

Section 2.—Travel between Canada and Other Countries

A new record was set in volume of travel between Canada and other countries in 1956. Visits to Canada by residents of other countries numbered 27,700,000 while Canadians reciprocated with 27,200,000 visits to other countries. The volume of all travel amounted to 54,900,000 visits as compared with 53,200,000 visits in 1955, an increase of approximately 3 p.c.; the 1955 increase over 1954 was nearly 7 p.c.

While the increase in the number of Canadians travelling to other countries in 1956 was about 2,400,000 or 9 p.c. as compared with 1955, which in turn was 1,500,000 over 1954, the entries into Canada by residents of other countries declined by 614,300 or nearly 2 p.c. This included approximately 616,900 fewer visits from the United States but 2,600 additional entries direct from overseas countries. The 1955 figure was an increase of nearly 2,000,000 over 1954.

Regardless of the fewer number of visitors coming to Canada in 1956, visitor expenditures in this country reached an all-time high of \$337,000,000, \$9,000,000 above the expenditure figure for 1955 or an increase of nearly 3 p.c. The 1955 total was an increase of about \$23,000,000 over 1954. At the same time, Canadians spent nearly \$500,000,000 travelling in other countries during 1956, \$49,000,000 or 11 p.c. more than in 1955. Thus the debit balance on travel account which had been \$121,000,000 in 1955 was extended by \$40,000,000 to \$161,000,000 in 1956, almost double the 1954 figure.

Travel by Residents of the United States in Canada.—Receipts from residents of the United States advanced to a record of \$309,000,000 in 1956, 2 p.c. higher than in 1955 even though 2 p.c. fewer visits were recorded. The increase was accounted for by the tourists travelling by automobile who spent \$172,000,000 in Canada as compared with \$165,000,000 in 1955. There were 8,400,000 non-resident automobiles in Canada during 1956, about 241,000 more than in 1955. However, this increase was more than accounted for by a 5-p.c. increase in the non-permit or local class of vehicles entering—the number of foreign vehicles entering on travellers' vehicle permits was between 1 and 2 p.c. lower than in 1955, but these expenditures were slightly higher. Average expenditure per visit in 1956 was higher in most of the provinces and the aggregate for all provinces was up between 3 and 4 p.c. Receipts from the non-permit or local classification of automobile traffic were also substantially higher in 1956. Receipts from visitors arriving by other forms of transportation were practically unchanged from the previous year, although there was a substantial decrease in their numbers.

Motorists entering Canada on travellers' vehicle permits contributed about 44 p.c. of the total travel receipts from residents of the United States during 1956. Although no direct record of their movement within Canada is maintained, a study of the ports of entry and exit give some indication of the routes within Canada that attract the greatest number of American motorists. This information represents minimum interprovincial or interregional travel and does not include cars entering or leaving by the same province or region after visiting other provinces or other areas within the province of entry. During 1956, 5,376 cars entered Canada through ports in the Maritime Provinces and returned to the United States through ports in the Province of Quebec, whereas 8,611 vehicles entered Canada through ports in Quebec and returned to the United States through ports in the Maritime Provinces. From 75 to 77 p.c. of these visitors remained in Canada for three or more days. The most popular route for travel in each direction lies between the ports of St. Stephen, N.B., and Blackpool, Que.

The interchange of entries and exits between Ontario and Quebec accounts for a substantial segment of the number of Americans travelling in these Provinces. During 1956, some 33,380 foreign vehicles entered Canada on customs permits through ports in Quebec and returned to the United States through Ontario ports. This represented about 8 p.c. of all the vehicles entering Canada through Quebec ports. Approximately 82 p.c. of these motorists stayed in Canada for three or more days. Travel in the opposite direction