

# BANK OF FINLAND MONTHLY BULLETIN 

Vol. 31 No. 1<br>1957

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

## PUBLIC FINANCES

Following the general strike in March last year, State finances were subjected to much strain. In the agreement entered upon at the termination of the strike, the Government undertook to reduce several items of revenue. Amongst other items, employers' contributions towards child allowances were lowered from 4 to 3 per cent of the pay roll, corporate income tax for 1956 was lowered from 38 to 32 per cent of income, and the depreciation allowances of firms were extended. As, in addition, the strike had occasioned direct reductions in revenue, at that time the Minister of Finance estimated the total deficit for 1956 at some 20000 mill. marks.
To prevent the reduction in revenue from increasing the inflationary pressure accompanying the wage rises caused by the strike, the Government took steps to counterbalance the anticipated budgetary deficit. During March-April, import duties on coffee, petrol and sugar were raised, as were the price equalisation charges for petroleum, and the monopoly prices of spirits and wines. In June, the railway and post tariffs, as well as stamp duties, were raised, and purchase tax was reimposed on some textiles.
These measures did not, however, influence to any great extent the size of incomes during the first six months of 1956. By the
end of June, the accounts showed a deficit of 7000 mill. marks, as against 1900 million one year previously. By the end of August, the situation was already better than it had been twelve months earlier, although this was far less the restult of the above mentioned increase in revenue than it being due to the fact that the Treasury was no longer burdened with the amortisation of the index-tied second indemnity loan, the final instalment of which had been paid in August 1955.
During the autumn a continuous growth in expenditure again worsened the situation. On October 20, the Government decided upon a radical reduction of subsidies. By raising consumer prices, the subsidies for sugar and sausages were abolished, and those for butter reduced. The prices of coffee were raised to such an extent that the price equalisation became an item of revenue. Taken together, these reductions in expenditure, or increases in revenue, were estimated at 29000 mill. marks per annum, and this already meant a considerable improvement in the cash position of the State during the course of 1956.

The latest available figures relate to

[^0]January-November. According to these, the eleven-month total of expenditure, amounting to 240800 mill. marks, exceeded the total for the whole of 1955. Revenue, at 236600 million, also exceeded the final amount for 1955. The over-all deficit for January-November was 4200 mill. marks, compared with 1800 million for the corresponding period of the previous year. For the whole of 1956 , only rough estimates can be presented. It appears that total expenditure may rise to 275000 mill. marks, while revenue, as estimated by the Ministry of Finance, will probably be 5000 million less.

In the budget passed for 1957, expenditure and revenue balance at 250000 mill. marks. These estimates are, however, certain to be exceeded. For instance, the new National Pensions system (see article in No. 9, 1956) will add 8000 mill. marks to the 1956 level of expenditure; unemployment will probably be far more extensive than it was last year, and will cause considerable additional expenditure. When one takes into account the increase in prices and wages, the total of additional expenditure may be estimated at 35000 mill. marks at least, against which can be set the decrease of some 10000 mill . marks in subsidies. Thus, total expenditure for 1957 would be at least 300000 mill. marks. On the other hand, a considerable increase in revenue is to be expected, not only as a result of the above mentioned rise in rates of taxes and charges, and of the change in price equalisation, but also because of the rise in the level of wages and prices. The increase in revenue, may, however, fail to cover the increase in expenditure, as far as is known at this moment.

Moreover, there are many unknown factors which may upset calculations. The decrease in foreign exchange reserves has already called for restriction of imports, and this policy will have to be continued unless export conditions improve. The decrease in imports naturally affects revenue from taxation,
primarily reducing the purchase tax and import duties. Dealing with the unemployment situation may prove still more expensive than has been predicted. The rise in the cost of living has caused wage movements the outcome of which is essentially dependent on the formulation of the economic policy now under discussion. It appears, in fact, that the budget may form a highly expansive factor in this year's economic development. Yet, a deficit policy is by no means competible with the stabilisation plans. Moreover, a deficit policy will be hindered by the fact that the Treasury's balance on cheque account with the Bank of Finland is very small, and that borrowing at the Bank is out of the question. Thus, strong measures for reducing expenditure are essential in order to balance the budget.

## NEW INTEREST AGREEMENT

On December 31, 1956, after prolonged negotiations the Joint Delegation of Financial Institutions concluded a new interest agreement for 1957. The previous one was signed in December 1955 and repealed in September 1956. (Bulletin Nos. 1 and 10, 1956). The new agreement contains no stipulations concerning lending rates. According to the former one, the highest lending rate in use was 8 per cent, with the exception of the charge of $81 / 2$ per cent made by the small credit institutions.

In the new agreement, deposit rates were retained unchanged, except in the case of index-tied deposits. The rate of interest on ordinary deposit accounts is $53 / 4$ per cent, on cheque accounts 1 per cent in the commercial banks and $11 / 2$ per cent in other credit institutions, and on postal giro account 1 per cent. The rate for index-tied deposits was lowered from $53 / 4$ to $43 / 4$ per cent. - Further particulars concerning the index-tied deposits are given among the Items in this Bulletin.

