

**MAY IMPORTS DROP:** Reduced imports from the United States, the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth countries and Latin America more than counterbalanced increases from Europe and other foreign countries as a group, and Canada's imports from all countries in May declined 14.5% from last year's May total which was an all-time high, according to final figures on May's imports released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In the January-May period there was a decrease of 9.8%.

There were small increases in the agricultural and vegetable products and animals and animal products groups but the other seven groups declined. Decreases were particularly noteworthy in fibres and textiles, iron and products, non-ferrous metals, and non-metallic minerals. Agricultural and vegetable products and wood and paper were higher in value in the January-May period but the other seven groups declined.

Value of commodity imports in May was \$359,700,000 as compared with \$420,600,000 a year earlier. Prices were slightly higher this May but volume fell 15.3%. In the January-May period imports declined to \$1,634,100,000 from \$1,810,300,000; prices averaged 0.8% higher but volume declined 10.3%.

#### IMPORTS FROM U. S.

Imports from the United States in May were cut to \$259,977,000 from \$312,315,000 a year ago, and the five-month value dropped to \$1,205,818,000 from \$1,372,615,000. Among the main commodity groups agricultural and vegetable products and animals and animal products were higher in May, but other groups were lower. January-May imports were up in the agricultural and vegetable products and wood and paper groups but down in the others.

Purchases from the United Kingdom in May declined to \$35,999,000 from \$43,534,000, and in the five-month period were down to \$159,507,000 from \$176,760,000. May's imports were higher in value for agricultural and vegetable products and steady for wood and paper, but lower for other main groups. In the five-month period there were increases only for iron and products and miscellaneous commodities.

Imports from other Commonwealth countries were moderately lower in May at \$17,029,000 as compared with \$17,629,000, but the five-month total was slightly higher at \$60,737,000 as compared with \$59,334,000. Imports were higher from Australia both in May and the five months but lower from British Guiana, India, Ceylon, Malaya and Singapore, and New Zealand.

Imports from Latin America fell in May to \$24,100,000 from \$27,680,000, but rose slightly in the five months to \$115,748,000 from \$114,503,000. Purchases were higher from Argentina both in May and the cumulative period but lower from Argentina and Mexico.

Imports from European countries rose in May to \$16,098,000 from \$14,763,000, but were slightly lower in the five-month period at

\$63,519,000 as compared with \$63,975,000. Both May and January-May imports were higher for the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, but lower for Belgium and Luxembourg, France, and Italy.

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**WHEAT:** Supplies of wheat remaining on or about July 1 in the four major wheat exporting countries for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 1,711,500,000 bushels, some 48% greater than the 1,158,500,000 a year ago.

Estimated supplies in each of the four countries on July 1, with a year earlier figures in brackets, were as follows: United States, 902,900,000 (562,500,000); Canada, 589,300,000 (413,300,000); Australia, 126,600,000 (71,200,000); and Argentina, 92,700,000 (111,500,000).

Total exports of wheat and wheat flour from these four countries in the first 11 months (August-June) of the current Canadian crop year amounted to 583,500,000 bushels, down 23.5% from last season's shipments of 762,400,000 bushels. Exports from Canada declined to 233,900,000 bushels from 341,400,000, the United States to 191,200,000 bushels from 296,800,000, and Australia to 57,200,000 bushels from 94,800,000, but exports from Argentina rose to 101,200,000 bushels from 29,300,000.

While Canadian exports have declined about 31% from a year earlier, exports from the United States and Australia have dropped by some 36% and 40%, respectively.

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store at the end of the 1954 crop year aggregated 379,323,000 bushels, one-third larger than last year's 286,565,000 bushels, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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**PRINTING TRADES NEW PEAK:** Products of the printing trades and allied arts of Canada, which comprise several closely related industries -- publishing and printing, printing and bookbinding, lithographing, engraving, stereotyping, and electro-typing, and trade composition -- reached a new peak value of \$449,508,758 in 1952, an increase of 8.5% over the preceding year's \$414,259,662, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

In all there were 2,718 establishments classified in the printing trades in 1952 as compared with 2,665 the year before. With 1,163 plants, Ontario accounted for 55.2% of the total production 1952. The 694 establishments in Quebec produced 24.2% of the industry's total output, and British Columbia's 240 plants accounted for 6.8%.

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Investment in capital equipment in primary fishing operations in New Brunswick increased by \$753,400 or 10% to \$8,559,700 in 1952.