

comparison, accounted for mainly by substantial gains in most durable industries, especially iron and steel products. The construction industry showed the largest increase among the commodity groups in 1956; the net value rose by more than 20 p.c. as compared with 1955.

Advance indicators suggest a levelling off in the net value of production for 1957. During the first nine months of 1957, the index of industrial production averaged only 1.5 p.c. higher than in the corresponding period of 1956; the seasonally adjusted index reached a peak in February and later showed a steadily declining trend. For the first ten months of 1957, the general wholesale price index averaged a little over 1 p.c. above the level for the same period of 1956.

Section 2.—Provincial Distribution of Production

Each province and territory recorded a higher net value of production in 1955 than in 1950. Alberta and British Columbia showed the highest proportionate gains in this comparison. Value of output in Alberta rose by over 73 p.c. during the five years, and value of production in British Columbia by more than 54 p.c. These provinces were followed by Quebec with an increase of 47 p.c., Ontario with 43 p.c., and Saskatchewan with 45 p.c. Advances were more moderate in the other provinces.

Newfoundland.—In 1955 the net value of commodity production in Newfoundland, exclusive of agriculture which is of minor importance in the Province, amounted to nearly \$190,000,000, or about 1.2 p.c. of the Canadian total. Manufacturing accounted for more than 30 p.c. of all commodity production, the products being mainly produced by pulp and paper mills and fish processing plants. Mining followed manufacturing in importance with a contribution of 22 p.c. to provincial output. The principal mineral product is iron ore, which had a greatly expanded output in 1955, and the production of zinc and lead was substantial. Construction also contributed 22 p.c. of Newfoundland's value of commodity production, followed by forestry and primary fisheries.

Prince Edward Island.—The economy of this Province is largely agricultural. Farm output in 1955—principally livestock, potatoes and dairy products—constituted nearly 46 p.c. of the total value of commodity production. Construction contributed 25 p.c. and, together with manufactures, accounted for the bulk of non-farm output. Total net value of production was more than 27 p.c. higher in 1955 than in 1950, and in the later year represented 0.3 p.c. of Canadian commodity production.

Nova Scotia.—The net value of production in Nova Scotia increased nearly 31 p.c. between 1950 and 1955 and accounted for 2.2 p.c. of the national total in the latter year. In 1955, manufactures contributed 40 p.c. of the Province's value of production and primary iron and steel, fish processing, pulp and paper production and shipbuilding were the most important manufacturing industries. Construction accounted for almost 21 p.c. of the Province's total output. Mining and agriculture, Nova Scotia's principal primary industries, contributed approximately 15 p.c. and 9 p.c., respectively, to the 1955 total. Coal mining represented nearly 75 p.c. of the total value of mineral output and dairy products, livestock, poultry and eggs were the principal farm products.

New Brunswick.—The net value of commodity output in New Brunswick recorded a substantial increase in 1955 after declining slightly during the immediately preceding years, and was nearly 22 p.c. above the 1950 total. Over the period, New Brunswick's contribution to the Canadian aggregate fell from 2.3 p.c. to 1.9 p.c. Manufacturing accounted for 40 p.c. of all value of commodity output in 1955, and the main industries were pulp and paper, sawmilling, fish processing and shipbuilding. The primary industries of agriculture and forestry accounted for 13 p.c. and 11 p.c., respectively, of 1955 output. The most important farm products were livestock, dairy items, potatoes and eggs. The net value of construction output increased to make up nearly 27 p.c. of the provincial aggregate in 1955.