

ordinary trade or commercial considerations. In addition, gold is generally acceptable. It does not have to surmount tariff barriers and is normally assured a market at a relatively fixed price.

It should also be noted that gold does not move in international trade in any direct or normal relation to sales and purchases. It may be bought or sold abroad without moving in or out across the frontier, the sales or purchases in such cases being recognized by simply setting aside or earmarking the gold in the vaults of the central bank. Trade statistics deal only with physical movements, sales or purchases of gold that do not involve an actual movement being more properly regarded as an 'invisible' item and taken care of in the "International Balance of Payments" statement appearing in Part III, Section 1, of this chapter. Changes in the Bank of Canada's stock of gold under earmark do not enter, therefore, into the trade statistics.

The publication of statistics showing the *gross* imports and exports of gold has been temporarily suspended as from September, 1939. Trade statistics for periods prior to this time have been revised accordingly to exclude all gold formerly included in the total of merchandise exports.

Statistics showing the *net* exports of non-monetary gold, including changes in stocks held under earmark, are published as a supplement to the trade figures, and are given below.

NET EXPORTS OF NON-MONETARY GOLD, 1936-40

Month	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000
January.....	10.8	10.1	11.0	18.1	21.6
February.....	12.1	10.8	11.2	12.9	12.4
March.....	8.7	16.3	17.6	15.5	16.2
April.....	11.9	10.3	9.3	10.6	18.0
May.....	8.6	10.3	14.3	15.9	16.9
June.....	11.3	13.5	11.5	17.2	15.1
July.....	9.0	10.1	11.5	15.2	15.9
August.....	10.5	12.3	16.6	9.0	17.6
September.....	10.3	11.6	15.1	17.3	16.5
October.....	13.4	11.3	15.5	22.8	18.9
November.....	13.6	12.1	15.3	15.0	16.6
December.....	11.5	16.4	11.6	14.9	17.3
Totals.....	131.7	145.1	160.5	184.4	203.0

Section 1.—Historical Statistics of Canadian Trade

In previous editions of the Year Book, figures for Tables 1 and 2 were given for every year since Confederation. In this issue the tables have been reduced somewhat but figures for earlier years may be found in the corresponding tables of previous issues.

Necessarily, some difficulties have been met in maintaining comparable statistics over the period shown in Table 1; one of the most serious of these arises from the different methods adopted in dealing with exports of foreign produce.