

Section 1.—Industrial Distribution of Production

Trend in the Period 1950-55.—The total net value of commodity production rose by 46 p.c. between 1950 and 1955. Sustained demand for consumer goods both domestically and abroad, the industrial and resource development programs, and the expansion of defence industries all contributed to this advance, and each of the eight industrial groups showed an increase in value of output in the five-year comparison. The net value of agricultural production in 1955 was \$1,937,000,000, somewhat higher than in 1950, though far below the total for 1951. A much larger wheat crop in 1955 resulted in an increase in value from the low point of 1954. The net value of output of forestry operations was nearly \$665,000,000 in 1955, \$80,000,000 above the 1954 total and 36 p.c. above 1950; the 1955 total, however, was only slightly above the previous peak in 1951. Value of production in the primary fisheries industry for 1955 was \$91,000,000, about 11 p.c. higher than in 1950 but lower than in most intervening years. Quantity of seafish landed fell off in 1955 from the 1954 peak, although prices of fisheries products were slightly higher. Value of output in the trapping industry in 1955 was somewhat above the 1950 level.

Over the review period the net value of production in the mining industry advanced steadily to a record high of \$1,061,000,000 in 1955, more than 61 p.c. above the 1950 level. The volume of fuel production was up 156 p.c., petroleum rising by nearly 350 p.c. Volume of metal output recorded a 24-p.c. gain. Shipments of iron ore were well over four times higher in 1955 than in 1950 and were still rising rapidly. In 1955, when operations in the Labrador area covered the full season for the first time, output of ore was double the 1954 total. Production of non-metals rose by 23 p.c. in the 1950-55 period. The generation of electric power showed an increase of 50 p.c. in the same comparison and, in terms of net value, the industry advanced by over 73 p.c.

The net value of manufacturing production rose fairly steadily over the 1950-55 period—the total of \$8,753,000,000 in 1955 was 47 p.c. above 1950. The value of durable manufactures was up more than 52 p.c. in this comparison, and of non-durables nearly 43 p.c. The former accounted for nearly 48 p.c. of manufacturing net value in 1955 as compared with 46 p.c. in 1950. Non-ferrous metal products advanced 90 p.c. and showed the greatest increase among the durable industries, iron and steel products and transportation equipment increased by about 47 p.c., and wood products by 36 p.c. The net value of non-metallic mineral products increased by over 79 p.c., and value of electrical apparatus by 49 p.c. In the non-durables sector, petroleum and coal products recorded the largest increase of 189 p.c., followed by chemical products and printing and publishing with gains of 67 p.c. and 52 p.c., respectively. By contrast, value of output in the textiles industry showed a fractional decline as compared with 1950 and production of clothing (including knitting mill products) rose by less than 14 p.c.

The construction industry showed the largest proportionate gain of the major commodity industries. The value of net output increased by almost 88 p.c. from \$1,475,000,000 in 1950 to \$2,770,000,000 in 1955, accounted for by a substantial rise in the amount of building activity and by a sharp advance in construction costs. Investment in new construction for 1955 stood at \$3,328,000,000, 82 p.c. above the corresponding figure for 1950. Investment rose steeply in both the residential and the non-residential sectors.

During the period 1950-55, the contribution of secondary commodity output continued to increase, relatively to primary production. In 1955 secondary production (manufacturing and construction) accounted for nearly 73 p.c. of all commodity output as compared with 68 p.c. in 1950. The main factor in this change was the large gain in the contribution of construction which accounted for 17.5 p.c. of all commodity production value in 1955 as compared with 13.6 p.c. in 1950. The share of manufacturing, which was slightly under 55 p.c. in 1950, was virtually unchanged in 1955.

The decline in the contribution of the primary industries from just under 32 p.c. in 1950 to slightly over 27 p.c. in 1955 was entirely accounted for by a drop in agriculture from 17.3 p.c. in 1950 to 12.2 p.c. in 1955. The reduced share of agricultural output during 1954 and 1955 was largely the result of smaller wheat crops.