



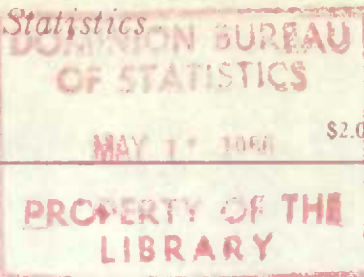
# D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Construction: Total Canadian construction program this year is estimated at a value 19% above last year's record level. Most of the estimated increase is in engineering construction, with largest advances in gas and oil and electric power facilities; but the expected advance extends to almost all industries or construction categories. Value of construction is expected to be greater in each of the ten provinces. (Page 3)

. . .

Prices: Consumer price index rose slightly during March - first increase since last October - and was half a point above a year earlier. Down in each of the six previous months, the food index moved upward, while the shelter index continued its almost uninterrupted advance of recent years... Wholesale prices of thirty industrial materials eased downward on average during April, the Bureau's composite index declining a fractional 0.1%. In contrast, farm product prices at terminal markets rose fractionally, the advance including prices of both field and animal products. (Pages 3 & 4)

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Manufacturing: Steel ingot output was up sharply again in April to bring the four-month output over 22% above last year's. Pig iron output rose more moderately in April, but the cumulative total was up some 17%. (Page 8)

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Food: Butter stocks on May 1 in nine cities were 24% larger than a year ago.. Total sea-fish catch in March was more than twice as large as last year, the increase occurring on the Pacific Coast ... Wheat flour production was down in March, further lowering the eight-month crop year output below the 1954-55 level. (Page 10)

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Border Crossings: Nearly one-third more motor vehicles crossed the border into Canada during March than last year, foreign vehicles rising 21% and returning Canadian vehicles nearly 44%. Entries on TV permits were up 13%, setting a new record. (Page 11)

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Transportation: Net oil deliveries through Canadian pipe-lines were over 10,-000,000 barrels greater at 44,595,600 barrels in the first two months this year than in 1955 ... Urban transit systems carried fewer passengers in January and February this year but their total revenue was higher. (Page 12)

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Peak Year Forecast For Construction Industry:  
Value Of Work Placed at \$6,271,000,000 In 1956

Canada's 1956 construction program is estimated at a new high record value of \$6,271,-

000,000, an increase of 19% over the preceding year's peak of \$5,286,000,000, according to estimates published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This is more than double 1950's value of \$3,132,000,000. It is expected that nearly all the increase will be in industrial building and construction of an engineering type. Projects such as the St. Lawrence Seaway development and the gas pipeline to the Pacific Coast will add greatly to the volume of engineering construction. Residential building is expected to remain about the same level as in 1955.

The value of new construction is estimated at \$5,161,000,000 for 1956, up from \$4,273,000,000 in 1955, and the value of repair construction at \$1,110,000,000 versus \$1,012,000,000. New construction undertaken by contract is estimated at \$4,359,000,000 versus \$3,598,000,000, and repair construction at \$439,000,000 versus \$409,000,000. Construction undertaken by the labour forces of utilities, manufacturing, mining and logging firms, and government departments, home owner-builders and other persons or firms not primarily engaged in the construction industry is expected to amount to \$802,000,000 in new construction versus \$676,000,000, and \$671,000,000 in repair construction versus \$603,000,000.

Most of the increase in construction in 1956 is expected to occur in engineering construction, projected value for which is placed at \$2,525,000,000 versus \$1,912,000,000 in 1955. Largest advances occur in gas and oil facilities which show an increase of \$149,000,000 to \$459,000,000, and in electric power with an increase of \$131,000,000 to \$459,000,000. Marine construction is expected to rise to \$137,000,000 from \$77,000,000, road, highway and aerodrome construction to \$596,000,000 from \$508,000,000, waterworks and sewage systems to \$209,000,000 from \$182,000,000, dams and irrigation to \$59,000,000 from \$30,000,000, and railway, telephone and telegraph construction to \$386,000,000 from \$311,000,000.

Projected value for building construction is expected to jump to \$3,746,000,000 from \$3,374,000,000 in 1955. Industrial building, estimated at \$554,000,000, is expected to show the largest increase over 1955's \$409,000,000. All other categories show substantial gains: residential building to \$1,826,000,000 from \$1,734,000,000; commercial to \$600,000,000 from \$530,000,000; institutional to \$509,000,000 from \$461,000,000; and "other" to \$257,000,000 from \$240,000,000.

Increases in the value of construction over last year are expected in all industries or sectors except in the construction industry where the decline amounts to an estimated 11.2% to \$12,553,000. Estimated values for the remaining industries or sectors are: agriculture and fishing, \$158,955,000 (up 4.9%); forestry, \$54,755,000 (8.1%); mining, quarrying and oil wells, \$318,184,000 (34.7%); manufacturing, \$559,491,000 (26.6%); utilities, \$1,317,398,000 (53.6%); wholesale and retail trade, \$247,197,000 (8.3%); finance, insurance and real estate, \$98,925,000 (7.1%); commercial services, \$57,403,000 (28.9%); housing, \$1,825,800,000 (5.3%); institutional services, \$444,827,000 (8.7%); and government departments, \$1,175,341,000 (14.6%).

