandise, L.C.L., 59,033 (62,189).

In the first quarter the following were among the larger increases: grain, 90,671 cars (69,810 a year earlier); coal, 70,190 (62,310); iron ore, 6,918 (1,510); iron and steel products, 20,376 (14,123); fuel oil, 39,673 (35,183); building sand, gravel and crushed stone, 25,435 (20,047); "other" mine products, 25,333 (21,262); logs, posts, poles and piling, 18,229 (13,175); pulpwood, 58,675 (50,813); and miscellaneous carload commodities, 65,191 (55,789).

Car loadings in the first week of April totalled 76,464 cars, up 6.8% from last year's 71,605 cars. From the beginning of the year to April 7 loadings aggregated 1,041,164 cars, an increase of 11.7% from 932,386 cars a year earlier. Receipts from connections rose 9.5% in the week to 36,016 cars from 32,897, and 12.2% in the cumulative period to 486,138 cars from 433,217. (23 & 24)

Railway Freight Traffic  
Increased 5.3% In December

Freight originated on Canadian railways in December amounted to 12,903,417 tons, an increase of 5.3% over the preceding year's corresponding total of 12,249,079 tons. Loadings in Canada totalled 9,731,788 tons (9,406,649 a year earlier); receipts from foreign connections destined to Canadian points amounted to 1,581,697 tons (1,377,345); and intransit freight amounted to 1,589,932 tons (1,465,085). (25)

Decrease In Number Of Passengers  
Carried On Urban Transit Systems

A decrease of 3.9% in the number of passengers carried by urban transit systems in January, brought the total to 101,603,062 from 105,781,772 in the corresponding month last year. Due to higher fares in several municipalities, revenues increased slightly to \$10,564,663 from \$10,321,589.

The increased number of passengers on motor bus systems to 50,047,554 from 49,161,412 a year earlier, and chartered services to 393,682 from 106,317 was more than offset by a decline in passengers carried on electric cars to 30,541,192 from 35,573,536, and trolley bus passengers to 20,620,634 from 20,940,507. (26)

## MERCHANDISING

Department Store Sales

Department store sales rose 14.3% in March as compared with a year earlier, according to preliminary estimates. There were sales gains in all provinces: 7.9% in the Atlantic Provinces, 12.8% in Quebec, 13.1% in Ontario, 11.6% in Manitoba, 19% in Saskatchewan, 22% in Alberta and 15.6% in British Columbia.

In the first week of April sales rose 4.8% over the corresponding week last year. Increased sales were again recorded in all provinces, led by British Columbia with 17.4%, followed by Alberta with 12.1%, Saskatchewan 5%, Ontario 2.7%, and the Atlantic Provinces and Manitoba both with 0.3%. The lone exception was Quebec with a decrease of 2.5%.

Chain Store Sales  
Up 8.6% In February

Chain store sales advanced 8.6% in February to \$160,312,000 from \$147,574,000 recorded a year earlier. Stocks, at cost, were 7.4% higher at February 1 than last year at \$255,545,000 versus \$237,891,000.

Sales gains were registered for 9 of the 11 types of chains, sales of men's clothing chains declining 5.7% to \$1,445,000 from \$1,533,000 a year earlier, and family clothing chains 11.6% to 1,571,000 from \$1,777,000.

Chains with sales increases were as follows: grocery and combination, 11.1% to \$76,769,000 from \$69,069,000; variety, 7.8% to \$11,675,000 from \$10,835,000; women's clothing, 7.8% to \$3,273,000 from \$3,035,000; shoe, 2.2% to \$2,198,000 from \$2,150,000; hardware, 30.2% to \$1,372,000 from \$1,054,000; lumber and building materials, 19.5% to \$4,591,000 from \$3,841,000; furniture, radio and appliance, 18.3% to \$7,896,000 from \$6,676,000; drug, 8.8% to \$2,858,000 from \$2,628,000; and jewellery, 8.2% to \$2,103,000 from \$1,944,000. (27)



Retail Sales Up 8.2% In February

Retail sales reached an estimated \$864,230,000 in February, 8.2% larger than the preceding year's corresponding total of \$798,533,000. Gains were posted for all trades and all provinces. In the two months, January and February, retail sales rose 6.4% to \$1,744,195,000 from \$1,638,606,000 a year earlier.

Alberta and Quebec showed the largest gains of 13.5% and 11.6%, followed closely by British Columbia with 9.5%. For the two-month period the same three provinces had the largest increases but Alberta was third with 6.9%, while Quebec and British Columbia preceded with gains of 9.7% and 8.9%, respectively.

Largest rates of trade increases in February were lumber and building material dealers (22.8%), furniture, appliance and radio dealers (11.1%), and department stores (10.9%). For the two months the lumber and building material dealer group also showed the greatest rate of gain (17.8%), fuel dealers being next (13.5%), and department stores (9.1%). (28)

## RELEASED THIS WEEK

- 1-Corporation Profits, Fourth Quarter, 1955, 25¢
- 2-Inventories, Shipments & Orders in Manufacturing Industries, January, 25¢
- 3-Statistics of Hides, Skins & Leather, February, 10¢
- 4-Motor Vehicle Shipments, February, 10¢
- 5-M: Asphalt Roofing, February, 10¢ -- 6-Cement & Cement Products, February, 10¢
- 7-M: Production of Pig Iron & Steel, February, 10¢
- 8-M: Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, February, 10¢
- 9-Radio & Television Receiving Sets, January, 10¢
- 10-Refined Petroleum Products, November, 25¢
- 11-M: Crude Petroleum, Natural Gas & Manufactured Gas, December, 15¢
- 12-General Review of the Mining Industry, 1954, 50¢
- 13-Sales & Purchases of Securities Between Canada & Other Countries, January, 10¢
- 14-Estimates of Labour Income, January, 10¢
- 15-M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products, April 1, 10¢
- 16-Dairy Factory Production, March, 10¢ -- 17-M: Margarine Statistics, March, 10¢
- 18-M: Grain Statistics Weekly, April 4, 10¢ -- 19-M: Grain Milling Statistics, Feb., 10¢
- 20-M: Cold Storage Holdings of Meat & Lard, April 1, 10¢
- 21-M: Monthly Production of Carbonated Beverages, March, 10¢
- 22-M: Stocks of Fruit & Vegetables, April 1, 10¢
- 23-M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, March 31, 10¢
- 24-M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, April 7, 10¢
- 25-M: Railway Freight Traffic, December, 10¢
- 26-M: Urban Transit Statistics, January, 10¢
- 27-Chain Store Sales & Stocks, February, 10¢
- 28-Retail Trade, February, 25¢
- Stocks of Grain at March 31, 10¢
- Trade of Canada: Exports (detailed), January, 50¢
- Trade of Canada: Articles Imported from Each Country, 12 Months Ended December, 1955, 50¢

M: Memorandum

Prepared in Press and Publicity Section, Information Services Division

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Queen's Printer & Controller of Stationery,  
Ottawa, 1956

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