

Subsection 2.—General Analysis of Current Import and Export Trade.

The external trade of Canada, in common with that of every other country in the world, suffered a severe decline, both in volume and in value, following the war. By 1929, however, the value of Canada's external trade had reached an amount greater than even during the war years. Since then Canada's trade, like that of the principal trading countries of the world, has declined severely, reflecting the general depression in commerce and industry. The severe decline in commodity prices, which characterized all world markets, was largely responsible for this trade decrease. The particulars are set forth in the following table:—

Fiscal Year.	Imports.		Exports (Canadian).	
	Declared Value.	Based on 1926 Average Value.	Declared Value.	Based on 1926 Average Value.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1924.....	893,367,000	855,692,000	1,045,351,000	1,189,945,000
1925.....	796,933,000	805,247,000	1,069,067,000	1,129,360,000
1926.....	927,329,000	927,329,000	1,315,356,000	1,315,356,000
1927.....	1,030,893,000	1,100,530,000	1,252,158,000	1,283,685,000
1928.....	1,108,956,000	1,190,802,000	1,228,349,000	1,302,285,000
1929.....	1,265,679,000	1,403,856,000	1,363,710,000	1,548,578,000
1930.....	1,248,274,000	1,455,155,000	1,120,258,000	1,254,974,000
1931.....	906,613,000	1,162,701,000	799,653,000	1,097,271,000

Canada's total imports of merchandise in 1931, amounting to \$906,612,695, show a decrease of 27.4 p.c. compared with 1930, and exports of domestic merchandise, amounting to \$799,652,667, a decrease of 28.6 p.c. During the past year, the drastic decline in commodity prices has materially affected the comparability of trade statistics. When the fluctuations in import and export prices have been eliminated from Canadian trade, by re-valuing the quantities imported and exported in 1931 at 1926 average values, as in the above table, the 1931 imports declined 20.1 p.c. and exports 12.5 p.c. from 1930. A still more accurate relationship may be shown if the 1931 trade be compared with that of 1930 on the basis of 1930 average values, when imports, according to a preliminary survey, show a decrease of only 16.3 p.c. and exports of 13.3 p.c.

The decline in Canada's trade was not so marked as that of the United States and some of the other competitive British and foreign countries. The imports of Canada for the calendar year 1930, compared with 1929, declined 22.4 p.c. as against 27.7 p.c. for the United States, while her domestic exports declined 25.1 p.c. compared with a decline in United States exports of 26.7 p.c. The trade of both Canada and the United States suffered more from the general trade depression of the world than the trade of the chief commercial countries of Europe.

Statistical Tables of Current Trade.—Tables 10 to 18 (pp. 424-489) deal with the current trade statistics of the Dominion. Tables 10 and 11 are summary tables, showing by groups our trade with the United Kingdom, the United States and all countries, by values and percentages, for the latest four fiscal years. Table 12 shows the same in detail for exports and Table 13 for imports of all important articles. Table 14 shows by main classes imports as dutiable and free and exports as of Canadian and foreign produce for the five fiscal years ended 1931. Table 15 shows imports and exports for the fiscal year ended 1931 by degree of manufacture and by origin, and Table 16 gives similar information on a classification according to purpose. Table 17 gives our imports and exports for the two latest years by ports and provinces, and Table 18 shows the values imported from different countries under the preferential, treaty rate and general tariffs in 1930 and 1931.