MORE



The value of construction work is expected to be greater this year in all provinces: Newfoundland to \$87,325,000 from \$79,022,000 in 1955; Prince Edward Island to \$18,571,000 from \$18,503,000; Nova Scotia to \$150,801,000 from \$140,452,000; New Brunswick to \$180,482,000 from \$149,337,000; Quebec to \$1,491,212,000 from \$1,342,902,000; Ontario to \$2,172,326,000 from \$1,841,670,000; Manitoba to \$305,057,000 from \$254,366,000; Saskatchewan to \$300,588,000 from \$287,336,000; Alberta to \$724,923,000 from \$599,328,000; and British Columbia to \$839,544,000 from \$572,635,000. (1)

Starts And Completions Of New Dwelling Units Increased In January

Both starts and completions of new dwelling units increased in January over a year earlier DBS reports in an advance

statement. There was also a substantial rise in the number under construction at month-end. Starts in January totalled 4,091 versus 3,963, completions numbered 9,482 versus 9,037, and the number under construction was 72,903 versus 63,525.

## P R I C E S

Consumer Price Index Registered Small Gain Between March & April

Canada's consumer price index registered a slight gain between the beginning of March and April this year, moving from 116.4 to 116.6. A year ago it stood at 116.1. Current increases in the food, shelter and "other" commodities and services indexes were more than sufficient to offset a decrease in the household operation index. The clothing index was unchanged.

A rise in the food index from 109.1 to 109.7 followed a series of moderate declines, unbroken since September 1955. A substantial increase in the price of potatoes, together with higher prices for other fresh vegetables, fruits, eggs, coffee and cheese, more than outweighed further decreases for all beef and pork cuts and margarine. The shelter index advanced from 131.6 to 131.9 as a result of increases in both the home-ownership and rent components.

The clothing index remained unchanged at 108.7 between March and April 1956 as slight increases affecting footwear, men's topcoats and hats, were counter-balanced by scattered decreases for women's spring coats, hosiery and boys' cotton sport shirts. The household operation index declined slightly from 116.8 to 116.6. Decreases in most appliance prices and some household supplies more than offset increases for some items of furniture, floor coverings and lawnmowers. The "other" commodities and services index rose from 119.9 to 120.1 as higher prices were reported for automobile licenses, doctors' and dentists' fees. Prices for radios and some magazines were lower. (2)

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
April 1956	116.6	109.7	131.9	108.7	116.6	120.1
March 1956	116.4	109.1	131.6	108.7	116.8	119.9
April 1955	116.1	111.0	128.7	107.9	116.9	118.2

Wholesale Price Indexes  
Edged Downward In April

The weekly composite index for thirty industrial materials, on the 1935-39 base, edged downward during April, declining 0.1% from 249.0 to 248.8 in the four-week period from March 30 to April 27. Declines were noted in price quotations for raw rubber, oats, tin, sisal, hogs, iron ore and pulp sulphite. Fractional weakness in United States funds was a depressant in several instances. Among other commodity changes the price of steel scrap moved up sharply, followed by lesser increases for steers, raw cotton, raw sugar and wheat.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets, in a continuation of the intermittent upward trend apparent in the first three months of this year, again advanced fractionally in April. In the four-week period, March 30 to April 27, the composite index rose 0.9% from 199.3 to 201.1. Field and animal prices on both eastern and western markets were generally higher.

The index for field products moved up 1% from 167.6 to 169.2, reflecting higher prices for potatoes, rye, western hay and flax and eastern corn, barley and wheat. Over the same period animal products recorded an index gain of 0.8% from 231.0 to 232.9 as price increases occurred in eggs, lambs, steers, western calves and eastern poultry and hogs. Declines were registered on Eastern markets for calves, cheesemilk and fluid milk, while in the West, hogs, butter-fat and raw wool were lower. (2)

Common Stock Prices In April

Common stock prices reached a new high in the first week of April as the investors' index of 96 issues, on the 1935-39 base, touched 276.0. Thereafter an easier tendency was in evidence and in the four-week period from March 29 to April 26 the index moved down 1.8% from 275.9 to 270.8. Losses occurred in all major groups: 76 industries declined 1.7% from 288.9 to 283.9; 13 utilities, 2.5% from 211.7 to 206.5; and 7 banks, 2% from 293.9 to 288.1.

