

sectors) rose 7 p.c. over 1950 while the general index of wholesale prices advanced by 14 p.c. The value of farm output was also considerably higher in 1951, owing to larger crops and higher prices.

During 1952, industrial production averaged nearly 3 p.c. above the level of the preceding year. By contrast, wholesale prices declined by about 6 p.c. in the same comparison. Although prices of farm products also declined in 1952, favourable growing and harvesting conditions resulted in record crops of wheat, barley and soybeans and near-record or above-average outturns of most other field crops.

## Section 2.—Industrial Distribution of Production

Between 1946 and 1950, the total net value of commodity production rose by more than 69 p.c. Higher price levels, sustained demand for consumer goods at home and abroad, the industrial development program and the expansion of defence industries have all contributed to this rapid advance. Most of the industrial groups showed increases in the five-year comparison, the largest gains being recorded in construction, mining and manufacturing. The continuing high level of building activity and the rapid advance of construction costs resulted in an increase of 214 p.c. in value of output for the construction industry. Higher prices and greater volume also accounted for the 104-p.c. gain in the value of mining and the 71-p.c. advance in the value of manufactures. The electric-power industry also expanded steadily since World War II, while forestry operations, after showing a moderate decline in 1949, resumed their upward trend in 1950. The value of agricultural output, after having receded slightly between 1948 and 1949, showed a further decline of about 7 p.c. in 1950, but was still 29 p.c. greater than in 1946. The trend in the output of fisheries was irregular over the period, declines having been shown in 1947 and 1949. Production in the trapping industry showed a tendency to decline.

Secondary production (construction and manufactures) has contributed a distinctly larger proportion of the total value of Canadian commodity output during recent years than it did before the second world war. Manufacturing constitutes the bulk of secondary production and, during the first five post-war years, has contributed between 54 p.c. and 58 p.c. of the total value of commodity production, compared with less than 52 p.c. in 1938 and 1939. The construction industry, which is frequently subject to steep fluctuations, had been accounting for approximately 6 p.c. of the total before the War. After declining during the war period, it recovered strongly in recent years; its value represented over 12 p.c. of total production in 1950.

The contribution of primary production to the Canadian aggregate has fallen off relatively to secondary production, and in 1950 stood at only 31.6 p.c., the lowest on record. However, the absolute value of primary production almost tripled between 1938 and 1950. Throughout the period, agriculture remained by far Canada's leading primary industry, providing rather more than 20 p.c. of the total value of commodity production in most years. Mining contributed about 6 p.c. during the past few years, a smaller proportion than a decade ago. The relative importance of electric power has also receded compared with pre-war years. The share of the forestry industry in commodity production, after fluctuating considerably, stood at 3.6 p.c. in 1950.