

Current Perspective.—*Gross National Product and National Income.*—The market value of the nation's total production, as measured by the gross national product, was \$24,350,000,000 in 1953, an increase of 5 p.c. over 1952. As prices remained relatively steady throughout the year, the total volume increase was about 4 p.c. Although the 1953 grain crop was one of the largest on record, it was considerably below the extraordinary 1952 level, so that a decline in production occurred in the agricultural sector of the economy. The gain in non-agricultural production was thus somewhat higher than the total of 4 p.c. noted above, or about 5 p.c. Accompanying the increase of 5 p.c. in the volume of non-farm output, there was a rise of about 2 p.c. in the number of persons with jobs in the non-agricultural sector of the economy. Thus, the figures indicate a gain in over-all output per working person in the non-farm sector.

National income rose by 4.5 p.c. in 1953, to reach a total of \$19,043,000,000. Wages, salaries and supplementary labour income, the largest component of national income, amounted to \$11,661,000,000 in 1953, an increase of about 8 p.c. over the previous year. Inasmuch as consumers' prices remained relatively unchanged, this increase represented a 'real' gain in income for wage and salary earners. However, the quarter-to-quarter trend in wages and salaries, seasonally adjusted, which had been very strongly upward in the preceding two-year period, showed no significant rise after the second quarter of 1953. Corporation profits before taxes, the largest single item in investment income, showed a drop of about 3 p.c. between 1952 and 1953. Accrued net income of farm operators from farm production amounted to \$1,649,000,000 in 1953, a drop of 11 p.c. from the high level of the previous year. Net income of non-farm unincorporated business increased by 8 p.c. in 1953. The largest single gain was in residential construction, reflecting the sharp increase in house building.

1.—National Income and Gross National Product, 1929-53

(Millions of dollars)

Item	1929	1939	1944	1946	1950 ¹	1951	1952	1953
Wages, salaries and supplementary labour income.....	2,929	2,575	4,940	5,323	8,311	9,716	10,818	11,661
Military pay and allowances.....	8	32	1,068	340	137	201	270	309
Investment income.....	836	917	1,829	1,975	3,155	3,642	3,723	3,744
Net Income of Unincorporated Business—								
Accrued net income of farm operators from farm production....	408	385	1,185	1,112	1,503	2,072	1,858	1,649
Net income of non-farm unincorporated business.....	608	464	804	1,071	1,444	1,507	1,552	1,680
Net National Income at Factor Cost.....	4,789	4,373	9,826	9,821	14,550	17,138	18,221	19,043
Indirect taxes less subsidies.....	681	733	1,111	1,269	2,018	2,478	2,744	2,908
Depreciation allowances and similar business costs.....	709	610	957	903	1,636	1,910	2,128	2,336
Residual error of estimate.....	-13	-9	60	33	-1	-52	+92	63
Gross National Product at Market Prices.....	6,166	5,707	11,954	12,026	18,203	21,474	23,185	24,350

¹ Newfoundland included from 1950.