Sub-group decreases were led by milling, foods and allied products and textiles and clothing, followed by relatively minor losses in all but two of the remaining sub-groups. Pulp and paper and power and traction moved against the trend to register small net increases. Mining stocks were fractionally lower as the composite index declined 0.9% from 138.2 to 136.9, reflecting losses of 1.6% for gold issues from 80.0 to 79.0, and 0.4% in base metals from 270.7 to 269.5 (2)

Security Price Indexes

<u>Investors' Price Index</u>	<u>May 3</u>	<u>April 26</u> 1935-39 = 100	<u>April 5</u>
Total Common Stocks .....	276.2	270.8	276.0
Industrials .....	291.4	283.9	289.3
Utilities .....	207.2	206.5	210.6
Banks .....	283.0	288.1	294.2
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks .....	139.5	136.9	138.3
Gold .....	81.0	79.0	80.1
Base Metals .....	273.5	269.5	271.6



Department Store Sales Up Department store sales increased 7.9% during the week ending April 28 as compared with a year earlier.

There were sales gains in all areas, Alberta leading with a rise of 14.5%, Saskatchewan next with 14.3%, Atlantic Province 11.4%, British Columbia 10.4%, Manitoba 7.7%, Ontario 4.7%, and Quebec 4.4%.

Chain Store Sales Up 21.4% In March and 12.5% In First Quarter Chain store sales advanced 21.4% in March to \$198,445,000 from \$163,418,000 in the corresponding month last year, and first-quarter sales rose 12.5% to \$519,623,000 from \$461,730,000. Stocks at cost, at the beginning of March, were valued at \$269,749,000, up 10.4% from \$244,445,000 a year earlier

Chains with sales increases in March were: grocery and combination, \$92,473,000 (\$77,249,000 in March 1955); variety, \$17,320,000 (\$12,558,000); furniture, radio and appliance, \$8,482,000 (\$7,315,000); women's clothing, \$4,643,000 (\$3,400,000); shoe stores, \$3,582,000 (\$2,643,000); lumber and building materials, \$3,333,000 (\$3,003,000); drug stores, \$3,145,000 (2,944,000); family clothing stores, \$2,872,000 (\$2,208,000); jewellery stores, \$2,613,000 (\$2,498,000); and hardware stores, \$1,433,000 (\$1,055,000). Men's clothing store sales declined to \$1,885,000 from \$1,915,000. (3)

Operating Results Of Retail Stores In 1954 Gross profits of independent clothing stores, unincorporated hardware stores, drug stores, restaurants and tobacco stores averaged higher in 1954 than in 1952, but averaged lower for incorporated hardware stores and unincorporated furniture stores and household appliance stores, according to the Bureau's biennial survey of the trades. Increased operating expenses reduced net profits to lower levels than those obtained in 1952.

Average gross profits of independent unincorporated men's clothing stores rose to 27.02% of net sales from 26.37% in 1952, operating expenses to 17.58% from 15.98%, and net operating profit before income taxes fell to 9.44% from 10.39%. For incorporated men's clothing stores gross profits increased to 29.83% of net sales from 29.16%, operating expenses to 28.09% from 26.37%, and net profits fell to 1.74% from 2.79%. (4)

Gross profits for unincorporated women's independent retail clothing stores averaged 27.38% of net sales, up from 26.78%, operating expenses rose to 19.78% from 18.37%, and net operating profits before income taxes fell to 7.60% from 8.41%. For incorporated stores gross profits increased to 31.23% from 29.76%, operating expenses to 29.23% from 27.25%, but net operating profit eased to 2.00% from 2.51%. (4)

For unincorporated independent family retail clothing stores gross profits averaged out at 25.88% of net sales, up from 24.45%, operating expenses rose to 17.22% from 15.48%, but net operating profits eased to 8.66% from 8.97%. Incorporated stores had smaller gross profits at 29.45% versus 29.73%, larger operating expenses at 27.12% versus 26.23%, and smaller net operating profits at 2.33% versus 3.50%. (4)

Unincorporated independent family retail shoe stores had slightly larger gross profits at 27.77% of net sales versus 27.21% in 1952, higher operating expenses at 17.55% versus 16.08%, but smaller net operating profits at 10.22% versus 11.13%. Gross profits of incorporated family shoe stores averaged higher at 31.49% of net sales versus 30.06%, larger operating expenses at 29.00% versus 27.04%, and smaller net operating profit at 2.49% versus 3.02%. (4)

Gross profits of unincorporated independent retail drug stores averaged larger in 1954 at 29.82% of net sales versus 28.94% in 1952, increased operating expenses at 18.23% versus 16.99%, and smaller net operating profit at 11.59% versus 11.95%. Incorporated stores had smaller average gross profits at 32.14% versus 33.42%, smaller operating expenses at 28.50% versus 28.83%, and lower net profits at 3.64% versus 4.59%. (5)

