

Section 2.—The Construction Industry

Subsection 1.—Value of Construction Work Performed

Statistics of the construction industry are based largely on information received at the same time and from the same sources as the data on capital expenditures which appear in Section 1.* The data represent the estimated total value of all new and repair construction. The slight differences between these figures and the corresponding figures of Section 1 are accounted for by rounding and minor revisions.

The intended construction program in Canada for 1956, including all sectors of the Canadian economy—business, institutions, government and housing—is estimated at \$6,271,000,000, a figure considerably above the record set in 1955. The volume of new construction carried out in 1954 increased 1 p.c. over 1953 and preliminary estimates for 1955 show a 12 p.c. rise over 1954, bringing the volume of construction to a new high in postwar years. Repair construction expenditures increased 5 p.c. from 1953 to 1954 but decreased 4 p.c. in 1955.

The importance of the construction industry in the economy of the country is illustrated by the fact that it continues to account for more than 18 p.c. of the gross national product. Table 5 shows construction, both new and repair, in constant as well as current dollars.

* An explanation of sources and methods is given in the 1955 Year Book, p. 727, and DBS annual report *Construction in Canada*.

5.—Value of Construction Work Performed, Current and Constant (1949) Dollars 1947-56

NOTE.—Actual 1947-54; preliminary 1955; intentions 1956.

(Millions of Dollars)

| Year | New Construction | | Repair and Maintenance Construction | | Total Construction | | Total Construction as P.C. of Gross National Product | |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|--|----------|
| | Current | Constant | Current | Constant | Current | Constant | Current | Constant |
| 1947..... | 1,424 | 1,681 | 592 | 696 | 2,016 | 2,377 | 14·6 | 15·4 |
| 1948..... | 1,877 | 1,947 | 694 | 720 | 2,571 | 2,667 | 16·5 | 17·0 |
| 1949 ¹ | 2,124 | 2,124 | 732 | 732 | 2,856 | 2,856 | 17·3 | 17·5 |
| 1950..... | 2,366 | 2,247 | 766 | 727 | 3,132 | 2,974 | 17·2 | 17·2 |
| 1951..... | 2,734 | 2,308 | 927 | 783 | 3,661 | 3,091 | 17·0 | 16·9 |
| 1952..... | 3,282 | 2,616 | 916 | 730 | 4,198 | 3,346 | 18·0 | 17·1 |
| 1953..... | 3,666 | 2,824 | 974 | 749 | 4,640 | 3,573 | 19·0 | 17·6 |
| 1954..... | 3,700 | 2,852 | 1,023 | 787 | 4,723 | 3,639 | 19·6 | 18·5 |
| 1955..... | 4,274 | 3,200 | 1,012 | 755 | 5,286 | 3,955 | 19·9 | 18·4 |
| 1956..... | 5,161 | .. | 1,110 | .. | 6,271 | .. | .. | .. |

¹ Newfoundland included from 1949.