

POPULATION INCREASE IN 1959

By January 1, Canada's population had reached an estimated 17,678,000, an increase of 394,000 or 2.3 per cent since January 1, 1959, when the figure reported was 17,284,000. This compares with increases of 397,000 in 1958 and 543,000 in 1957, the latter figure representing a record rise. The increase from July 1 last year was 196,000. Since the 1956 census, the population has increased by 1,597,000 or 9.9 per cent.

The rates of population growth since the last census were highest in British Columbia (13.9 per cent), Alberta (12.9 per cent), and Ontario (11.7 per cent) - above the national average. Quebec and Newfoundland were slightly under the national average with increases of 9.6 per cent and 9.4 per cent respectively. Rates of growth for the other provinces since 1956 were: New Brunswick 7.4 per cent, Manitoba 5.2 per cent, Prince Edward Island 4.0 per cent, Nova Scotia 3.5 per cent, and Saskatchewan 2.8 per cent.

Ontario had the largest numerical growth in population since the 1956 census (635,000), Quebec following with 442,000, British Columbia 195,000, Alberta 145,000, Manitoba 44,000, New Brunswick 41,000, Saskatchewan 25,000, and Nova Scotia 24,000.

The January 1 figures for Canada result from a population accounting that starts with the 1956 census, adds births and immigration, and deducts deaths, and an estimate of emigration based largely on United States and United Kingdom government statistics of immigration from Canada. For each province the same general method is used as for Canada. For purposes of estimating interprovincial migration, data on migrant families in receipt of Family Allowances are used.

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REGIONAL PRICE INDEXES

Eight of the ten regional-city consumer price indexes were lower between December 1959 and January 1960, with decreases ranging from 0.2 per cent in Halifax, Ottawa, Saskatoon-Regina and Vancouver to 0.7 per cent in Montreal. The Saint John, N.B., index was unchanged, while the St. John's index increased a fractional 0.1 per cent. Food indexes were lower in all cities except St. John's, which was unchanged. Shelter indexes showed mixed results, as four increased, three decreased and three remained unchanged at December levels. Clothing indexes, reflecting the customary January sales, were lower in seven cities, unchanged in two and up fractionally in St. John's. Household operation indexes were down in five cities and up in the other five. Indexes for "other" commodities and services were higher in two cities, lower in seven, and unchanged in St. John's.

COLUMBIA RIVER STATEMENT

In Ottawa on February 12, on the conclusion of the first session of the Canada-United States negotiations on the co-operative development of the water resources of the Columbia River System, the Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. E.D. Fulton, Minister of Justice, and the Chairman of the United States Delegation, Mr. E.F. Bennett, Under-Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, issued the following statement:

"This first meeting, while primarily exploratory in nature, has provided a most useful opportunity for an exchange of views and progress has been made. We are determined to proceed with all possible speed and to that end we have scheduled a second meeting to be held in Washington on March 4 and 5. In the interim, experts from both our countries will be working on some of the more technical aspects of the problems, with joint consideration by these experts of pertinent data.

"In our negotiations we are being guided by the principles recommended by the International Joint Commission and we wish to take this opportunity to commend the members of that body for the excellent preparatory studies they produced."

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IRON ORE IN 1959

Shipments of iron ore from Canadian mines in 1959 reached a record 24,444,000 tons, a steep rise from the preceding year's 15,726,000 and close to 10 per cent above the previous peak tonnage of 22,348,000 in 1956. Ore shipped for export jumped to a new high of 20,513,000 tons from 13,797,000 in 1958, while shipments to Canadian consumers were more than doubled at a record 3,931,000 tons versus 1,929,000. Stocks at the end of the year were smaller, at 1,963,000 tons as against 2,607,000.

New records were posted in the volume of shipments from both Quebec and Ontario in 1959, while the combined total for Newfoundland and British Columbia, although somewhat larger than in 1958, fell short of the 1956 peak. Shipments from Quebec mines in 1959 amounted to 11,447,000 tons against 6,060,000 in 1958 and the previous high of 8,873,000 in 1957; Ontario shipments totalled 5,973,000 tons against 3,645,000 in 1958 and the previous top figure of 5,558,000 in 1956; and shipments from Newfoundland and British Columbia amounted to 7,025,000 tons against 6,021,000 in 1958 and the 1956 high of 8,834,000 tons.

Total shipments in December amounted to 671,000 tons against 512,000 in the corresponding month in 1958. Ores for export were larger at 491,000 tons against 366,000, as were ores for shipment to Canadian consumers at 180,000 tons against 147,000.