Unincorporated independent retail hardware stores had slightly larger gross profits at 25.83% of net sales versus 25.74% in 1952, increased operating expenses at 16.83% versus 14.94%, but lower net operating profits at 9.00% versus 10.80%. Incorporated stores had smaller gross profits at 26.97% of net sales versus 27.18%, larger operating expenses at 24.97% versus 23.37%, and smaller net profits at 2.00% versus 2.81%. (6)

Unincorporated independent retail furniture stores had smaller gross profits at 26.88% of net sales versus 27.76% in 1952, larger operating expenses at 19.72% versus 18.85%, and smaller net operating profits at 7.16% versus 8.91%. Unincorporated independent household appliance, radio and television stores also had smaller gross profits at 26.07% of net sales versus 26.72%, larger operating expenses at 19.46% versus 18.39%, and smaller net operating profits at 6.61% versus 8.33%. (6)

Independent unincorporated restaurants had larger gross profits of 37.60% of net sales versus 36.54% in 1952, increased operating expenses at 30.17% versus 27.94%, but smaller net profit at 7.52% versus 8.60%. (7)

Independent unincorporated retail tobacco stores had increased gross profits of 18.26% of net sales versus 16.78% in 1952, higher operating expenses at 10.94% versus 9.15%, and smaller net operating profits of 7.32% versus 7.63%. (8)

## L A B O U R

### Fewer Claims for Unemployment Insurance Benefits in March

Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit received in local offices of the UIC in March totalled 170,687, a slight decline (8%) from the 185,016 in February but a substantial decrease (30%) from last year's 243,544. Regular and seasonal claimants having an unemployment register in the live file at the end of March totalled 511,073 (415,144 males and 95,929 females), these totals being virtually unchanged from the 510,963 (413,083 males and 97,880 females) claimants recorded a month earlier. A year ago the number of claimants was 605,180 (498,861 males and 106,319 females).

New beneficiaries for regular and seasonal benefit totalled 154,458 in March compared to 173,759 a month earlier and 222,627 a year ago. The estimated weekly number of beneficiaries for regular and seasonal benefit during March was 451,500 compared to 416,100 in February and 512,500 in March last year.

During March a total of \$38,167,352 was paid to both regular and seasonal beneficiaries in compensation for 2,008,060 weeks as compared with \$32,188,102 and 1,733,650 weeks during February and \$45,437,011 and 14,449,841 days during March 1955.

Initial and renewal claims filed in local offices in the provinces were as follows in March: Newfoundland, 4,714 (6,765 a year earlier); Prince Edward Island, 621 (1,198); Nova Scotia, 7,777 (10,637); New Brunswick, 8,944 (12,025); Quebec, 65,217 (86,512); Ontario, 49,430 (74,136); Manitoba, 6,463 (10,483); Saskatchewan, 4,023 (6,796); Alberta, 9,342 (13,585); and British Columbia, 14,156 (21,417). (9)



Domestic Exports up Large increases in the value of exports of wheat and wheat  
17% In Value In February flour, seeds, fish and fishery products, wood pulp, news-  
 print paper, aluminum and products, copper and products,  
 and petroleum products boosted the total value of Canada's domestic exports in  
 February more than 17% as compared with the corresponding month last year. Values  
 were lower for planks and boards, zinc and products, and fertilizers.

Geographically, there were increased exports to the United States, the United Kingdom, Commonwealth countries in America and Asia, and European countries. Smaller export totals were recorded for Latin American countries, Commonwealth countries in Africa and Oceania, and "other" foreign countries as a group.

Domestic exports to all countries in February were valued at \$347,900,000, up from \$296,800,000 a year earlier. Combined exports for January and February rose 17.4% to \$707,600,000 from \$602,500,000 a year ago. The volume of domestic exports rose 13.6% from a year earlier and prices averaged 3.2% higher.

Top dollar increase in domestic exports to leading markets was to the United States, which rose to \$211,940,000 from \$177,669,000 a year earlier. Exports to the U.S. were larger in value for all commodity groups except chemicals and products, the chief gains being in wood and paper, non-metallic minerals and products, non-ferrous metals and products, and agricultural and vegetable products.

Exports to the United Kingdom increased to \$58,352,000 from \$54,966,000, gains being posted for all main groups except wood and paper and non-ferrous metals, with the largest gain in agricultural and vegetable products. Exports to the rest of the Commonwealth increased to \$18,697,000 from \$16,749,000 a year earlier. Increased values for Jamaica and India more than offset decreases for the Union of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Shipments to Latin American countries eased to \$11,437,000 from \$12,790,000, with lower values for Brazil, Colombia and Mexico and higher for Cuba, Peru, and Venezuela. Shipments to European countries jumped in value to \$34,512,000 from \$20,557,000 a year earlier. Gains to major markets were the rule, including Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Switzerland. Exports to all other countries as a group declined in value to \$11,777,000 in February from \$13,003,000 a year earlier, small increases to Japan and the Philippines being more than offset by declines to most other countries in the group.

