

**IMPORTS DOWN 8%:** Mainly a result of smaller purchases from the United Kingdom, the United States, and Europe, Canada's commodity imports declined 11% in April from last year's high level, according to final figures on April's imports released by the Bureau. Imports were higher in value from the Latin American countries as a group, other Commonwealth countries, and other foreign countries. In the January-April period there was an overall decrease of 8%.

There were lower values in April for all of the nine main commodity classifications except the agricultural and vegetable group. The sharpest decreases were in the fibre and textiles, iron and miscellaneous commodities groups. Wood and paper and agricultural and vegetable products were higher in value in the January-April period but the other seven groups declined.

The total value of commodity imports in April was \$348,500,000 as compared with \$391,800,000 a year earlier. Prices were slightly higher this April, but volume declined almost 13%. With decreases in each month from the beginning of this year, total imports in the January-April period dropped to \$1,274,300,000 from \$1,389,700,000.

#### IMPORTS FROM U.S.

April's imports from the United States were reduced to \$255,980,000 from \$297,246,000, and the four-month total fell to \$946,084,000 from \$1,060,300,000. Among the commodities, agricultural products were higher in April and the four months, and wood and paper in the cumulative period. Other groups were lower in both periods.

Purchases from the United Kingdom dropped in April to \$35,289,000 from \$37,947,000 a year ago, and in the four-month period were down to \$123,508,000 from \$133,226,000.

Imports from other Commonwealth countries were moderately higher in value in April at \$14,799,000 as compared with \$12,476,000 a year ago, and the four-month value was up to \$43,708,000 from \$41,705,000. Imports were higher from Jamaica both in April and the January-April period, higher in April but lower in the four months from British Guiana, India, and New Zealand, and lower in the month but up in the four months from Australia.

Imports from Latin American countries declined in April to \$21,449,000 from \$22,725,000, but rose in the four-month period to \$91,646,000 from \$86,826,000. There were smaller purchases in April from Argentina, Columbia, Dominican Republic and Mexico, but larger imports from Brazil and Venezuela. In the four months there were smaller purchases from Argentina and Dominican Republic but increases from other larger sources.

Imports from European countries as a group were cut in April to \$15,474,000 from \$18,086,000, and were down in the January-April period to \$47,426,000 from \$49,208,000. Imports were higher both in April and the four-month period from France and the Federal Republic of Germany but lower from Belgium and Luxembourg, Italy, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. Purchases from other foreign countries advanced in April to \$4,268,000 from \$2,680,000, and in the four months increased to \$18,813,000 from \$16,208,000.

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**13% IMMIGRATION RISE:** Immigration rose 13 per cent to 67,955 in the five-month period ending May 31, 1954 from 59,960 in the same period last year, the Department of Citizenship and Immigration has just announced.

Arrivals from Italy and Portugal - countries with which Canada has just concluded trade treaties - contributed 5,536 of the 7,995 increase in total arrivals.

Italian immigration jumped 4,646 to 10,839 from 6,193, while Portuguese arrivals rose to 1,058 from 168, an increase of 890.

This increased total arrivals in the category which includes all countries except Britain, the United States and Northern Europe to 18,563 in the five-month period from 12,895, an increase of 44 per cent.

In the five-month period, arrivals of English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh rose to 20,571 from 18,745, while arrivals from the U.S. dropped to 3,644 from 3,956. Arrivals of North Europeans rose to 25,177 from 24,364.

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**FOREIGN SHIPPING:** Cargoes loaded at Canadian customs ports for foreign countries during 1953 totalled 32,202,205 tons, 362,710 or slightly more than 1% less than in 1952, and cargoes unloaded from foreign countries totalled 38,691,877 tons, 64,329 or less than 1% less, according to the first section of the Bureau's shipping report for last year. Loadings were up at Great Lakes and Pacific ports but down at Atlantic and Lower St. Lawrence River ports, while unloadings were higher at Atlantic and Lower St. Lawrence River ports but lower at Great Lakes and Pacific ports.

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Canada ranked third among trading nations in both exports and imports last year, accounting for about 6.3% of the trade of the non-Soviet world. The United States ranked first, followed by the United Kingdom, and the Federal Republic of Germany ranked fourth, followed by France.

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Railways had 18,170 cars in company service at the end of 1952, of which 14,960 were work cars, 3,209 caboose cars, and one a motor car.