

APRIL EXPORTS DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM 1953

NEWSPRINT UP: Canada's exports of wood and paper products, chemical products, and animals and animal products were higher in value in April and the first four months of this year than a year earlier, but these gains were more than offset by declines in agricultural and vegetable products, iron and products, non-ferrous metals and products, and non-metallic minerals and products, according to detailed final figures released on June 10 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Among the major commodities, there were increased values both in April and the four-month period of fish and fishery products, wood pulp, newsprint paper, nickel, and fertilizers, but declines in wheat and other grains, planks and boards, copper and products, zinc and products, asbestos, and automobiles. April's exports of farm machinery and aluminum and products were higher in value, but four-month totals were lower. Wheat flour, precious metals (except gold) declined in the month, but moved up in the January-April period.

GEOGRAPHICALLY

Geographically, there were reduced exports in April to the United States, the United Kingdom, and Europe, but increased shipments to other Commonwealth countries as a group, Latin American countries, Europe, and other foreign countries. In the January-April period, there were increased exports to the United Kingdom and Japan but smaller shipments to the United States and Latin America with little change in the total to Europe.

The volume of exports was practically unchanged in April from a year earlier, but prices declined 2.6%. In the January-April period, volume and prices declined moderately and at about the same rate. Total value of domestic and foreign exports - as reported last week - was \$298,200,000 as compared with \$304,800,000 in April last year, bringing the

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FEWER UNEMPLOYED: There were 338,374 ordinary and supplementary benefit claimants on the live unemployment insurance register at the end of April, 74,625 or 18% fewer than at the end of March, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported on June 10. On April 30 last year, when the labour force and the insured population were considerably smaller, the number was 215,242.

During April 158,411 initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit were filed at local offices across Canada, 90,010 or 36% fewer than in March. There were 117,171 filed in April last year. New beneficiaries numbered 108,692 this April, 43,919 or 29% fewer than in March. There were 83,659 in April last year.

January-April total to \$1,164,500,000 compared with \$1,218,700,000. Domestic exports in April totalled \$292,400,000 compared with \$301,100,000 a year earlier, and the four-month total was \$1,143,400,000 compared with \$1,201,700,000.

Domestic exports to the United States in April dropped to \$176,746,000 from \$189,276,000 in April last year, and the January-April value declined to \$703,280,000 from \$753,577,000. Main decreases in April were in agricultural and vegetable products, non-ferrous metals and products, non-metallic minerals and iron products, while wood and paper showed a moderate increase. In the four-month period, major decreases occurred in agricultural and vegetable products, non-ferrous metals and products, iron and products, and wood and paper, and major increases in animals and animal products, and miscellaneous commodities.

TO UNITED KINGDOM

The month's exports to the United Kingdom were cut to \$39,118,000 from \$45,059,000, but the cumulative total for the January-April period increased to \$173,801,000 from \$168,993,000. There were major decreases in April in agricultural and vegetable products and iron and products, and a slight decline in wood and paper, but increases in animals and animal products and non-ferrous metals. In the four months there were declines in non-ferrous metals and iron and products, but large increases in wood and paper, animals and animal products, and non-metallic minerals.

Exports to the rest of the Commonwealth rose in April to \$18,785,000 from \$16,246,000 a year earlier, but the total for January-April was off to \$56,040,000 from \$72,041,000. Exports were higher to Australia, Union of South Africa, but lower to India and Pakistan both in April and the four-month period.

CAR SALES SLUMP: The slump in new motor vehicle sales continued into April with dealers across Canada selling 47,204 during the month, 9,057 or 16% less than in April last year. Total retail value was off 13.5% to \$121,653,000 from \$140,674,000. This put January-April sales at 145,248, down 17% from 174,991, with retail value off 14% to \$374,314,000 from \$437,035,000.

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Retail store sales climbed 4% last year to a record \$12,027,600,000 from \$11,575,600,000 in 1952. Largest proportional increase of 7% was in Saskatchewan, smallest gain of 2.4% in British Columbia.