

4.—Electricity and Gas Meter Registrations, 1950-59

| Year | Electricity Meters | Gas Meters | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|
| | | Manufactured Gas | Natural Gas | Petroleum Gas | Total |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| 1950..... | 3,405,342 | 610,096 | 252,468 | 33 | 862,602 ¹ |
| 1951..... | 3,591,056 | 609,062 | 264,154 | 68 | 873,280 ¹ |
| 1952..... | 3,779,868 | 599,140 | 277,248 | 1,270 | 877,663 ¹ |
| 1953..... | 3,968,020 | 593,698 | 298,166 | 429 | 892,297 ¹ |
| 1954..... | 4,175,534 | 420,432 | 486,768 | 532 | 907,736 ¹ |
| 1955..... | 4,380,889 | 416,338 | 507,875 | 3,147 | 927,364 ¹ |
| 1956..... | 4,571,391 | 350,558 | 599,633 | 4,843 | 955,034 |
| 1957..... | 4,748,636 | 67,726 | 943,783 | 4,570 | 1,016,079 |
| 1958..... | 4,941,667 | 35,967 | 1,069,892 | 5,101 | 1,110,960 |
| 1959..... | 5,157,495 | 32,799 | 1,162,678 | 4,266 | 1,199,743 |

¹ Includes five acetylene meters in 1950, 1951 and 1952 and four in 1953, 1954 and 1955.

Product Design.—The Design Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce administers programs of the National Design Council aimed at stimulating interest in good Canadian product design. The Branch operates closely with the Association of Canadian Industrial Designers and the Association of Professional Industrial Designers of Ontario, as well as with manufacturers and retailers. It organizes travelling exhibitions in Canada and participates in industrial design exhibitions abroad.

Through its close connections with leaders in industry, the Branch administers the Design Award program of the National Design Council. A design award is granted only for products meeting with the high standards of design and quality set by the Council. Photographic and product information records are maintained on each item submitted for a Design Award, as well as on new products for design development. The Branch also administers the Council's scholarship program to encourage the study and teaching of good design in Canada; the scholarships are available only to Canadians.

A bi-monthly bulletin on industrial design is published by the Branch, providing information on scholarships, Council meetings, design awards and exhibitions. A Design Index is published every second year, which includes all approved Canadian designs as well as those that have earned the right to use the design insignia.

Government Aid to Small Business.—The Small Business Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce provides a liaison between the Federal Government and small business. It is a contact point for businessmen, either individually or through their associations, to explain their problems to the Government; these problems are studied and, in consultation with other departments, recommendations are made where appropriate.

The Small Business Branch is also a clearing house for inquiries on all aspects of business operation, including such matters as the establishment of various types of businesses, capital requirements, licensing regulations, tariffs, taxation and production techniques. The Branch supplies general economic and statistical information on markets, production and related subjects to businessmen who are planning expansions. Inquiries involving technical or specialized knowledge are referred to the appropriate federal departments or