

APRIL IMPORTS RISE TO RECORD PEAK VALUE

UP NEARLY 21 PER CENT: Canada's merchandise imports from all countries in April rose to a record peak value for the month of \$391,800,000, a gain of nearly 21 per cent over last year's April total of \$324,000,000, according to final figures on imports for the month released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This large gain raised the cumulative total for the first four months of 1953 to \$1,389,700,000 as compared with \$1,240,100,000 in the like 1952 period.

Average prices of imported commodities were 3.2 per cent below a year earlier, but volume was 24.8 per cent higher. In the January-April period, prices of imports averaged 6.5 per cent under those of a year ago, while volume averaged 19.4 per cent higher.

SUBSTANTIAL GAINS

There were substantial gains in April in the value of imports from the United States, the United Kingdom, some Latin American countries, and Europe, but smaller imports from all other countries and the remaining group of foreign countries. Four-month figures set a similar pattern.

Imports from the United States rose 21 per cent in value in April to \$297,246,000 as compared with \$245,614,000 a year ago. The January-April gain was 12.8 per cent to \$1,060,300,000 from \$939,605,000. Increases were shown for all main groups of commodities except agricultural and vegetable products in the month of April, and for all except the same group and non-metallic minerals in the January-April period. Iron and steel products -- largest of the nine -- climbed in value in April to \$131,820,000 from \$110,222,000, and in the four-month period to \$455,935,000 from \$411,705,000.

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3,561,000 HOUSEHOLDS: Estimated number of households in Canada on June 1, 1952 was 3,561,000, an increase of 151,705 or 4.4 per cent since the 1951 Census, while the estimated number of families was 3,413,000, an increase of 130,555 or four per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The average size of household in Canada in 1952 was 4.0 persons, no change in size since the 1951 Census. The average size of households was largest in Newfoundland, at 5.1 persons, followed by Quebec at 4.5 persons, the Maritimes 4.2, Ontario 3.8, the Prairie Provinces 3.7, and British Columbia, 3.4.

Average size of family in Canada in 1952 was 3.7 persons, unchanged from the 1951 Census. Average size of family was largest in Newfoundland at 4.4 persons, Quebec next at 4.2, the Maritimes 4.0, the Prairie Provinces 3.7, Ontario 3.4, and British Columbia 3.3.

Purchases from the United Kingdom rose in April to \$37,947,000 from \$28,402,000, and in the four-month period to \$133,226,000 from \$96,650,000. Except for a decrease in April in the non-ferrous metals group, gains were general in the main commodity classifications both in April and the four months. Fibres and textiles and iron and products showed the largest increases in both periods.

Imports from all other Commonwealth countries fell in total value in April to \$12,476,000 from \$13,058,000, and in the four-month period to \$41,705,000 from \$54,760,000. In April there were increased purchases from Jamaica, India, Ceylon, Malaya and Singapore, but declines for Australia, New Zealand and Barbados.

LATIN AMERICA

Imports from Latin America countries were up in value in April to \$22,725,000 from \$21,481,000, and slightly higher in the January-April period to \$86,826,000 from \$86,640,000. There were gains in April in purchases from Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela, but declines for Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico.

Purchases from European countries in April were substantially higher in value at \$18,086,000 compared with \$11,221,000, and \$49,208,000 in the January-April period compared with \$44,070,000. In April there were larger purchases from Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Switzerland. Imports from the remaining group of foreign countries in April declined to \$2,680,000 from \$3,842,000, and in the four-month period to \$16,208,000 from \$16,928,000.

LABOURERS' WAGE RISE: Between 1939 and 1952 wage rates paid to male labourers in Canadian manufacturing had risen by 201.7 per cent, as compared with a rise of 178.7 per cent for all plant workers, it was announced July 27 by the Minister of Labour.

He stated that for purposes of a study conducted by the Economics and Research Branch of his Department, labourers were classified as workers who performed one or a variety of heavy or light manual duties which could be learned in a short period of time and which required a minimum of independent judgment. The study covered more than 72,000 workers in this category.

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Forty-eight per cent of Canada's occupied dwellings had furnace heating in 1951 as against less than 39 per cent in 1941.