

**MANUFACTURING RECORD:** Canada's manufacturing industries set another new production record in 1953 for the seventh straight year, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The year's factory shipments were valued at \$17,771,758,000, up \$789,071,000 or 4.6% from 1952's \$16,982,687,000. Preliminary estimates place the value of shipments in the first half of this year at \$8,607,736,000, down 4% from last year's January-June value of \$8,974,157,000. The first-quarter value fell to \$4,181,071,000 from \$4,284,124,000, and the second quarter's value to \$4,426,665,000 from \$4,690,033,000.

The number of employees in manufacturing also climbed in 1953 to a new record total of 1,325,820, from the previous peak in 1952 of 1,288,382, and their earnings were boosted to \$3,948,039,000 from \$3,637,620,000. Material costs were up to \$9,327,510,000 from \$9,146,172,000 the year before, the cost of fuel and electricity rose to \$414,926,000 from \$392,981,000.

In 1953 there were increased values for all but three of the main industrial groups, the declines being in iron and steel products, textiles and tobacco. Foods and beverages again headed the list with shipments valued at \$3,479,000 as compared with \$3,472,517,000. Transportation equipment was next in order at \$2,094,175,000 as compared with \$1,803,700,000, followed closely by iron and steel products at \$2,090,093,000 as compared with \$2,135,032,000. Paper products was fourth at \$1,552,797,000 (\$1,510,149,000 in 1952), and wood products fifth at \$1,279,573,000 (\$1,167,629,000).

In this year's first-half period all groups were lower except foods and beverages, paper products, products of petroleum and coal, printing and publishing and tobacco.

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**WORLD WHEAT:** Supplies of wheat remaining on or about September 1 in the four major wheat exporting countries for export and carry-over at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 2,148,400,000 bushels, some 5.5% greater than the 2,036,500,000 bushels a year earlier.

Estimated supplies in each of the four countries on September 1 with a year earlier figures in brackets, were as follows: United States, 1,167,000,000 bushels (1,067,800,000); Canada, 792,800,000 (820,100,000); Australia, 115,700,000 (56,600,000); and Argentina, 72,900,000 (92,000,000).

The 1954 Canadian crop, estimated at 277,900,000 bushels on the basis of conditions at September 1 is now taken into account in these calculations. However, due to adverse harvesting conditions in the West, a further substantial reduction may be anticipated in the size of the current Canadian wheat crop.

**INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT UP:** Industrial employment showed a further though slight improvement at the beginning of August and the Bureau's index rose 0.4% to 112.1 from 111.7 a month earlier. There was, however, a decline of 3% from last year's August 1 figure of 115.6. The payrolls index moved up to 155.0 from 153.9 at the beginning of July but declined from last year's 155.3. Weekly wages and salaries rose on average to \$59.12 from \$58.98 a month earlier and \$57.52 a year ago.

The changes in employment in the major industrial divisions at August 1 as compared with July largely followed the seasonal pattern established in recent years. Manufacturing, in which the postwar midsummer indexes have risen and fallen in an equal number of years, showed a decline of 0.8%, slightly exceeding the reduction at August 1 last year when the index was 6% above its present position. The loss as compared with July 1 took place in plants producing durable manufactured goods, there being little change on the whole in the non-durable group.

There was a below-average contraction in the staffs of logging camps, the decrease being the smallest in many years.

The gain in mining was the largest for midsummer since 1949, while that of 5.2% in construction, which was the greatest shown by any industrial division at August 1 was rather below average.

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**PETROLEUM, GAS SOAR:** Nine of Canada's 16 leading minerals were produced in greater quantity in the first 6 months this year than in the first half of 1953, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Petroleum and natural gas output continued to soar, but for most other minerals changes from last year were moderate to slight.

The flow of petroleum from Alberta and other Canadian fields was stepped up to 42,232,615 barrels from 33,391,423 in the first half of 1953, and natural gas output climbed to 65,107,621,000 cubic feet from 52,376,435,000. Also showing production gains in the first 6 months this year were cement (to 10,568,303 barrels from 10,437,674), clay products (to \$13,690,920 from \$12,844,654), copper (to 144,715 tons from 135,368), gypsum (to 1,597,779 tons from 1,490,277), lead (to 110,076 tons from 100,635), lime (to 609,366 tons from 607,607) and nickel (to 77,436 tons from 70,294).

First-half output was reduced this year for asbestos (to 434,823 tons from 458,209), coal (to 7,430,188 tons from 7,735,747), gold (to 2,092,087 fine ounces from 2,204,037), iron ore (to 1,756,047 tons from 2,425,494), salt (to 456,516 tons from 460,214), silver (to 14,828,903 fine ounces from 15,308,361) and zinc (to 172,279 tons from 202,931).