



During the last few months of 1946, the proportion of non-commercial imports declined considerably and will probably fall to negligible proportions in 1947. When comparing 1946 figures with those of the war years, a more correct picture is presented by the use of commercial import figures as a basis for comparison.

Treatment of Gold in Trade Statistics.—The fact that gold is a money metal gives it peculiar attributes that distinguish it from other commodities in trade. In particular, the movement of gold in international trade is determined, almost exclusively, by monetary factors. The amount of exports may fluctuate widely from month to month owing to other than 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. Changes in the Bank of Canada's stock of gold under earmark do not enter, therefore, into the trade statistics.

Since 1939, the statistics of movement of coin and bullion have been compiled by the Bank of Canada and the basis has been considerably changed from that previously shown in the *Canada Year Book* (see p. 528 of the 1940 edition). The following statement of net exports of non-monetary gold for years since 1939, on a monthly basis, is obtained from the Bank of Canada and is the only data that have since been given publicity.