

**AUGUST IMPORTS:** Canada's commodity imports in August declined in value from the July level, dropping somewhat more sharply than exports but still exceeding the latter by a slight margin, according to the preliminary summary statement by the Bureau of Statistics of foreign trade for the month. Imports continued well above last year's August value, however, while the value of total exports was slightly less.

August imports are estimated at \$347,100,000, substantially below the July estimate of \$407,600,000 but appreciably above last year's August figure of \$302,900,000. Purchases were higher than a year ago alike from the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth countries, the United States and other foreign countries. Total exports -- domestic and foreign -- amounted to \$346,800,000 in August as compared with \$398,200,000 in July and \$351,700,000 in August last year.

On the basis of the August imports estimate, Canada had a small debit balance of \$300,000 in the month as compared to one of \$9,300,000 for July and a credit balance of \$48,800,000 for August last year. This was the seventh debit balance this year, exports exceeding imports only in June, when a credit balance of \$9,700,000 was recorded.

During the first eight months this year imports were up in value to \$2,971,300,000 from \$2,596,400,000 for the same period last year, while exports were moderately lower at \$2,764,900,000 compared to \$2,848,700,000. The result was a cumulative debit balance of \$206,400,000 in contrast with a credit balance of \$252,300,000 last year. These compare again with a debit balance of \$335,800,000 for the first eight months of 1951.

Trade with the United States in August left Canada with a debit balance of \$47,600,000, the lowest monthly debit since last December but above last year's August debit of \$31,900,000. Imports from the United States were estimated at \$247,500,000 in August, up from \$212,800,000 last year, while exports showed a lesser gain to \$199,900,000 from \$180,900,000. In the January-August period imports rose to \$2,209,600,000 from \$1,917,200,000 in 1952 and exports to \$1,622,200,000 from \$1,503,700,000, resulting in a debit balance of \$587,400,000 for the period this year against \$413,500,000 last year.

Imports from the United Kingdom in August continued the previous gains over last year, being estimated at \$38,400,000 compared with \$32,400,000 and bringing the cumulative total to \$304,600,000 from \$227,900,000 for January-August 1952. Total exports were down in August to \$67,200,000 from \$73,000,000 a year ago, and in the eight months to \$464,200,000 from \$546,300,000. The credit balance with the United Kingdom was thus down in the month to \$28,800,000 as compared to \$40,600,000, and in the cumulative period to \$159,600,000 as against \$318,400,000.

Commodity imports from other Commonwealth countries were slightly higher this August at \$14,800,000 compared with \$14,300,000 but in the eight months were down to \$109,600,000 against \$122,900,000. Purchases from foreign countries other than the United States were higher in both periods, being estimated at \$46,400,000 in August compared with \$43,400,000 last year and in the eight months at \$347,500,000 compared with \$328,400,000.

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**NEW NAVAL DEPOT:** On Monday, October 19, the Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence, laid the cornerstone of the Royal Canadian Navy's new Supply Depot at Ville La-Salle, near Montreal.

Begun in 1951, the new stores depot provides the logistic support for naval ships and establishments at both coasts and for naval divisions throughout the country.

Vice-Admiral E.R. Mainguy, Chief of the Naval Staff, Commodore Paul W. Earl, Naval Officer-in-Charge, Montreal area, Commodore (S) R.A. Wright, Supply Officer-in-Chief, and other senior officers attended the 11 a.m. ceremony, which was followed by an inspection of the depot.

The depot, which has been in operation since February, covers an area of 96 acres, and includes an administration building, four main buildings, a motor transport garage, central heating plant, a power plant and a separate building for inflammable stores. It employs between 400 and 500 naval and civilian personnel.

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**PIPE LINE DELIVERIES:** For the fourth successive month average daily deliveries of oil through Canadian pipe lines set a new record in July, climbing to 437,852 barrels, 1.3 per cent above the June average of 432,139 barrels and 34.6 per cent over last year's July average of 325,363 barrels.

Net deliveries totalled 13,573,403 barrels in July, 609,241 more than in June and 3,487,144 more than in July last year. Cumulative net deliveries in the first seven months of this year totalled 82,028,656 barrels, a gain of 45.5 per cent over the 56,362,583 barrels delivered in the corresponding period of 1952.

Net deliveries were higher this July in all provinces. Provincial totals for the month (with corresponding 1952 figures in brackets) were: Alberta, 1,636,415 barrels (1,433,778); Saskatchewan, 1,206,369 (1,093,332); Manitoba, 3,643,212 (3,004,035); Ontario, 2,138,533 (1,37,062); and Quebec, 4,948,874 (4,418,052).

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Canadian food processors produced only 1,485,561 pounds of spiced pork and spiced ham in the second quarter of this year as compared with 26,246,585 pounds in the same quarter of 1952.