

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 normally is 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.

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

II.—NET EXPORTS OF NON-MONETARY GOLD, 1942-49
(Millions of dollars)

Month	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
January.....	15.1	13.9	9.4	8.7	9.3	9.0	9.6	9.7
February.....	16.6	12.8	8.1	8.4	9.5	6.9	8.9	9.6
March.....	16.1	12.8	12.9	10.2	10.0	6.8	8.7	12.1
April.....	14.1	13.5	9.3	6.8	7.2	6.4	9.5	9.8
May.....	15.5	12.5	9.4	10.2	10.0	8.2	8.8	12.4
June.....	16.8	12.2	10.9	4.7	7.7	8.6	9.6	9.8
July.....	16.3	10.0	6.6	8.0	6.6	10.1	10.8	9.4
August.....	13.1	10.2	10.0	8.5	7.5	7.5	9.7	13.8
September.....	15.0	11.8	8.7	6.8	6.8	8.4	11.9	11.2
October.....	19.3	11.3	8.4	7.7	8.5	9.2	9.6	13.2
November.....	12.6	8.8	10.1	9.8	6.0	7.2	9.1	15.4
December.....	13.9	12.2	5.9	6.2	6.7	11.0	12.8	12.5
TOTALS.....	184.4	142.0	109.7	96.0	95.8	99.3	119.0	138.9

Section 2.—Total Foreign Trade

In considering the figures in Sections 2 to 6, reference should be made to the explanatory notes on trade in Section 1. It must be emphasized that gold imports and exports are excluded from all tables. Imports from the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1946 are distorted by the inclusion of large amounts of non-commercial items in the trade returns (see p. 885). United Kingdom figures can be viewed in proper perspective only if these non-commercial items are excluded from the recorded import statistics.