Values for leading commodity exports in February were as follows (in thousands); newsprint paper, \$52,150 (\$46,763); wheat, \$34,251 (\$21,389); wood pulp, \$25,794 (\$20,045); planks and boards, \$25,440 (\$28,183); nickel, \$17,692 (\$17,124); aluminum and products, \$15,299 (\$11,763); copper and products, \$14,693 (\$12,448); fish and fishery products, \$9,656 (\$8,589); farm implements and machinery, \$9,271 (\$9,199); seeds, \$8,391 (\$3,553); petroleum and products, \$8,372 (\$1,779); wheat flour, \$6,352 (\$5,095); asbestos and products, \$5,846 (\$5,583); zinc and products, \$5,024 (\$6,459); precious metals (except gold), \$4,947 (\$4,287); pulpwood, \$4,766 (\$3,737); fertilizers, \$4,539 (\$6,289); alcoholic beverages, \$4,475 (\$3,458); and grains other than wheat, \$4,470 (\$4,437). (10)

Output Of Pig Iron And Steel Increased In April

Canadian production of both pig iron and steel ingots continued to increase in April. Steel ingot production rose 19.1% to 420,902 tons from 353,377 a year earlier and the output of pig iron increased 5.6% to 287,326 tons from 272,187. January-April output of pig iron rose to 1,133,509 tons from 962,455 a year earlier and production of steel ingots to 1,665,086 tons from 1,355,953. (11)

Production Of Asphalt Roofing

Production of asphalt shingles decreased in March as did smooth and mineral surfaced roll-roofing and roll-type sidings. Figures for the individual components (1955 figures in brackets) are: asphalt shingles, 183,579 squares (190,385); smooth surfaced roll-roofing, 69,913 squares (87,666); mineral surfaced roll-roofing, 34,835 (53,210); and roll-type sidings, 2,886 squares (25,223).

Quarterly production of asphalt shingles increased to 605,009 squares from 578,542 a year earlier while output of smooth and mineral surfaced roll-roofing dropped to 224,306 squares from 226,637 and to 117,254 squares from 138,893, respectively. Roll-type sidings production slumped to 29,133 squares from 55,719 in the corresponding period last year. (12)

Coke Supplies Larger In February

Supplies of coke for consumption increased 17.6% in February to 368,555 tons from 313,490 in the same month last year. Domestic output rose to 336,700 tons from 301,324 and landed imports to 40,605 tons from 21,694, but exports fell to 8,750 tons from 9,528. (13)

Gross Value Of Shipments Of The Dairy Factory Industry At New Peak In 1954

Factory value of shipments of the dairy factory industry of Canada in 1954 reached an all-time high of \$481,153,000, an increase of 3.5% over the preceding year's \$464,703,000. Butter, cheddar cheese and concentrated whole-milk products all registered increases, as did sales of fluid milk and cream, but shipments of ice cream and concentrated milk by-products declined.

Shipments of creamery butter in 1954, at 314,753,000 pounds with a value of \$183,695,000, were higher by 4% in volume and 3% in value than the 302,733,000 pounds valued at \$178,815,000 in 1953. The year's shipments of cheddar cheese amounted to 85,614,000 pounds valued at \$25,377,000, an increase of 11% in volume and 13% in value over the 76,965,000 pounds valued at \$22,536,000 shipped in 1953.

The year's shipments of concentrated whole milk together with those of such by-products as concentrated skim milk and buttermilk, casein, lactose and whey powder, totalled \$54,257,000, an increase of 1% over the \$53,706,000 recorded for 1953. The volume of shipments increased 3%.

Shipments of ice cream amounted to 20,378,000 gallons valued at \$33,148,000, a decrease of 1.2% in volume and 1.5% in value from the preceding year. Sales of fluid milk totalled 184,542,000 gallons valued at \$125,917,000 as compared with 175,002,000 gallons valued at \$121,352,000.

The number of factories in operation continued to decline, totalling 1,496 as compared with 1,558 the year before. The industry gave employment to 22,092 persons as compared with 22,319, and their salaries and wages aggregated \$59,231,000 versus \$56,974,000. (14)



Feeds Industry In 1954 Shipments of the feeds industry in 1954 reached a new peak value of \$215,440,000, a rise of \$20,000,000 over the preceding year's \$195,785,000 and \$90,000,000 over the previous high recorded in 1952. Output of concentrated feeds increased to 259,237 tons as compared with 229,956 a year earlier and complete livestock feed to 1,684,502 tons from 1,572,822.