January 31, $195 \%$.

BANK OF FINLAND
Mill. mk

|  | 1955 |  | 1956 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Nov. 30 | Dec. 31 | Dec. 8 | Dec. 15 | Dec. 22 | Dec. 31 |
| BALANCESHEET |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assets |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ordinary note cover | $4 \times 367$ | 38314 | 32581 | 32321 | 32670 | 32300 |
| Gold . . | 7879 | 7849 | 7849 | 7849 | 7849 | 7849 |
| Foreign exchange | 31020 | 28089 | 21710 | 21 450 | 21 799 | 21560 |
| Foreign bills | 116 | I16 | 116 | 116 | 116 | 116 |
| Foreign bonds | 2353 | 2260 | 2907 | 2907 | 2907 | 2775 |
| Supplementary note cover <br> Inland bills discounted | 52070 | 65576 | 69248 | 71612 | 80536 | 75452 |
| In foreign currency. | 8499 | 8511 | 9326 | 9352 | 9356 | 9366 |
| In Finnish currency | 13563 | 14437 | 15806 | 15994 | 15863 | 14922 |
| Rediscounted bills ... | 10007 | 22628 | 26615 | 28767 | 37817 | 33665 |
| Treasury bond loan | 20000 | 20000 | 17500 | 17500 | 17500 | 17500 |
| Other assets | 13145 | Ir 617 | 13980 | 13870 | 15204 | 13370 |
| Finnish bonds | X 999 | 1915 | I 925 | r 925 | r 925 | 1794 |
| Cheque accounts | 294 | 490 | 767 | 525 | r 764 | 862 |
| Finnish coin | 237 | 195 | 335 | 323 | 297 | 354 |
| Other claims | 10615 | 9016 | 10953 | II 097 | II 218 | 10 360 |
| Total | 106582 | 115506 | 115809 | 117803 | 128409 | 121 123 |
| Liabilities |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes in circulation | 53493 | 55883 | 58233 | 59034 | 60674 | 60735 |
| Short-term liabilities . . . . . . | 30640 | 33309 | 17925 | 19297 | 27782 | 24725 |
| Foreign exchange accounts . . . . . | 4166 | 3855 | 4437 | 4872 | 5872 | 4601 |
| Mark accounts of holders abroad | 3946 | 3898 | 6800 | 7079 | 7133 | 7047 |
| Cheque account of the Treasury | 9627 | 9816 | 5049 | 5744 | 13609 | 10550 |
| Cheque accounts of banks . . . . . . . . . . | 6924 | 8384 | 328 | 452 | - | I 167 |
| Other cheque accounts .............. . | 5323 | 6733 | 287 | 210 | 234 | 368 |
| Other short-term liabilities . . . . . . . . . . | 654 | 624 | 1025 | 940 | 934 | 993 |
| Long-term liabilities | 8876 | 9013 | 18235 | 18210 | ${ }_{18} 821$ | 14725 |
| Foreign . . . . . . . | 7582 | 7719 | 8252 | 8280 | 8287 | 8290 |
| Finnish | I 294 | I 294 | 9983 | 9930 | 10 334 | 6435 |
| Equalisation accounts | 2232 | 5690 | 8734 | 8503 | 8494 | 8074 |
| Bank's own funds | 11341 | 11612 | 12682 | 12759 | 12839 | 12864 |
| Capital ..... | 10000 | 10000 | 10000 | 10000 | 10000 | 10000 |
| Reserve fund . . | - | - | 812 | 812 | 812 | 812 |
| Profits undisposed ... | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Earnings less expenses | 1341 | I 612 | I 871 | $\times 947$ | 2027 | 2052 |
| Total | 106 582 | 115506 | 115 809 | 117803 | 128 409 | 121 123 |
| STATEMENT OF NOTE ISSUE Right of note issue |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ordinary cover . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 41367 | 38314 | 3258 x | 3232 I | 32670 | 32300 |
| Supplementary cover <br> (Upper limit 58000 mill. mk) | 50000 | 58000 | 58000 | 58000 | 58000 | 58000 |
| Total | 91 367 | 96314 | 9058 I | 9032 I | 90670 | 90300 |
| Note issue |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes in circulation | 53493 | 55883 | 58233 | 59034 | 60674 | 60735 |
| Short-term liabilities | 30640 | 33309 | 17925 | 19297 | 27782 | 24725 |
| Undrawn on cheque credits | 691 | 494 | 412 | 654 | 503 | 316 |
| Unused right of note issue . . . . . . . . . | 6544 | 6627 | 14012 | Ir 337 | $\times 711$ | 4524 |
| Total | 9r 367 | 96314 | 90581 | 90321 | 90670 | 90300 |

Lowest discount rate since April 19, 1956, $6 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent

BANK OF FINLAND
Mill. mk



BANK OF FINLAND
Mill. mk

| End of year and month | Treasury |  |  | Trade and industry |  |  |  |  |  | Notes in circulation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Bills and bonds | Cheque account | Net claims on the Treasury ( $1-2$ ) | Inland bills in Finnish currency | Other advances | Total advances (4+5) | Deposits against import | Other liabilities | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Net claims } \\ & \text { on the } \\ & \text { public } \\ & (6-7-8) \end{aligned}$ |  |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1949 | 22030 | 80 | 2I 950 | 15351 | I 965 | 17316 | - | 625 | r6 691 | 29606 |
| 1950 | 19730 | 34 | 19696 | 13516 | 5470 | 18986 | - | 263 | 18723 | 34383 |
| 1951 | 8685 | - | 8685 | 11567 | 6193 | 17760 | - | 301 | 17459 | 44774 |
| 1952 | 14738 | - | 14738 | 14678 | 12696 | 27374 | - | 2185 | 25189 | 46153 |
| 1953 | 21662 | 7281 | 14381 | 13812 | 15525 | 29337 | - | 2314 | 27023 | 45019 |
| 1954 | 21 662 | 15470 | 6192 | II 940 | 14129 | 26069 | - | 791 | 25278 | 47902 |
| 1955 | 21 660 | 9816 | rr 844 | 14437 | 16357 | 30794 | 6578 | 779 | 23437 | 55883 |
| 1956 | 19160 | 10 550 | 8610 | 14922 | 18928 | 33850 | 4125 | I 361 | 28364 | 60735 |
| 1955 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| July | 21 660 | 15044 | 6616 | 14395 | 17230 | 31625 | 739 | 1 549 | 29337 | 49903 |
| Aug. | 21660 | 8342 | 13318 | 13470 | 16786 | 30256 | 1600 | 2068 | 26588 | 50376 |
| Sept. | 21660 | 8803 | I2 857 | 13780 | 17836 | $3 \mathrm{6I6}$ | 2931 | I 594 | 27091 | 50634 |
| Oct. | 21660 | 11854 | 9806 | 14339 | 17832 | 32171 | 3922 | I 180 | 27069 | 51433 |
| Nov. | 21 660 | 9627 | 12033 | 13563 | 17748 | 31311 | 5105 | 872 | 25334 | 53493 |
| Dec. | 21660 | 9816 | II 844 | 14437 | 16357 | 30794 | 6578 | 779 | 23437 | 55883 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { I956 } \\ & \text { Jan. } \end{aligned}$ | 21660 | 12905 | 8755 | 15204 | 16846 | 50 | 76 | 4 | \% | 50539 |
| Feb. | 2 6 60 | 14292 | 7368 | 16626 | 17134 | 33760 | 7929 | 709 | 25122 | 53870 |
| March | 20410 | II 52I | 8889 | 18992 | 17 SOI | 36493 | 8131 | 997 | 27365 | 54252 |
| April | 20410 | 10 r 61 | 10249 | 19782 | 18211 | 37993 | 8753 | 762 | 28478 | 54951 |
| May | 20410 | 6940 | 13470 | 20588 | 20005 | 40593 | 9289 | 849 | 30455 | 57361 |
| June | 20410 | 6284 | 14126 | 19985 | 22082 | 42067 | 9540 | 670 | 31857 | 57911 |
| July | 20410 | 4327 | 16083 | 18763 | 21923 | 40686 | 9675 | 694 | 30317 | 5828 r |
| Aug. | 20410 | 2292 | 18118 | 17025 | 21530 | 38555 | 9289 | r 127 | 28139 | 58927 |
| Sept. | 19160 | 8310 | 10850 | 16600 | 21763 | 38363 | 4886 | 948 | 32529 | 5883 r |
| Oct. | 19160 | 4906 | 14254 | 16517 | 20138 | 36655 | 4326 | I 235 | 31094 | 56795 |
| Nov. | 19160 | 4091 | 15069 | 15958 | 19260 | 35218 | 4349 | I 470 | 29399 | 58468 |
| Dec. | 19160 | 10550 | 86 ro | 14922 | 18928 | 33850 | 4125 | I 361 | 28364 | 60735 |



