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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Housing: Residential construction in Canada set new records last year, all previous figures being surpassed for the number of units completed, the number started and the number under construction at the year's end. (Page 2)

...

Merchandising: Department store sales continued their earlier advance this year with a rise of 8% in the week ending February 4 ... Sharply higher sales of passenger cars raised total sales of new motor vehicles last year to a new peak in number as well as value ... Wholesale sales reached an estimated value of approximately \$5,601,500,000 in the ten months ending last October, showing a gain of 13% over the corresponding 1954 period.

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Border Travel: Highway traffic across the border into Canada reached a new record total of 15,868,200 vehicles last year, up more than 2,000,000 over the previous peak in 1954. Canadian vehicles returning from the United States accounted for about three-fifths of the gain.

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Food: Canned meat stocks increased about 26% during December ... Margarine output in January and end-of-January stocks were down from last year ... Process cheese production and stocks were up. Farm wheat marketings and export clearances increased in the last January week.

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...

Labour: Employment and weekly wages and salaries in the major non-agricultural industries declined slightly during November, but the former was 5% higher and the latter over 9% higher at December 1 than a year earlier. Average weekly earnings in manufacturing reached a new high of \$64.78 at December 1.

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Transportation: Railway car loadings during January totalled 318,615 cars, a rise of 11.5% over January last year ... Railway operating revenues increased more than operating expenses during November to produce a larger net operating income than for November 1954.

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...

Manufacturing: Value of shipments by Canadian manufacturers in the full year 1955 aggregated \$19,559,000,000, up 11.7% from a year earlier, year-end inventories owned rose 3.1% to \$3,653,000,000, and year-end unfilled orders were up 5.3% in value to \$2,603,000,000.

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Lumber: Sawn lumber production was 8% larger in British Columbia and 9% larger in the rest of Canada in the first eleven months last year than in 1954, gains being recorded in all but one province.

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New Residential Construction
Set New Records In Year 1955

Residential construction in Canada topped all previous records in 1955, new high marks being established for the number of units completed, the number started and the number in various stages of construction at year's end, according to advance estimates released by the DBS.

The number of new dwelling units completed in 1955 increased 25% to 127,600 from 102,000 in the preceding year and the number started rose 22% to 138,300 from 113,500. Units still under construction at the close of the year increased 16% to 79,700 from 68,600.

There were larger numbers of new units finished in 1955 than in the preceding year in all provinces except Saskatchewan. Starts increased in number in all provinces except Saskatchewan and Alberta, and larger numbers were still under construction at the end of 1955 in all provinces except Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The table following shows estimated number of starts and completions of new dwelling units for the years 1955 and 1954, together with the number under construction at the close of each year, by provinces.

	Started		Completed		Under Construction	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	At Year's End 1954 1955	
Newfoundland	1,345	1,613	1,160	1,284	2,906	3,057
Maritime Provinces	4,737	6,146	4,099	5,372	2,959	3,446
Prince Edward Island ..	198	214	188	199	87	93
Nova Scotia	2,311	2,946	2,496	2,611	1,503	1,595
New Brunswick	2,228	2,986	1,415	2,562	1,369	1,758
Quebec	29,958	39,852	26,182	34,866	16,629	21,812
Ontario	46,382	53,456	41,085	51,351	27,941	30,055
Prairie Provinces	21,502	21,595	20,281	20,645	11,783	12,203
Manitoba	5,260	6,705	5,107	5,873	2,796	3,564
Saskatchewan	4,713	4,348	4,889	4,278	2,545	2,258
Alberta	11,529	10,542	10,285	10,494	6,442	6,381
British Columbia	<u>9,603</u>	<u>15,614</u>	<u>9,158</u>	<u>14,034</u>	<u>6,423</u>	<u>9,143</u>
CANADA Totals	113,527	138,276	101,965	127,552	68,641	79,716

FOREIGN TRADE

Volume 1 of Trade Of Canada

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics released today Volume 1 of the Trade of Canada for the year 1954. This 296-page report contains summary tables, analytical tables, and tables showing the principal commodities traded with each country. Part of a set of 3 annual reports on the foreign trade of Canada, Volume 1 may be obtained at \$2.00. The set of three volumes may be purchased for a total of \$5.00. (1)

Department Store Sales Up
3.2% In Week Of February 4

Department stores sales rose 8.2% during the week ending February 4 as compared with a year earlier. Sales were up 9% in the Atlantic Provinces, 11.3% in Quebec, 6.7% in Ontario, 20.6% in Alberta, and 8.1% in British Columbia, but down 0.9% in Manitoba and 0.8% in Saskatchewan.