The number of establishments rose to 1,318 from 1,297 in 1953 and employees to 7,788 persons from 7,233. Employees' salaries and wages increased to \$18,093,000 from \$16,198,000 while the cost of fuel and electricity jumped to \$3,491,000 from \$2,886,000, and cost of materials to \$172,798,000 from \$157,985,000. (15)

Aluminum Products Industry Value of aluminum products shipped from Canadian establishments declined 13.2% to \$80,523,000 in 1954 from \$92,724,000 in the preceding year, according to the Bureau's annual report on the industry. Although there were 3 more establishments at 99 in 1954 than in 1953, the number of employees dropped to 7,003 from 7,738 and their earnings fell to \$23,814,000 from \$25,593,000.

Production of aluminum cooking utensils in this industry amounted to \$7,528,000, but concerns in other industries made aluminum-ware valued at \$448,000 boosting the total to \$7,976,000 as compared with \$8,187,000 in 1953 and \$8,142,000 in 1952.

Value of shipments of other aluminum products (1953 totals in brackets) were: castings (except die castings), \$5,193,000 (\$6,683,000); "other" castings (brass, bronze and magnesium), \$1,018,000 (\$1,702,000); die castings (aluminum base), \$630,000 (\$524,000); die castings (other base), \$8,000 (\$221,000); extruded shapes, \$7,097,000 (\$10,038,000); and all "other" products, \$59,050,000 (\$65,917,000). (16)

Clay & Clay Products Industry Gross factory value of products made from domestic clay increased in 1954 to \$26,336,000 from \$24,135,000 in the preceding year, while the value of products made from imported clay rose to \$10,927,000 from \$10,084,000, according to the annual report released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total value of all clay products rose to \$37,263,000 from \$34,219,000.

The number of plants using domestic clay remained the same as in the preceding year at 125, but the number of employees and the amount of their earnings increased to 3,929 from 3,719 and to \$12,112,000 from \$10,834,000, respectively. The number of factories using imported clay declined to 36 from 37 and although the number of employees fell to 2,044 from 2,254, their earnings increased to \$6,296,000 from \$6,281,000. (17)

Paper-Using Industries In 1953 Gross factory value of products shipped by Canada's paper-using industries in 1953 increased 10.3% to \$388,585,000 from \$352,261,000 in the previous year, according to the Bureau's general review of the group. Employees increased to 26,242 from 25,162 a year ago, their earnings to \$74,366,000 from \$67,329,000, while the cost of materials rose to \$218,109,000 from \$197,144,000 and fuel and electricity costs to \$3,137,000 from \$3,001,000. (18)





Canned Foods Industry in 1954      Factory value of products shipped by the canned foods industry of Canada in 1954 was \$312,543,000, moderately above the preceding year's \$307,477,000, but substantially below the all-time peak of \$359,385,000 reached in 1952, according to the Bureau's annual industry report.

Values increased in 1954 over 1953 for all canned foods with the exception of canned meats, which declined for the second straight year to \$33,721,000 from \$41,003,000. Canned fish increased to \$50,851,000 from \$47,510,000; fruits to \$23,482,000 from \$19,016,000; vegetables to \$51,578,000 from \$50,467,000; soups to \$34,105,000 from \$33,185,000; miscellaneous foods to \$64,484,000 from \$62,430,000; and concentrated milk products to \$54,322,000 from \$53,866,000.

Both imports and exports of canned foods were worth more in 1954 than in the preceding year with the latter registering the larger increase to \$56,460,000 from \$48,061,000 and the former to \$37,199,000 from \$34,047,000. Increased value of imported canned fish, fruits and meats offset the decreased value of canned vegetables, soup and soup preparations, miscellaneous foods and concentrated milk products. Exports of canned soups and concentrated milk products were down, while those of canned fish, fruits, vegetables, meats and miscellaneous foods rose.

Per Capita Consumption Higher - Canadians ate more canned fruits, vegetables, apple juice, tomato juice, jams, jellies and marmalades, infant foods (except meats), and soups but less canned meats in 1954 than in 1953, which was the previous peak. Per capita consumption of canned fruits rose to 16.6 pounds from 16.0 a year earlier, vegetables to 31.2 from 31.1, concentrated milk products to 27.58 from 27.17, apple juice to 2.9 from 2.4, tomato juice to 9.8 from 9.7, jams, jellies and marmalades to 7.3 from 7.1, infant foods (except meats) to 3.3 from 2.7, and soups to 12.6 from 12.1. Canned meats consumption fell sharply to 2.9 pounds from 5.7. (24)

## TRAVEL

March Travel Between Canada And United States Up Sharply      Close to one million vehicles crossed the international border into Canada from the United States in March, an increase of between 32 and 33% over the corresponding month last year. Aggregate crossings amounted to 979,300 as against 739,300 and were made up of 442,600 foreign vehicles and 536,700 units registered in Canada. Foreign vehicles entering Canada increased 21% and Canadian vehicles re-entering increased nearly 44%.

