

zation will be served by the breaking up of the Atlantic Community.

"The builders of NATO builded better than they knew. Its strength, dedication and unity have preserved the peace in the past. The hope of the Free World is that it will do so in the future."

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## IMPORTS REDUCED IN 1958

Commodity imports into Canada in 1958 were valued at \$5,192,400,000, some 8 per cent lower than in 1957, according to final and detailed figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The volume of imports declined at about the same rate as the value and there was a very slight increase in average import prices. The final import figures are some \$4,000,000 less than the preliminary total reported on February 6.

Imports in the fourth quarter of 1958 were about 4 per cent higher at \$1,379,300,000 than in the corresponding period of 1957 and this contrasted with the more or less sharp declines which took place in each of the three earlier quarters of the year. Imports were valued at \$425,500,000 in December 1958 and were thus some 8 per cent more than in the same month of 1957. On a seasonally-adjusted basis imports began to decline in the first quarter of 1957, continued to fall in subsequent quarters up to and including the third quarter of 1958 and then rose considerably in the fourth quarter.

The proportion of Canadian imports coming from the United States declined from 71.1 per cent of the total in 1957 to 68.8 per cent in 1958, the proportion from the Commonwealth (other than the United Kingdom) from 4.3 per cent to 4.0 per cent, and that from Latin America was virtually unchanged at 6.7 per cent. Imports from the United Kingdom increased from 9.3 per cent to 10.1 per cent, those from Europe from 5.6 per cent to 6.3 per cent and from other foreign countries as a group from 2.9 per cent to 3.8 per cent. In the fourth quarter of 1958, the proportion of imports from the United States and the Commonwealth declined to a respective 66.5 per cent (from 68.2 per cent) and 4.2 per cent. The import shares attributable to the United Kingdom and Latin America increased moderately in the same quarter to 10.0 per cent and 6.9 per cent, respectively, and those accounted for by Europe and other foreign countries, respectively, increased somewhat more significantly to 7.5 per cent and 4.6 per cent.

Iron and steel goods, which accounted for almost 36 per cent of all Canadian imports in 1958, declined by more than 13 per cent as compared to 1957 and were responsible for something like two-thirds of the overall decline. Among the main commodities in this group, non-farm machinery, the leading import category, fell by about 15 per cent, rolling-

mill products by almost 33 per cent and pipes, tubes and fittings by nearly 40 per cent. Considerable declines were also recorded in imports of farm implements and machinery, engines and boilers, iron ore, castings and forgings and a range of other iron and steel products. In marked contrast to the general trend in the group, automobile imports increased by more than 22 per cent. Among other leading commodities there were considerable decreases in imports of sugar, coffee, rubber, cotton, wool and wool products, electrical apparatus, coal and coal products, and petroleum and products. Imports of fruit, cocoa, vegetable oils, glass, and scientific equipment were higher than in the previous year.

In the fourth quarter changes in the leading commodity imports showed some contrast with the changes recorded in the year as a whole. In particular, iron and steel goods increased by 9 per cent as the rate of decrease in non-farm machinery imports slackened greatly and as the earlier declines in imports of rolling-mill products, farm implements and machinery and iron ore were reversed.

Imports to the United States fell by almost 11 per cent in 1958 to \$3,572,400,000, as significant declines in each of the first three quarters of the year more than offset a small increase in the fourth quarter. In the year as a whole, there were small increases in imports of agricultural and vegetable products, forest products, and miscellaneous commodities, but lower totals were recorded for all other main groups. The decline was most evident among iron and steel goods and especially in the case of non-farm machinery, farm implements, rolling-mill products, and pipes, tubes and fittings. Among other leading imports reduced in value were electrical apparatus, coal, petroleum and products, and raw cotton.

Canadian imports from the United Kingdom were valued at \$526,700,000 in 1958, some 1 per cent higher than in 1957. In the fourth quarter there was an increase of some 6 per cent compared with smaller increases in the first and second quarters and a significant decline in the third. There were gains in the year in all main groups except textiles and non-ferrous metals. The largest absolute increase was recorded for iron and steel imports and this mainly reflected the very considerable increase in imports of passenger automobiles. Imports of electrical apparatus and aircraft and parts also went up, while there was a marked decline in textile products.

Imports from the Commonwealth fell by 14 per cent to \$209,900,000 in 1958, with a fourth-quarter decline of some 6 per cent, the smallest recorded in any quarter. In the twelve-month period imports were lower from all leading Commonwealth countries except Australia and the Union of South Africa. Among the principal commodities, there were lower imports of unrefined sugar (from the West