

Among the steps which have been taken by the Government in order to maintain ceiling prices in Canada in the face of such unavoidable cost increases are the following:

1. The abolition of administrative simplification, and measures to effect cost economies.
2. Arranging for the industry concerned to absorb the rise by sharing the "agony" between manufacturers and distributors.
3. The removal or reduction of duties and taxes on certain imports.

The system of subsidies or government bulk purchase of certain products, whenever they are sold through normal channels of trade at prices commensurate with the retail price ceiling, is another measure which has been taken in order to maintain the cost of living. In general, import subsidies are based on the difference between the current higher cost to the importer and the cost in the basic period in 1941. Certain fruits, grains, cereals, drugs, agricultural implements, textiles, and many other products are among those on which import subsidies have been paid.

The careful use of subsidies has been thoughtfully extended to take care of unavoidable increases in costs, but the costs of subsidies were less than originally anticipated. The total of import and domestic subsidies paid in the Wartime Prices and Trade Board from December 1, 1941, to the end of 1942 was \$1,250,000,000. In addition to this figure, the Government has also paid certain subsidies to the producer.

In 1939 about 1,000,000 Canadian women were employed, and by the end of 1942 the number had risen to approximately 2,000,000. The actual increase in the armed forces, in supplying the war effort, and in producing the food required for special wartime exports, has been considerable. The number of women employed in the industry is shown by the following figures:

The munitions industry, the peak employer more than 1,000,000 persons (including 600,000 directly engaged in the manufacture of war equipment), of the total over 250,000 were women (170,000 in 1942).

Year	Number of women employed in industry at December 31
1940	1,000,000
1941	1,500,000
1942	2,000,000
1943	2,500,000