Volume of traffic entering Canada on travellers' vehicle permits reached an all-time record for March, an increase of 13% over a year earlier and 6% over the previous high established in 1953. Cumulative entries for the first quarter advanced nearly 6%. The volume of long-term Canadian traffic abroad over 24 hours increased approximately 61% in March and first-quarter re-entries rose over 52%.

Traffic by rail, through bus, boat and plane advanced 7% in February as compared with a year earlier. The number of foreign travellers entering Canada by these means of transportation increased over 8% and the number of Canadian travellers returning from the United States was 6% heavier. (25)

Pipe-Line Deliveries Of Oil  
Continued To Rise in February

Net deliveries of oil through Canadian pipe-lines in February jumped to 21,837,365 barrels from 16,146,996 in the corresponding month last year, raising January-February deliveries to 44,594,563 barrels from 33,841,876 last year. All provinces shared in the increase in the two-month period with B.C. deliveries at 7,124,500 barrels (4,019,492 a year ago); Alberta, 3,406,051 (3,204,271); Saskatchewan, 3,028,227 (2,289,418); Manitoba, 11,085,932 (7,725,489); Ontario, 7,353,671 (6,311,100); and Quebec, 12,596,182 (10,292,106). ((26)

Urban Transit Systems Carried  
Fewer Passengers In February

The number of passengers carried by urban transit systems in February declined less than 1% to 99,933,000 from 100,489,000 a year earlier. Vehicle miles run increased to 17,287,000 miles from 16,584,000 and revenue climbed to \$10,458,000 from \$9,773,000. January-February totals show a corresponding relationship with passengers carried dropping to 201,536,000 from 206,271,000, vehicle miles run rising to 35,066,000 miles from 34,513,000 and revenue increasing to \$21,022,000 from \$20,094,000. (27)

Motor Bus Passengers  
Down 7.3% In October

Number of passengers carried by inter-city and rural bus lines in October decreased 7.3% to 5,204,841 from 5,611,836 in the preceding year. Vehicle miles run dropped to 7,600,022 miles from 7,645,620 and revenue fell to \$3,254,629 from \$3,303,000. January-October totals showed corresponding decreases in the number of passengers carried to 53,958,499 from 56,349,758 and mileage to 76,909,614 miles from 77,939,379, but revenue inched up to \$34,309,738 from \$34,309,303. (28)

Equipment Of Motor  
Carriers Of Freight

There were 8,532 trucks, 6,408 road tractors, 8,106 semi-trailers and 978 full trailers owned or leased by 2,421 common carriers "for hire" truckers in Canada at the end of 1954, according to an advance statement by DBS. Ontario operators had the largest number of vehicles in service with 2,558 trucks, of which 920 were between 2 1/2 and 4 tons carrying capacity and 804 between 4 1/2 and 6 tons; 4,790 semi-trailers with 893 having a carrying capacity of 4 1/2 to 6 tons and 1,874 over 12 tons. Of the 389 trailers in Ontario, 169 had carrying capacities of over 12 tons each. In Quebec, 1,144 of the 2,012 trucks were in the 2 1/2 to 4 ton class and 602 of the 1,158 semi-trailers were capable of carrying loads in excess of 12 tons. The following table gives a provincial break-down of the totals.

<u>Provinces</u>	<u>Trucks</u>	<u>Road Tractors</u>	<u>Semi-Trailers</u>	<u>Trailers</u>
Newfoundland	66	1	1	-
Prince Edward Island	13	6	6	-
Nova Scotia	125	35	37	15
New Brunswick	45	24	25	5
Quebec	2,012	941	1,158	283
Ontario	2,558	3,585	4,790	389
Manitoba	513	326	367	27
Saskatchewan	509	405	513	31
Alberta	984	435	556	71
British Columbia	1,707	650	653	157
Total	8,532	6,408	8,106	978



Production And Value Of  
Furs Up Sharply In 1954-55

Both the number and value of pelts produced in Canada during the 1954-55 season showed sharp increases over the preceding year. The number of pelts taken from wild life and ranch-raised animals totalled 9,671,000, up 54% from 6,275,000 a year earlier, and the value rose 58% to \$30,510,000 from \$19,288,000. Ranch-raised pelts accounted for 43% of the total value as compared with 49% in 1953-54.

The number of mink pelts produced was 797,000 valued at \$15,428,000 versus 704,000 pelts worth \$11,279,000 a year earlier. Mink pelts constituted 51% of the total value of production in 1954-55 versus 58%. In order of value the other principal pelts produced were as follows: muskrat, \$6,519,000 (\$3,159,000 in 1953-54); beaver, \$4,767,000 (\$2,562,000); squirrel, \$1,287,000 (\$809,000); white fox, \$932,000 (\$404,000); ermine (weasel), \$474,000 (\$280,000); otter, \$393,000 (\$303,000); marten, \$168,000 (\$109,000); and fisher, \$154,000 (\$102,000).