DEPOSITS BY THE PUBLIC - FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES
Mill. mk

| End of year $\underset{\text { month }}{\text { and }}$ | Sightdeposits |  |  | Termdeposits |  |  |  |  |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Cheque accounts |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Postal } \\ \text { giro } \\ \text { accounts } \end{gathered}$ | Commercial banks | Savings banks | Co-op. credit societies \& their central bank | PostOfficeSavingsBank | Savings departments of co-op. stores | All credit institutions |  |
|  | Commercial banks | All credit institutions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $(2+3+9)$ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1949 | 23276 | 26908 | 8984 | 3r 079 | 35014 | 16675 | 12237 | 4649 | 99660 | 135552 |
| 1950 | 24460 | 28248 | 10537 | 36579 | 39366 | 20175 | 13892 | 5356 | 115373 | 154158 |
| 1951 | 42768 | 48063 | 11.203 | 46678 | 51790 | 29710 | 18243 | 8443 | 154870 | 214136 |
| 1952 | 28020 | 33410 | 10765 | 59742 | 65344 | 37223 | 23562 | IO 798 | 196706 | 240 88I |
| 1953 | 32112 | 37907 | II 048 | 70455 | 76709 | 42537 | 27074 | II 951 | 228762 | 277717 |
| 1954 | 34913 | 42108 | 13 45I | 83444 | 92174 | 52050 | 30079 | 13415 | 271195 | 326754 |
| 1955 | 36587 | 44 281 | II 795 | 97794 | 10854 I | 61 140 | 33073 | 15255 | 315843 | 371919 |
| 1955 <br> May | 36037 | 43279 | 8462 | 89001 | 97668 | 56135 | 30671 | 14585 | 288094 | 339835 |
| June | 40007 | 47426 | 10920 | 88173 | 97285 | 55766 | 30640 | 14349 | 286260 | 344606 |
| July | 34979 | 42488 | 8825 | 88776 | 98210 | 56221 | 30927 | 14308 | 28849 r | 339804 |
| Aug. | 37788 | 45175 | 8797 | 90961 | 9979 I | 57621 | 31715 | 14406 | 294543 | 348515 |
| Sept. | 37399 | 44979 | 10715 | 90823 | 100548 | 57581 | 31777 | 14458 | 295236 | 350930 |
| Oct. | 37908 | 45 561 | 9709 | 91287 | roi 316 | 57674 | 31890 | 14534 | 29675 x | 352021 |
| Nov. | 38521 | 45887 | 8718 | 9r 516 | 102211 | 57927 | 32074 | 14608 | 298384 | 352989. |
| Dec. | 36587 | 4428 I | 11795 | 97794 | 108541 | 6I 140 | 33073 | 15255 | 315843 | 371919 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1956* } \\ & \text { Jan. } \end{aligned}$ | 35193 | 42006 | 8710 | 98543 | 109552 | 507 | 3359 |  | 318801 | 7 |
| Feb. | 32806 | 39429 | 9634 | 98990 | IIO 233 | 62204 | 34292 | 15762 | 321519 | 370582 |
| March | 35545 | 42643 | 12629 | 98745 | 110080 | 62567 | 34002 | 15805 | 321237 | 376509 |
| April | 33982 | 41095 | 9634 | 98564 | 110 268 | 62778 | 33.842 | 15832 | 32 I 32 I | 372050 |
| May | 33620 | 40800 | 9669 | 97684 | 109704 | 62476 | 33401 | 15691 | 318993 | 369462 |
| June | 39536 | 47256 | II 068 | 96287 | 108087 | 6r 56r | 32983 | 15409 | 314364 | 372688 |
| July | 37040 | 45096 | 9583 | 95701 | 108382 | 6I 781 | 33136 | 15362 | 314399 | 369078 |
| Aug. | 34995 | 43118 | 7618 | 94685 | 107983 | 6I 583 | 33096 | 15284 | 312673 | 363409 |
| Sept. | 36666 | 43786 | 15675 | 94176 | 107675 | 61160 | 33209 | 15253 | 311511 | 370972 |
| Oct. | 40382 | 48603 | 8877 | 93059 | 107979 | 61 217 | 33170 | 15380 | 310843 | 368323 |
| Nov. | 38283 | 45618 | 9043 | 91961 | 107641 | 61 128 | 33 001 | 15380 | 309149 | 363810 |


| Selling rates forforeign exchange |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| December 3x, 1956 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | mk |  |  | mk |
| New York . .... | I \$ | 231 | Zürich . . . . . . . | I Fr | 52.77 |
| London | I $£$ | 646 | Frankfurt a/M . . | I DM | 55.16 |
| Stockholm | $\mathrm{I}_{\mathbf{K r}}$ | 44.72 | Prague .. | ${ }^{1} \mathrm{Kz}$ | 32.08 |
| Copenhagen .... | r Kr | 33.35 | Vienna ........ | I Sch | 8.90 |
| Oslo .......... | $\mathrm{r} \mathbf{K r}$ | 32.42 | Lisbon . . . . . . . | I Es | 8.04 |
| Paris | 1 Fr | 0.66 | Montreal | I \$ | 238 |
| Brussels | r Fr | $4.605$ | Moscow, clear. . . | I Rbl. | 57.75 |
| Amsterdam .... | r G | $60.64$ |  |  |  |