Sales Of New Motor Vehicles
Reached All-Time High In 1955

Sales of new motor vehicles reached an all-time high in the year 1955, rising 21.7% in number and 26.9% in value as compared with 1954, DBS reports. The record in sales was due to the large number of passenger cars sold, sales of commercial vehicles having been exceeded in several recent years. Financing of sales of new passenger cars also reached a new peak in the year, but as in sales, commercial vehicle financing was topped in several earlier years

Combined sales of new motor vehicles in 1955 totalled 465,629 units valued at retail at \$1,255,564,000 as compared with 382,628 units valued at \$989,518,000 in the preceding year. December sales jumped to a monthly peak of 28,796 units valued at \$85,342,000 from 23,342 units valued at \$63,797,000 a year earlier.

Passenger car sales in the year numbered 386,937 units valued at \$1,023,256,000 versus 310,546 valued at \$797,554,000 in 1954. In December, 23,809 units were sold for \$68,474,000 versus 19,453 sold for \$52,248,000 in December, 1954.

Commercial vehicle sales in 1955 totalled 78,692 units valued at \$232,308,000 versus 72,082 units sold for \$191,964,000 in 1954. December sales numbered 4,987 units valued at \$16,868,000 versus 3,889 units valued at \$11,549,000 in the corresponding month of 1954.

Financing of sales of new passenger cars jumped in 1955 to 152,546 units from 126,099 and the financed value to \$299,139,000 from \$230,900,000. In December the number rose to 8,003 from 6,770 and the financed value to \$16,979,000 from \$12,710,000.

New commercial vehicle financing rose in 1955 to 28,593 units from 28,005 and the financed value to \$69,437,000 from \$61,359,000. In December the sales of 1,782 units were financed for \$5,070,000 versus 1,511 units financed for \$3,671,000 a year earlier.

During the year the sales of 345,234 used passenger cars were financed for \$284,690,000 versus 325,953 units financed for \$269,144,000 a year earlier. In December there was a drop in number to 17,923 units from 18,214 but a rise in financed value to \$15,142,000 from \$14,833,000.

Financing of used commercial vehicles fell in number in 1955 to 57,911 units from 58,671 and in financed value to \$47,908,000 from \$50,243,000. In December the number fell to 3,803 units from 4,131 but the financed value rose to \$3,753,000 from \$3,522,000. (2)

Wholesale Sales Up 15.6% In October
And 13% In January - October Period

Estimated value of wholesale sales in October was \$594,510,000 an increase of 15.6% over the preceding year's \$514,090,000 and January - October sales rose 13% to \$5,601,447,000 from \$4,965,70,000, according to the first issue of a new monthly series released by the DBS. The estimates are based on reports received from about 1,400 wholesalers.

These firms generally act as middlemen between the producer and the retailer or between the producer and the business, industrial or institutional user. They hold inventories and buy and sell on their own account. They are distinguishable from agents and brokers, manufacturers' sales branches, assemblers of primary products, petroleum bulk stations and other types of operation not included in the survey but usually considered to be part of the group which perform the wholesale functions.

Sales were larger in the January-October period as compared with a year earlier. for 16 of the 18 main wholesale trade groups for which value figures are shown. Sales of automotive parts and accessories rose 35%; construction materials and supplies, including lumber, 22.8%; industrial and transportation equipment and supplies 21.3%; household electrical supplies, 12%; commercial, institutional and service equipment and supplies, 11.2%; and farm machinery, 11%. Other increases ranged down from 9.9% for groceries and food specialties to 2.6% for tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks. Meat and dairy product wholesalers' sales declined 5.5%, and coal and coke by 2.1%.

Group values for the January-October period were as follows, in thousands: fresh fruits and vegetables, \$183,004 (\$178,834 a year earlier); groceries and food specialties, \$936,406 (851,884); meat and dairy products, \$133,319 (\$141,057); clothing and furnishings, \$70,742 (\$66,401); footwear, \$23,417 (\$22,215); "other" textile and clothing accessories, \$150,874 (\$144,384); drugs and drug sundries, \$136,165 (\$125,652); household electrical appliances, \$128,317 (\$114,582); and farm machinery, \$53,108 (\$47,767); coal and coke, \$142,152 (\$145,128); hardware, \$230,767 (\$216,613); construction materials and supplies, including lumber, \$549,432 (\$447,269); industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, \$466,647 (\$384,647); commercial, institutional and service equipment and supplies, \$82,339 (\$74,013); automotive parts and accessories, \$290,459 (\$214,840); newsprint, paper and paper products \$215,972 (\$203,577); tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks, \$416,210 (\$405,617); and "all other" \$1,392,117 (\$1,171,694). (3)

Operating Results Of
Retail Food Stores

Independent food stores operated on wider gross margins in 1954 than in 1952 with the exception of confectionery stores, according to the Bureau's biennial survey of five trades -- grocery, combination, meat, fruit and vegetable, and confectionery.

This increased mark-up was entirely offset by higher operating expenses, most evident in salaries and occupancy expenses. In confectionery stores, the decrease in gross profit or margin was greater than in operating expenses, so that net operating profit was lower than in the previous year. The other four trades showed practically no change in ratios of net operating profit in 1954 as compared with 1952.

MORE

Average gross profit of independent grocery stores, expressed as a percentage of average net sales, increased in 1954 to 14.38% from 13.88% in 1952. Increases were registered, in varying degree, for all operating expenses except delivery. In 1954, total expenses climbed to 8.73% of net sales from 8.01% in 1952. The increase in operating expenses more than offset the increase in gross profit, with the result that net operating profit decreased to 5.65% of net sales from 5.87%.

Gross profits of combination stores rose to 15.09% of average net sales from 14.50%. Delivery and stores supplies were the only operating expense items to show decreases. The increase from 10.14% in 1952 to 10.69% in 1954 for operating expenses almost offset the gross profit increase, with the result that the net operating profit increased only slightly to 4.40% from 4.36%.

Average gross profit of meat markets worked out at 18.90% of average net sales in 1954, up from 17.78% in 1952. Increases were registered for all operating expenses except delivery and total expenses climbed to 12.53% from 11.37% in 1952. The increase in operating expenses offset the increase in gross profit and net operating profit declined on the average to 6.37% from 6.41%.

Gross profit of independent retail fruit and vegetable stores increased to 18.42% of average net sales from 17.74% in 1952. Increases were recorded for all operating expenses except store supplies and total expenses climbed to 12.47% from 11.50% in 1952. The increase in operating expenses more than offset the increase in gross profit and net operating profit fell to 5.95% of net sales from 6.24%.

Confectionery stores had an average gross profit of 17.57% of average net sales, down from 18.93% in 1952. Decreases were registered for all operating expenses except occupancy and total expenses dropped to 10.23% from 10.93% of net sales. The decrease in operating expenses cut the loss in gross profit by almost half, with the net operating profit showing a decrease to 7.34% from 8% in 1952. (4)

T R A V E L

Highway Traffic Between Canada And U.S. Reached New Peak in Year 1955

Volume of highway traffic crossing the border into Canada from the United States surpassed all previous records in 1955. Aggregate crossings over the international border during the year amounted to 15,868,200 vehicles, a gain of 2,067,900 over the previous record set in 1954.

The greater part of the rise in 1955 was due to an increase of 1,275,900 in the number of Canadian vehicles returning from the United States, while the number of foreign vehicles entering Canada was some 792,000 higher. Percentage-wise the 1955 volume represents an increase of 22% in the number of Canadian vehicles returning and 10% in the number of foreign vehicles entering Canada. The aggregate number of border crossings consisted of 8,729,000 foreign entries and 7,139,000 Canadian vehicles returning.

Travel between Canada and the United States by rail, through bus, boat and plane in the first eleven months of 1955 showed an increase of 3% as compared with the corresponding period of 1954. (5)

More Infective But Fewer Psychoneurotic
Illnesses Among Civil Servants in 1955

Total number of medically certified illnesses reported by federal civil servants in the fiscal year 1954-55

was 63,096, resulting in 945,179.5 days of illness as compared with 58,141 illnesses and 875,451.5 illness-days in the preceding year, according to the Bureau's annual report on illness reported by civil servants. This increase in morbidity applies to an estimated increase of 2,600 in the number of civil servants as compared with the previous year.

Medically certified days of illness averaged 8 days per employee, a small increase over the average of 7.6 days in the preceding year. However, the average duration or days per illness in 1954-55 remained at 15.0, unchanged from the preceding year. Sick leave not requiring a medical certificate (illness of short duration), averaged 2.7 working days per employee, also unchanged from the preceding year.

Based on the estimated 118,200 civil servants who were subject to civil service regulations in 1954-55, rates per 1,000 employees show the number of illnesses as 533.8 and days of illness at 7,996.4. The corresponding rates for 1953-54 were 502.9 and 7,573.1.

As in the previous year, diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems were the main causes of illness. Diseases of the respiratory system accounted for 39% of all illnesses in 1954-55, which is smaller than either of the two previous years -- 39.2% in 1953-54 and 42.6% in 1952-53. Diseases of the digestive system accounted for 14.9% compared with 15 % the year before and 14.2% two years earlier.

Influenza remained the most commonly occurring disease, accounting for 18% of all illnesses in 1954-55 and also the same percentage in 1953-54. However, influenza accounted for a slightly smaller percentage of the total days of illness in 1954-55 -- 7.7 compared with 8.1.

Illnesses due to infective and parasitic diseases rose to 2,549 from 2,134 in 1953-54 and the illness days to 90,596 from 75,630. In this group tuberculosis showed 331 illnesses and 56,367.5 days of illness, a decrease of 5 illnesses but an increase of 10,187.5 days of illness. The excess of days and fewer cases than in the preceding year indicates that older tuberculosis cases are away from work longer. There were 407 cases of mumps, accounting for 5,493 days of illness, an increase of 174 illnesses and 2,435.5 days of illness.

Mental, psychoneurotic and personality disorders continued to drop, falling from 2,007 illnesses, or 3.5% of total illnesses in 1953-54, to 1,790 or 2.8% in 1954-55. The number of days of illness for the same conditions dropped from 6.6% of all days of illness to 5.5%. Of this group 96.7% were classified psychoneuroses and psychosis, which accounted for 2.7% of all illnesses, the lowest percentage for any of the six previous years. (6)

FOOD & AGRICULTUREStocks of Creamery Butter
In 9 Cities of Canada

Stocks of creamery butter in 9 cities of Canada on February 9 amounted to 56,807,000 pounds as compared with 48,187,000 a year earlier. Holdings were as follows by cities, in thousands: Quebec, 4,791 pounds (2,370 a year earlier); Montreal, 26,977 (23,290); Toronto, 6,585 (8,499); Winnipeg, 15,152 (10,379); Regina, 837 (869); Saskatoon, 572 (248); Edmonton, 837 (949); Calgary, 261 (214); Vancouver, 795 (1,369).

Production Of Margarine Declined 8% In January Production of margarine in January amounted to 10,554,000 pounds, a decrease of about 8% from last year's corresponding output of 11,488,000 pounds. Stocks held by manufacturers at the beginning of February were 2,838,000 pounds, 20% under last year's 3,546,000 pounds. (7)

Production Of Mayonnaise And Salad Dressing Up 11.5% In 1955 Production of salad dressing and mayonnaise in the year 1955 amounted to 26,028,800 pounds, 11.5% above the preceding year's 23,341,400 pounds, according to advance figures released by the DBS. Fourth-quarter production declined to 3,525,100 pounds from 3,632,300 a year earlier.

Production Of Process Cheese Up In January Production of process cheese in January totalled 3,701,000 pounds, up 1.4% from the revised December make of 3,650,000 pounds and 5.9% larger than last year's January output of 3,496,000 pounds. Stocks held by manufacturers at the end of January amounted to 1,761,000 pounds as compared with 1,728,000 a month earlier and 1,775,000 a year ago.

Visible Supplies Of Wheat Slightly Larger Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on February 1 amounted to 358,633,000 bushels, slightly larger than last year's corresponding total of 356,258,000 bushels. Farmers in the Prairie Provinces increased their marketings of wheat during the week ending February 1 to 5,622,000 bushels from 3,816,000. The week's overseas exports clearances rose to 4,963,000 bushels from 2,931,000. (8)

Stocks of Canned Meat Up 26% Stocks of canned meats held by manufacturers and wholesalers at the end of December amounted to 20,774,915 pounds, 26% larger than end-of-November stocks of 16,530,976 pounds, DBS reports in a special statement. Holdings were as follows by kinds, November 30 stocks being in brackets: ready dinners, stews, etc., 8,766,129 pounds (6,227,623); roast beef, 457,262 (394,521); corned beef, 3,076,908 (3,045,047); other beef products, 1,719,514 (1,350,710); spiced pork and ham, 2,811,239 (2,443,888); roast pork and ham, 747,882 (541,675); other pork products, 1,369,749 (1,058,474); canned fowl, 488,384 (391,339); meat paste, 934,005 (711,328); other, 403,843 (360,371).

LABOUR

Hiring & Separation Rates in Industry The Bureau has released its semi-annual report on hiring and separation rates in certain industries, covering the period March, 1953 to February, 1955. This report presents in six tables the number of hirings and separations per 100 persons on the payrolls of the establishments covered, both total figures and figures by sex being shown for Canada and each of five economic regions. Industrially, the coverage of the survey is coincident with the coverage of the Unemployment Insurance Act with a few exceptions. The basic data are obtained from the Unemployment Insurance Commission. (9)

Slight Curtailment In Industrial
Employment At Beginning of December

Slight curtailment in employment was reported by establishments in the major non-agricultural industries at December 1 when the index stood at 117.7, which is 0.4% lower than at November 1, according to the Bureau's advance statement. It was, however, 5% higher than the December 1, 1954 figure of 112.1.

Disbursements in weekly wages and salaries fell 0.5% in the month but were 9.3% above those of a year earlier. The advance figure of per capita weekly wages and salaries was \$62.00, slightly below the all-time maximum of \$62.07 at November 1, but \$2.41 above its December, 1954 level.

On the whole, smaller staffs than at November 1 were reported in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and the four western provinces. The losses ranged from 1.8% in Manitoba to 6% in Prince Edward Island. The gains in employment elsewhere were small. Except in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, industrial employment generally was more active than at December 1, 1954.

The trend from a month earlier was downward in manufacturing, construction, transportation, storage and communication, public utilities, and in the service industries. Trade in all provinces except Prince Edward Island afforded more employment. Logging operations also showed seasonal expansion in most parts of the country.

The advance index number of employment in manufacturing was 0.5% lower than a month earlier but 6.5% above December 1, 1954. Weekly payroll declined insignificantly in the month but were 11.2% higher than a year earlier. Average weekly earnings reported in manufacturing at December 1 reached a new high at \$64.78 as compared with \$64.54 at November 1 and \$62.07 at December 1, 1954. (10)

M I N I N G

Production of Copper, Nickel
Zinc, Lead and Silver

Canadian production of copper, nickel and zinc was larger in November and the first 11 months of 1955 than in the preceding year but there were smaller totals for both lead and silver, DBS reports in its regular monthly bulletins.

November production totals for the five metals were as follows: copper, 27,412 tons (26,322 a year earlier); nickel, 14,290 tons (14,159); zinc, 37,269 tons (34,578); lead, 15,181 tons (18,305); and silver, 2,089,101 fine ounces (2,823,719).

January-November totals were: copper, 293,765 tons (275,057); nickel, 160,292 tons (146,332); zinc, 392,883 tons (340,148); lead, 184,381 tons (199,407); and silver, 25,203,632 fine ounces (28,753,123).

Estimated totals for the full year 1955 as published earlier were as follows: copper, 324,600 tons (302,700 in 1954); nickel, 174,600 tons (161,300); lead, 194,000 tons (218,500); zinc, 427,000 tons (376,500); and silver, 27,901,400 fine ounces (31,118,000). (11 & 12)

Miscellaneous Non-Metal Mining Industry In 1954

Gross value of the products of the miscellaneous non-metal mining industry in 1954 was \$10,422,000 as compared with \$9,988,000 in the preceding year, DBS reports. There were 47 establishments in the industry (40 in 1953) and their products ranged from barite to diatomite and silica brick. They employed 1,343 persons, (1,405 in 1953) and paid them \$4,840,000 in salaries and wages (\$4,169,000). (13)

TRANSPORTATION

Railway Car Loadings Up 11.5% In January

Freight loaded on Canadian railways jumped nearly 22% in the last 10 days of January to 106,792 cars from 87,760 in the corresponding period of 1955, raising the total for the full month of January 11.5% to 318,615 cars from 285,668 in 1955. Receipts from connections rose 17.3% in the ten-day period to 49,971 cars from 42,585 and 12.6% in the month to 145,833 cars from 129,533.

In the ten-day period, loadings of grain amounted to 10,653 cars (7,049 a year earlier); grain products, 3,250 (2,867); coal, 8,233 (6,286); non-ferrous ores and concentrates, 3,935 (3,467); fuel oil, 4,353 (3,803); lumber, timber and plywood, 5,765 (4,965); pulpwood, 7,280 (7,165); newsprint paper, 4,433 (4,145); miscellaneous carload commodities, 7,178 (5,358); and L.C.L. merchandise, 18,453 (16,419).

Among the major loadings in January were: grain, 32,390 cars (29,243 a year earlier); grain products, 10,039 (9,694); coal, 26,737 (22,332); non-ferrous ores and concentrates, 12,322 (10,902); fuel oil, 13,895 (11,879); lumber, timber and plywood, 15,331 (14,608); pulpwood, 19,250 (19,640); newsprint, 14,030 (13,151); miscellaneous carload commodities, 20,981 (17,179); and L.C.L. merchandise, 54,263 (52,280). (14)

Railway Revenues, Expenses In November

Operating revenues of 17 railways in November amounted to \$105,310,000, up slightly more than 14% from \$92,205,000 a year earlier. Operating expenses were up 8% to \$89,181,000 from \$82,295,000. There was a net operating revenue of \$16,129,000 but with higher tax accruals and other deductions net operating income amounted to \$10,344,000 versus \$7,040,000.

Revenue freight totalled 16,397,000 tons, up more than 11% from 14,725,000, and revenue passengers declined 2% to 2,117,100 from 2,159,800. There were 184,104 persons on railway payrolls as compared with 182,772 one year earlier and the salary and wage payments grossed \$53,812,000 as against \$51,723,000. (15)

Railway Freight Traffic Increased 24% In October

Freight originated on Canadian railways rose nearly 24% in October to 16,823,000 tons from 13,582,000 in the corresponding month of 1954. During the month, 13,397,000 tons were loaded in Canada (10,709,000 in 1954), receipts from foreign connections for delivery in Canada amounted to 1,939,000 tons (1,677,000), and intransit freight totalled 1,487,000 tons (1,196,000). (16)

Passengers Transported By Inter-City And Rural Motor Carriers

Passengers transported by intercity and rural motor carriers in August rose to 5,520,900 from 5,404,100 in the corresponding month of 1954 but the January-August traffic was down to 43,199,000 from 45,095,600. Revenues fell to \$4,437,000 in August from \$4,514,300 and to \$26,731,200 in the January-August period from \$27,335,200. (17)

Sharp Increases In Revenues And Expenses Of Air Carriers

Canadian air carriers reported increased activity in all phases of operations in August. Total operating revenues amounted to \$15,133,700 for a gain of 40.3% over the \$10,785,800 earned in August 1954. Operating expenses increased 41.8% to \$12,718,400 from \$8,979,800, and the net operating income rose to \$2,415,400 from \$1,806,100.

All revenue and expense accounts for August registered gains over the corresponding month of 1954. Passenger fares, amounting to \$8,198,000 as against \$7,258,000, accounted for the greater part of gross earnings. Revenue for bulk transportation services was considerably higher at \$4,251,000 as compared with \$1,596,000. Aircraft operation and maintenance costs rose to \$3,008,000 from \$5,021,000.

Canadian commercial carriers transported 296,260 paying passengers in August in contrast to 249,628 a year earlier. The total weight of goods carried in revenue unit toll transportation amounted to 4,249,000 pounds, up from 3,352,000, while goods transported in charter or bulk services weighed 19,821,000, treble the preceding year's 6,816,000 pounds. (18)

MANUFACTURING

Leather Production Increased

Larger quantities of cattle sole leather, upper leather, glove and garment leather, calf and kip skin upper leather, and horse leather were produced in December than a year earlier. End-of-December stocks of goat and kid skins were up from a year earlier but there were decreases in cattle hides, calf and kip skins, sheep and lamb skins, and horse hides.

December production of cattle sole leather amounted to 1,377,005 pounds (927,938 a year earlier); cattle upper leather, 5,652,801 square feet (4,980,570); glove and garment leather, 1,013,129 square feet (785,645); calf and kip skin upper leather, 1,072,859 square feet (1,034,363); and horse leather, 153,461 square feet (101,553).

Stocks of raw hides and skins held by tanners, packers and dealers at the end of December were: cattle, 509,386 (545,484 a year earlier); calf and kip skins, 413,124 (470,758); goat and kid skins, 5,414 (2,788); horse hides, 20,139 (21,378); and sheep and lamb skins, 45,928 dozen (48,633 dozen). (19)

Leather Footwear

Production of leather footwear rose 17% in November to 3,513,800 pairs from 2,996,300 in the corresponding month of 1954. Cumulative output for the January-November period increased 3% to 35,760,300 pairs from 34,561,600 a year earlier. (20)

Inventories, Shipments & Orders
In Manufacturing Industries Value of shipments by Canadian manufacturers in the full year 1955 aggregated \$19,559,000,000, up 11.7% from a year earlier, year-end inventories owned rose 3.1% to \$3,653,000,000, and year-end unfilled orders were up 5.3% in value to \$2,603,000,000, according to an advance statement based on the monthly report on inventories, shipments and orders in manufacturing industries.

This report contains a number of revisions and additions to previously published material, including values of shipments rather than indexes, and data for industries by standard industrial classification groupings in addition to economic use groupings. A summary of preliminary year-end values, and percentage changes from 1954, are given in the table following:

Industry	Cumulative		Year-End		Year-End	
	Monthly Shipments (millions)	Percent Change from 1954	Inventory Owned (millions)	Percent Change from 1954	Unfilled Orders (millions)	Percent Change from 1954
ALL INDUSTRIES -	\$19,559	+11.7	\$3,653	+ 3.1	\$2,603	+ 5.3
Foods & Beverages & Tobacco Products	3,954	+ 4.9	721	- 0.8	(1)	(1)
Rubber Products	312	+17.9	74	+11.9	(1)	(1)
Leather Products	225	+10.2	54	+ 7.6	30	+41.4
Textile Products	750	+16.9	190	+ 5.7	93	+25.4
Clothing	846	+ 7.7	169	+ 3.3	69	+16.2
Wood Products	1,416	+15.7	225	- 6.5	(1)	(1)
Paper Products	1,761	+ 7.6	282	+ 1.4	(1)	(1)
Printing & Publishing	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Iron & Steel Products	2,272	+17.5	513	+ 1.8	597	+63.9
Transportation Eqpt.	1,926	+12.1	291	+13.6	661	-11.1
Non-Ferrous Metals	1,537	+21.4	217	+ 6.6	(1)	(1)
Electrical Apparatus	1,031	+19.3	246	+ 2.9	325	+ 2.2
Non-Metallic Minerals	465	+ 8.5	70	+ 9.9	(1)	(1)
Petroleum & Coal	1,161	+13.9	247	+ 9.7	(1)	(1)
Chemical Products	1,033	+12.1	243	+ 1.3	(1)	(1)
Misc. Industries	262	+ 2.2	66	+ 2.8	(1)	(1)

Paint, Varnish Sales
Up In Value In 1955 Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers who normally account for all but a small part of the all-Canada total were valued at \$115,446,000 in 1955, 13% above the preceding year's \$102,077,000, DBS reports. December sales were up to \$6,836,000 from \$5,726,000. (21)

Compressed Gases Industry Factory value of shipments by Canadian plants engaged chiefly in making industrial gases in 1954 amounted to \$15,873,000, an increase of 1% over the preceding year's \$15,712,000, the Bureau's annual industry report shows. The chief products were acetylene and oxygen. Shipments of the former amounted to 150,027,000 cubic feet (155,393,000 in 1953), and of the latter to 927,713,000 cubic feet (897,743,000). (22)

Net Sales Of Petroleum Products Net sales of petroleum products in September totalled 18,890,000 barrels, slightly larger than the preceding month's 18,691,000 barrels. Net sales of motor gasoline amounted to 7,718,000 barrels (8,367,000 in August); heavy fuel oil, 4,028,000 (3,520,000); light furnace oil, 1,966,000 (1,603,000); diesel fuel oil, 1,501,000 (1,634,000). (23)

Hardwood Flooring Industry Factory value of shipments of the hardwood flooring industry in 1953 was \$14,142,400, an increase of about 15% over the preceding year's \$12,281,000, but a decline of 17% from the all-time high of \$15,800,000 reached in 1951, according to the Bureau's annual industry report.

Shipments of hardwood flooring in 1953, which were valued at \$11,858,000, or 83.8% of all products shipped by the industry, were 23.6% higher than in the preceding year (\$9,591,000). Shipments of other products, such as matched lumber, planed lumber, mouldings and other miscellaneous products, totalled \$2,284,000, a decrease of 15% from \$2,690,000 in 1952.

Of the hardwood flooring shipped in 1953, totalling 65,099,000 board feet (51,924,000 in 1952), birch accounted for 36,597,000 board feet (28,223,000), plain-cut red oak for 15,612,000 board feet (12,701,000), maple for 9,916,000 (8,692,000), beech for 714,000 (588,000), and plain-cut white oak for 229,000 (209,000). Other hardwood, including quarter-cut white and red oak, ash and elm, amounted to 2,031,000 board feet (1,511,000 in 1952).

There were 27 establishments in operation in 1953 (26 in 1952) with 1,512 employees (1,463) and salary and wage payments of \$3,823,000 (\$3,588,000). (24)

FORESTRY

Production Of Sawn Lumber In November And 11 Months Canadian production of sawn lumber was substantially larger in the first 11 months of 1955 than a year earlier, British Columbia recording an increase of 8% and the rest of Canada a rise of 9%. November output in British Columbia dropped 18.5% from a year earlier but production in the rest of Canada rose nearly 23%.

British Columbia's production of sawn lumber and ties in November amounted to 327,057,000 board feet versus 401,322,000 a year earlier, bringing the January-November total to 4,488,344,000 board feet versus 4,145,042,000. East of the Rockies the output is estimated at 116,964,000 board feet in November versus 95,181,000 and at 2,905,615,000 board feet in the 11 months versus 2,663,171,000.

January-November production totals for the provinces East of the Rockies were as follows, in thousand board feet: Prince Edward Island, 8,550 (7,344 a year earlier); Nova Scotia, 373,479 (288,838); New Brunswick, 261,074 (235,462); Quebec, 1,014,530 (973,360); Ontario, 740,198 (713,282); Manitoba, 48,442 (43,114); Saskatchewan, 85,039 (91,706); and Alberta, 374,303 (310,065). (25 & 26)

Consumer Price Indexes For Regional Cities Eight of the ten regional consumer price indexes declined between December 1, 1955 and January 3, 1956. The decreases were all moderate, ranging from 0.1% in both Toronto and Winnipeg to 0.4% in Saskatoon-Regina. Indexes for St. John's and Montreal increased 0.2% and 0.6%, respectively.

Food indexes were lower in all cities except St. John's, an increase of 0.5% accounting for all the movement in that city's total index. Eggs were lower in all cities, particularly in Regina-Saskatoon, while prices for all cuts of pork continued to decline in all. The shelter index remained unchanged in seven cities and was only slightly higher in the other three cities.

Little movement was shown in clothing indexes as five were unchanged and five recorded minor increases. Household operation indexes were down slightly in six cities and unchanged in four. Lower domestic gas prices in Toronto accounted for most of the decrease in the Toronto index. The "other" commodities and services indexes showed no change in six of the ten regional cities and were up in four. Increased local transportation costs in Montreal were mainly responsible for the change in that city's index.

Total indexes for January 3 and December 1, and January 3 group index detail, are shown in the following table. These indexes show changes in retail prices of goods and services in each city, but 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 January 1956 (base 1949 = 100)

	Total Indexes		Group Indexes - January 3, 1956				
	Dec. 1 1955	Jan. 3 1956	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities & Services
St. John's *	104.5	104.7	101.0	109.7	100.5	103.2	110.9
Halifax	114.7	114.5	104.8	125.1	114.8	119.7	119.2
Saint John	117.7	117.4	109.6	127.5	116.2	117.2	124.1
Montreal	116.7	117.4	113.4	136.1	108.1	115.1	119.8
Ottawa	117.8	117.5	109.6	135.9	111.6	116.3	120.8
Toronto	118.9	118.8	109.9	147.9	110.9	114.9	118.9
Winnipeg	116.9	116.8	112.8	127.0	113.2	114.0	119.6
Saskatoon-Regina	115.7	115.2	111.9	118.1	114.7	116.6	116.0
Edmonton-Calgary	115.1	114.8	110.6	121.1	113.0	115.8	117.6
Vancouver	120.3	120.0	114.9	128.0	112.8	130.9	119.7

* Index on the base June 1951 = 100

Security Price IndexesInvestors' Price IndexFebruary 9February 2
(1935-39 = 100)January 12

Total Common Stocks.....	247.2	248.7	251.5
Industrials.....	255.8	257.5	260.3
Utilities.....	203.3	204.8	208.8
Banks.....	262.4	261.4	262.1

Mining Stock Price Index

Total Mining Stocks.....	124.3	124.4	126.1
Gold.....	76.7	76.4	76.0
Base Metals.....	233.4	234.3	240.8

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

- 1-Volume 1 of the Trade of Canada, 1954, \$2.00
- 2-New Motor Vehicle Sales & Motor Vehicle Financing, December, 20¢
- 3-Wholesale Trade, September & October, 1955 (New Dollar Series), 10¢
- 4-Operating Results & Financial Structure of Independent Retail Food Stores, 1954, 25¢
- 5-Travel Between Canada & the United States, Calendar Year 1955 & December 1955, 20¢
- 6-Illness in the Civil Service, Statistical Report, Year Ended March, 1955, 50¢
- 7-M: Margarine Statistics, January, 10¢
- 8-M: Grain Statistics Weekly, February 1, 10¢
- 9-Hiring & Separation Rates in Certain Industries, March 1953 to February 1955, 25¢
- 10-Advance Statement on Employment & Weekly Earnings, December, 10¢
- 11-M: Silver, Lead & Zinc Production, November, 10¢
- 12-M: Copper & Nickel Production, November, 10¢
- 13-Miscellaneous Non-Metal Mining Industry, 1954, 25¢
- 14-M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, January 31, 10¢
- 15-M: Railway Operating Statistics, November, 10¢
- 16-M: Railway Freight Traffic, October, 10¢
- 17-M: Motor Carrier -- Passenger -- Intercity & Rural, August, 10¢
- 18-Civil Aviation, August, 15¢
- 19-M: Statistics of Hides, Skins & Leather, December, 10¢
- 20-Production of Leather Footwear, November, 10¢
- 21-M: Sales of Paints, Varnishes & Lacquers, December, 10¢
- 22-Compressed Gases Industry, 1954, 25¢
- 23-Refined Petroleum Products, August (Preliminary), 10¢
- 24-Hardwood Flooring Industry, 1953, 25¢
- 25-Production, Shipments & Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, November, 25¢
- 26-Production, Shipments & Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, November, 25¢
- Quarterly Stocks of Canned Fruits & Vegetables on Hand, December 31, 25¢ --
- Summarized in Weekly Bulletin of February 10.
- Trade of Canada: Exports, November & 11 Months Ended November (detailed), 50¢
- M: Memorandum

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