Nearly all furs increased in average value. Of the nine principal kinds, mink pelts rose from \$16.02 to \$19.38; muskrat from \$0.94 to \$1.16; beaver from \$10.57 to \$14.88; white fox from \$11.10 to \$11.39; ermine (weasel) from \$0.95 to \$1.57; otter from \$21.97 to \$25.70; marten from \$7.25 to \$9.51; and fisher from \$17.63 to \$22.75.

Production values were higher for all provinces except Newfoundland: Ontario, \$7,243,000 (\$4,597,000 in 1953-54); Manitoba, \$6,039,000 (\$3,569,000); Alberta, \$4,583,000 (\$3,424,000); Saskatchewan, \$4,556,000 (\$1,826,000); British Columbia, \$2,831,000 (\$2,099,000); Quebec, \$2,765,000 (\$1,868,000); Northwest Territories, \$1,167,000 (\$757,000); Nova Scotia, \$547,000 (\$423,000); New Brunswick, \$357,000 (\$285,000); Yukon Territory, \$243,000 (\$182,000); Prince Edward Island, \$116,000 (\$114,000); and Newfoundland, \$64,000 (\$143,000).

Exports of Canadian undressed furs amounted in value to \$26,535,000 in the 1954-55 season compared with \$20,733,000 in 1953-54, and imports amounted to \$18,619,000 compared with \$13,221,000 in 1953-54. (29)

## B U S I N E S S

Cheques Cashed In Clearing  
Centres Reached New High In 1955

Value of cheques cashed in Canadian clearing centres reached new record levels during 1955. The aggregate value of payments in the 35 older centres rose to \$161,351,000,000, a gain of 9% over the preceding year's \$148,063,000,000. Debits in all five economic regions rose in this comparison.

Payments in Quebec rose nearly 12% over the preceding year, and Ontario debits advanced nearly 10%. Cheques cashed in British Columbia increased over 7%. Payments in the Prairie Provinces rose 3.5%, while debits in the older centres of the Atlantic region were 4% higher. If the newer centres are included, the Atlantic region showed a slight decline from the preceding year, as a result of the abnormally high total of cheques cashed in Charlottetown in 1954.

Totals follow by economic areas, in thousands: Atlantic Provinces, \$3,623,886 (\$3,483,573 in 1954); Quebec, \$47,931,767 (\$42,853,001); Ontario, \$71,973,447 (\$65,614,572); Prairie Provinces, \$25,008,924 (\$24,155,325); and British Columbia, \$161,350,878 (\$148,062,796). (30)

Salt Production Up In February      Output of dry common salt in February increased sharply to 90,645 tons from 44,140 last year, while shipments increased to 85,767 tons from 42,360. January-February figures show increased production at 168,263 tons from 93,049 in the corresponding period a year ago and larger shipments at 163,850 tons from 89,716.      (31)

Production Of Gold Rose In February      Gold production rose moderately in February to 353,230 fine ounces from 350,683 last year, bringing the January-February total to 724,180 fine ounces from 717,013 in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Output increased in the month in the following areas, 1955 figures being in brackets: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 1,029 fine ounces (966); Ontario, 413,397 (401,838); Yukon, 230 (14); and the Northwest Territories, 27,436 (22,621). Decreased production was reported in the remaining areas with Quebec to 92,687 (92,722 a year earlier); Prairie Provinces, 16,367 (17,192); and British Columbia, 16,198 (18,210).      (32)

## F O R E S T R Y

Production Of Sawn Lumber In B.C. Up 2.5% In February      Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia increased 2.5% in February to 386,946,000 board feet from 377,361,000 in the corresponding month last year. February's increase was not large enough to offset a decline in January and the combined output for January and February declined about 2% to 767,597,000 board feet from 783,474,000.      (33)



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

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- 2-Price Movements, April, 10¢
- 3-Chain Store Sales & Stocks, March, 10¢
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- 5-Operating Results & Financial Structure Independent Drug Stores, 1954, 25¢
- 6-Operating Results & Financial Structure Retail Hardware, Furniture, Appliance & Radio Stores (Independent), 1954, 25¢
- 7-Operating Results & Financial Structure Independent Restaurants, 1954, 25¢
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- 9-Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, March, 25¢
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- 25-Travel Between Canada & The United States, March, 20¢
- 26-M: Pipe Lines (Oil) Statistics, February, 10¢
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- 28-M: Motor Carrier-Passenger (Intercity & Rural), October, 10¢
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- 30-Cheques Cashed In Clearing Centres, 1955, 50¢
- 31-M: Salt, February, 10¢
- 32-M: Gold Production, February, 10¢
- 33-Production, Shipments & Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, February, 25¢
- Inventories, Shipments & Orders in Manufacturing Industries, February, 25¢  
Summarized in Weekly Bulletin of April 27.
- Canadian Statistical Review, April, 35¢
- Telegraphic Crop Report - Canada, 10¢
- M: Memorandum

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