## ADVANCES TO THE PUBLIC

Mill. mk

| End of year and month | Granted by |  |  |  |  | Types of advances |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & \left(\begin{array}{c} \text { to } 5) \\ (6 \text { to } 8) \end{array}\right. \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Commercial banks | Savings banks | Post Office Savings Bank | Co-op, credit societies \& their central bank | Mortgage banks | Loans | Bills | Cheque credits |  |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1949 | 57160 | 29065 | 3472 | 30925 | 3382 | 81 667 | 33429 | 8908 | 124004 |
| 1950 | 67438 | 35511 | 4507 | 35048 | 3830 | 97375 | 37934 | II 025 | 146334 |
| 1951 | 85578 | 45554 | 8508 | 41849 | 4425 | 117358 | 54645 | 13911 | 185914 |
| 1952 | 104881 | 59824 | 13402 | 50694 | 5379 | 147035 | 70106 | 17039 | 234180 |
| 1953 | 105659 | 70511 | 18782 | 56765 | 9847 | 177703 | 67572 | 16289 | 261 564 |
| 1954 | 128955 | 82447 | 22123 | 64697 | 12773 | 212306 | 79200 | 19489 | 310995 |
| 1955 | 155436 | 96454 | 24866 | 72868 | I3 599 | 245674 | 94123 | 23426 | 363223 |
| 1955 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| May | 137630 | 87394 | 23474 | 67600 | I2 979 | 223275 | 8540 x | 2040 r | 329077 |
| June | 142305 | 88533 | 23691 | 67962 | 13042 | 226137 | 87218 | 22178 | 335533 |
| July | 144995 | 90087 | 23817 | 6846 r | 13170 | 229737 | 88513 | 22280 | 340530 |
| Aug. | 143149 | 91262 | 24005 | 69484 | 13406 | 233471 | 87744 | 20091 | 341306 |
| Sept. | 143785 | 93062 | 24141 | 70476 | 13517 | 236197 | 87237 | 21547 | 34498 r |
| Oct. | 145683 | 94363 | 24518 | 71050 | 13648 | 239583 | 88291 | 21 388 | 349262 |
| Nov. | 146531 | 95477 | 24804 | 71454 | 13766 | 242132 | 88476 | 21424 | 352032 |
| Dec. | 155436 | 96454 | 24866 | 72868 | 13599 | 245674 | 94123 | 23426 | 363223 |
| 1956* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan. | 157132 | 97784 | 24893 | 72824 | 13607 | 246784 | 95688 | 23768 | 366240 |
| Feb. | 159944 | 98334 | 24994 | 73114 | 13626 | 248233. | 96773 | 25006 | 370 Or2 |
| March | 159981 | 98710 | 25374 | 72720 | 13562 | 249322 | 96593 | 24432 | 370347 |
| April | 162 744 | 99408 | 25532 | 73313 | 13380 | 250776 | 98365 | 25236 | 374377 |
| May | 16x 545 | 99897 | 25637 | 74094 | 13382 | 251782 | 98816 | 23956 | 374554 |
| June | 163175 | 99764 | 25791 | 74598 | 13415 | 251894 | 99537 | 25309 | 376740 |
| July | 162798 | 100253 | 25929 | 74966 | 13992 | 253567 | Iol 124 | 23245 | 377937 |
| Aug. | 159760 | 100951 | 26211 | 74978 | 14059 | 255663 | 98018 | 22277 | 375958 |
| Sept. | 161 927 | IOI 902 | 26345 | 75559 | 14446 | 257649 | 97 181 | 25348 | 380179 |
| Oct. | 158945 | 102418 | 25940 | 75244 | 14646 | 258633 | 96133 | 22426 | 377193 |
| Nov. | 158723 | 102795 | 26206 | 75482 | 1478 I | 260213 | 94706 | 23068 | 377987 |



| Revenue | Jan.-Oct. |  | Expenditure | Jan.-Oct. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1955 | 1956 |  | 1955 | 1956 |
| Income and property tax (net) | 41.1 | 47.5 | Interest on State debt | 4.7 | 4.9 |
| Gross receipts | (74.5) | (87.1) | Child allowances | 14.8 | 15.0 |
| Refunds and communal income tax | (-33.4) | (-39.6) | Old age | 1.8 | 1.6 |
| Other direct taxes | 0.7 | 0.7 | Old age allowances ................. |  |  |
| Purchase tax | 38.4 | 48.0 | Compensations to war-disabled . . | 5.4 | 6.6 |
| Import duties | 20.8 | 32.5 | Transfer of employers' payments for |  |  |
| Revenue from Alcohol Monopoly | 15.9 | 16.1 | national pensions to National Pen- |  |  |
| Excise duty on tobacco . .. | 9.0 | 10.8 | sions Fund . .................... | 3.0 | 3.7 |
| Other excise duties . | 3.5 | 3.5 | Subsidies | 18.7 | 28.4 |
| Stamp duties. | 6.6 | 7.5 | Subsidies | 18.7 | 28.4 |
| Employers' payments for child allowances and national pensions ..... | 16.5 | 17.4 | Payments by Price Equalisation Fund State aid to agriculture .......... | 2.5 | 8.5 |
| Receipts of Price Equalisation Fund | 8.2 |  |  |  | 3.9 |
| Other revenue similar to taxes . . . . | 3.2 | 30 | State aid to communal and private schools | II.I | 15.6 |
| Total taxes | 163.7 | 1940 | Net loss of State enterprises . . . . . |  | 2.2 |
| Interest and dividends | 2.4 | 2.7 | Maintenance of roads | 4.I | 4.8 |
| Other current revenue | 5.2 | 5.8 | Other current expenditure | 52.0 | 63.8 |
| Net profit of State enterprises | 0.3 |  |  |  |  |
| Current revenue . | 171.6 | 202.5 | Current expenditure . . . . . . . . . . . | 121.9 | 159.0 |
| Capital revenue proper . . . . . . . . . . . | 3.8 | 3.6 | Real investments .................... (of which: unemployment grants).. | $\begin{array}{r} 25.8 \\ (12.0) \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 32.0 \\ (16.0) \end{array}$ |
| Decrease in inventories | 2.3 | 2.7 |  | (12.0) |  |
| Capital revenue | 6.1 | 6.3 | Other capital expenditure . . . . . . . . . | 24.8 | 26.9 |
| Total revenue | 177.7 | 208.8 | Capital expenditure | 50.6 | 58.9 |
| External loans | 2.6 | 1.0 | Total expenditure | 172.5 | 217.9 |
| Internal loans | 7.5 | 10.3 |  |  |  |
| Loans | 10.1 | 11.3 | Redemption of external loans ...... | 1.8 | r. 4 |
|  |  |  | Redemption of internal loans ...... | 38 | 4.1 |
| Bills (increase + ) | -0.5 | - | Redemption of indemnity bonds etc. | 2.5 | 0.8 |
|  |  |  | Index premiums . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 8.7 | 0.1 |
| Deficit ( + ) or surplus ( - ) | +2.0 | +42 | Redemptions . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 16.8 | 6.4 |
| Total | 1893 | 2243 | Total | 189.3 | 224.3 |



## FOREIGN TRADE

| Period | Value, mill.mk |  |  | Imports bymaingroups, mill.mk |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Priceindices } \\ 1935=100 \end{gathered}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Imports } \\ & \text { c. i. f. } \end{aligned}$ | Exports f. o. b. | Surplus of imports (一) or exports ( + ) | $\underset{\text { Raterials }}{\text { Raw }}$ | Machinery | Foodstuffs | Other consumer goods | Articles of import c. i. f. | Articles of export f. o.b. |
| 1948 | 66369 | 56505 | - 9864 | 32245 | 12641 | 13198 | 8285 | 996 | 1 278 |
| 1949 | 66278 | 65606 | - 672 | 30248 | 15191 | 9370 | II 469 | 1063 | 1201 |
| 1950 | 89148 | 81 479 | - 7669 | 38214 | 19218 | 16786 | 14930 | I 366 | 1420 |
| 195I | 155464 | 186883 | +31419 | 75568 | 32358 | 24402 | 23136 | I 878 | 2955 |
| 1952 | 182186 | 156829 | -25 357 | 75493 | 49006 | 32600 | 25087 | I 801 | 2410 |
| 1953 | 12 I 860 | 131555 | + 9695 | 48898 | 31760 | 26791 | 14411 | I 590 | I 944 |
| 1954 | 152137 | 156618 | + 448 I | 67103 | 39412 | 27082 | 18540 | 1 550 | 2074 |
| 1955 | 176960 | 181 259 | + 4299 | 76121 | 46902 | 30912 | 23025 | I 510 | 2175 |
| 1955 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| May | 16525 | 12683 | - 3842 | 7122 | 4620 | 2781 | 2002 | 1 504 | 2184 |
| June | 15252 | 16273 | + 102 I | 6861 | 4147 | 2262 | I 982 | I 507 | 2178 |
| July | 14276 | 19632 | + 5356 | 6126 | 4467 | 2053 | r 630 | I 503 | 2180 |
| Aug. | 16759 | 20242 | + 3483 | $7 \mathrm{II4}$ | 4929 | 2712 | 2004 | r 497 | 2189 |
| Sept. | 14427 | 18379 | + 3952 | 6251 | 3944 | 2342 | 1890 | I 498 | 2180 |
| Oct. | 16082 | 19215 | + 3129 | 7119 | 4170 | 2718 | 2075 | I 516 | 2159 |
| Nov. | 14972 | 15431 | + 459 | 6502 | 3826 | 2650 | 1994 | I 519 | 2170 |
| Dec. | 18417 | 15606 | -28II | 7252 | 4929 | 3529 | 2707 | $\times 513$ | 2164 |
| 1956* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan. | 16079 | Ir 88i | - 4198 | 6494 | 5162 | 2449 | 1974 | I 540 | 2169 |
| Feb. | 14629 | 7458 | -7171 | 6012 | 4611 | 2159 | I 847 | I 557 | 2178 |
| March | 7826 | 5467 | - 2359 | 2758 | 3295 | 1023 | 750 | 1575 | 2180 |
| April | 15769 | 9979 | - 5790 | 6027 | 4454 | 2521 | 2767 | 1 557 | 2169 |
| May | 19739 | 16159 | - 3580 | 8115 | 5369 | 3525 | 2708 | 1 559 | 2145 |
| June | 18907 | 19809 | + 902 | 8223 | 5887 | 2514 | 2284 | I 572 | 2130 |
| July | r8 457 | 19629 | + 1172 | 7356 | 6568 | 2166 | 2368 | 1 575 | 2131 |
| Aug. | 19080 | 18399 | - 681 | 8134 | 5625 | 2875 | 2446 | 1577 | 2132 |
| Sept. | 17502 | 17763 | + 261 | 8344 | 4865 | 1838 | 2455 | 1 587 | 2093 |
| Oct. | 20143 | 20600 | + 457 | 9084 | 4918 | 3518 | 2623 | $\pm 587$ | 2084 |
| Nov. | 18251 | 14836 | - 3415 | 8406 | 4549 | 2907 | 2389 | 1583 | 2073 |



| Classes of goods | Imports c. i. f. |  |  |  | Exports f. o. b. |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Whole year |  | Jan.-Nov. |  | Whole year |  | Jan.-Nov. |  |
|  | 1954 | 1955 | 1955 | 1956 | 1954 | 1955 | 1955 | 1956 |
| Dairy produce, eggs, honey | 40 | I 988 | 1 716 | 215 | 2933 | 2380 | 2078 | 3946 |
| Other animal products, live animals | 621 | 1068 | 990 | 847 | I 036 | 34I | 310 | 144 |
| Vegetables | 76 | 423 | 387 | 178 | I | 0 | - | 2 |
| Edible fruit | 3173 | 3915 | 3339 | 4059 | 29 | 16 | 13 | 9 |
| Coffee, tea, spices | 10 299 | 8247 | 7440 | 7885 | 0 | - | - | 0 |
| Cereals, milling products | 7079 | 10570 | 9224 | 10 273 | 493 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Certain seeds and fruit, plants for industrial purposes $\qquad$ | I 205 | 1 565 | r 343 | I 146 | 125 | 110 | 95 | 169 |
| Raw materials for tanning and dyeing | 120 | 108 | 100 | 88 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Animal and vegetable fats | 2310 | 2191 | I 665 | I 988 | 370 | 118 | 79 | 461 |
| Meat and fish products . . . . . . . . . | 344 | 549 | 484 | 684 | 0 | 0 | 0 | I |
| Sugar, sweets | 2673 | 3812 | 3465 | 3447 | 17 | 20 | 18 | 27 |
| Beverages, vinegars . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 820 | 654 | 575 | 786 | 400 | 141 | 138 | 139 |
| Fodder | I 267 | 2357 | 2201 | 3242 | 2 I | - | - | - |
| Tobacco | I 635 | 1598 | I 463 | I 556 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Minerals, ore . | I 855 | 2250 | $\times 964$ | 2142 | I 244 | I 776 | r 636 | 2699 |
| Mineral fuel and oils | 18118 | 22321 | 19 737 | 24775 | 25 | 13 | 12 | 14 |
| Chemical and pharmaceutical products | 6592 | 7210 | 6643 | 7119 | 254 | 332 | 283 | 450 |
| Tanning and dyeing extracts, varnishes | I 925 | 2041 | r 879 | 2022 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 14 |
| Casein, albumen, glues . . . . . . . . . . | 538 | 643 | 577 | 509 | 13 | 0 | $\bigcirc$ | 2 |
| Fertilizers | 3312 | 3129 | 2791 | 3200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hides, skins, leather and furs; manufactures thereof | 1892 | 2148 | I 946 | 2340 | 477 | 872 | 776 | 870 |
| Rubber and rubber articles | 2247 | 3100 | 2866 | 3575 | 18 | 23 | 20 | 17 |
| Wood and wood products | 306 | 587 | 551 | 485 | 62 191 | 69917 | 65799 | 53318 |
| Woodpulp . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 7 | 31 | 23 | 38 | 29880 | 36778 | 33474 | 34233 |
| Board, paper, manufactures therefrom | 212 | 238 | 213 | 271 | 32969 | 40329 | 36739 | 40660 |
| Textile materials, textile goods . . . . . | 20077 | 21209 | 19327 | 21040 | 1726 | x 996 | 1742 | I 845 |
| Footwear | - 55 | 57 | 55 | 69 | 101 | 45 | 39 | 37 |
| Articles of stone and of other mineral material, glass $\qquad$ | 1360 | 1413 | I 294 | I 225 | 556 | 642 | 564 | 589 |
| Base metals; manufactures therefrom | 20828 | 23561 | 2 I 58 I | 24547 | 2317 | 2768 | 2391 | 3679 |
| Machinery, apparatus . . . . . . . . . . . | 12579 | 16211 | I4 554 | 19366 | 5559 | 6452 | 5668 | 5196 |
| Electric machinery and apparatus . . . | 6047 | 6847 | 5922 | 7543 | 793 | 743 | 706 | 555 |
| Transport material . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 15761 | 17706 | 15888 | 21 662 | 12066 | 14589 | 12289 | 12096 |
| Instruments, clocks and watches, musical instruments | I 634 | 2 18I | I 933 | 2697 | 94 | 72 | 59 | 115 |
| All others | 5130 | 5032 | 4405 | 5359 | 961 | 780 | 719. | 667 |
| Total | 152137 | 176960 | 158542 | 186376 | 156618 | 18I 259 | 165653 | 16r 960 |

## EXPORTS OF SOME IMPORTANT ARTICLES

| Period | Round and hewn timber I 000 cu. m | Sawn timber 1000 stds | Veneers and plywood 1000 cu. m | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mechanical } \\ \text { pulp } \\ \text { 1 ooo } \\ \text { tons } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Sulphite } \\ \text { pulp } \\ \text { s ooo } \\ \text { tons } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Sulphate } \\ & \text { pulp } \\ & \text { y ooo } \\ & \text { tons } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Board } \\ \text { I ooo } \\ \text { tons } \end{gathered}$ | Fibre building board tons | Newsprint $\text { I } 000$ tons | Paper, all kinds $1000$ <br> tons |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1948 | I 996 | 470 | 175 | 97 | 373 | 330 | 81 | 27 | 289 | 416 |
| 1949 | 2251 | 607 | 208 | 160 | 449 | 3 II | 61 | 31 | 348 | 455 |
| 1950 | 3266 | 683 | 195 | 177 | 513 | 365 | 89 | 50 | 379 | 506 |
| 1951 | 5305 | 875 | 279 | 210 | 594 | 388 | 97 | 68 | 382 | 605 |
| 1952 | 5112 | 6II | 222 | 143 | 477 | 245 | 65 | 44 | 392 | 569 |
| 1953 | 2388 | 688 | 216 | 204 | 464 | 323 | 76 | 45 | 402 | 677 |
| 1954 | 3620 | 733 | 298 | 193 | 580 | 375 | 101 | 59 | 392 | 751 |
| 1955 | 4977 | 786 | 32 I | 183 | 682 | 447 | 110 | 61 | 470 | 905 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1955 \\ & \text { April } \end{aligned}$ | 96 | 27 | 40 | 14 | 63 | 41 | 13 | 6 | 50 | 96 |
| May | 226 | 49 | 3 I | 15 | 50 | 23 | 10 | $6^{\circ}$ | 34 | 74 |
| June | 541 | 80 | 21 | 20 | 60 | 54 | 9 | 5 | 36 | 72 |
| July | 789 | 106 | 24 | 19 | 62 | 43 | 9 | 4 | 41 | 75 |
| Aug. | 967 | 128 | 26 | 19 | 72 | 45 | 9 | 4 | 43 | 82 |
| Sept. | 771 | 101 | 26 | 9 | 53 | 30 | 10 | 5 | 42 | 81 |
| Oct. | 633 | 96 | 27 | 17 | 55 | 37 | 9 | 6 | 48 | 88 |
| Nov. | 418 | 64 | 28 | 16 | 60 | 40 | 9 | 6 | 48 | 88 |
| Dec. | 215 | 51 | 24 | 14 | 60 | 41 | 8 | 5 | 40 | 78 |
| 1956* <br> Jan. | 139 | 40 | 21 | 14 | 57 | 37 | 9 | 5 | 35 | 69 |
| Feb. | 58 | 24 | 10 | 8 | 28 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 26 | 52 |
| March | 35 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 19 | 16 | 4 | 2 | 24 | 40 |
| April | 101 | 16 | 22 | 12 | 57 | 29 | II | 3 | 34 | 67 |
| May | 166 | 45 | 26 | 22 | 68 | 38 | 10 | 6 | 74 | 125 |
| June | 511 | 85 | 23 | 23 | 76 | 64 | 8 | 5 | 49 | 94 |
| July | 803 | 90 | 22 | 21 | 66 | 38 | 8 | 5 | 50 | 89 |
| Aug. | 856 | 9 I | 15 | 14 | 55 | 45 | 9 | 2 | 51 | 94 |
| Sept. | 732 | 81 | 18 | 13 | 62 | 42 | 9 | 4 | 46 | 89 |
| Oct. | 581 | 7 r | 22 | 23 | 69 | 41 | 10 | 5 | 50 | 92 |
| Nov. | 308 | 53 | 21 | 12 | 53 | 40 | 10 | 5 | 50 | 94 |



FOREIGN TRADE BY COUNTRIES

| Area and country | Imports c. i.f. |  |  |  |  | Exports f. o. b. |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Whole year |  | Jan.-Nov. |  |  | Whole year |  | