



# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 12 No. 28

July 10, 1957

## THE TRADE PICTURE

Canada's commodity exports and imports both showed small increases in value in May over a year earlier, the former showing a slightly larger rise after a decline in April, according to preliminary figures for the month released by the Bureau of Statistics. To the end of May total exports were 3.3 per cent higher in value this year than last and imports just over 4.3 per cent higher.

Total exports in May were valued at \$445,400,000 compared to \$435,300,000 a year ago, while imports had an estimated value of \$557,400,000 against \$550,000,000, resulting in a small drop in the import surplus to \$112,000,000 compared to last year's \$114,800,000. In the five months, exports totalled \$1,936,400,000 against \$1,874,900,000 last year and imports an estimated \$2,456,900,000 versus \$2,354,600,000, the estimated import surplus rising to \$520,500,000 from \$479,700,000.

The small gain in May exports was due to increases in the value of shipments to the United Kingdom and United States, totals to other countries easing downward. In the case of imports, purchases from the United States were practically unchanged from last year, while those from other areas advanced moderately.

Value of shipments to the United States moved up in May to \$266,800,000 from \$261,700,000 last year, bringing the five-month total to \$1,156,300,000 from \$1,140,000,000. Imports in the month were estimated at \$397,400,000 against last year's \$397,700,000 and for January to May stood at an estimated \$1,825,400,000 compared to \$1,759,400,000. The excess of imports over exports in May thus declined to \$130,600,000 from \$135,900,000 but for the five months was up to \$669,100,000 from \$619,400,000.

In contrast with the declines in earlier months this year, exports to the United Kingdom rose to \$68,800,000 in May from \$59,300,000 a year ago, while imports were moderately higher at \$50,700,000 against \$49,500,000 thus producing for the first time this year a rise in the export balance to \$18,100,000 compared to \$9,700,000. Over the five months, exports to the United Kingdom were down to \$284,600,000 from \$305,800,000 and estimated imports up to \$216,600,000 from \$197,400,000, the export surplus falling to \$68,000,000 from \$108,400,000.

The table following shows export totals and preliminary import totals for May and the five months ending May, with comparative figures for 1956.

(Over)

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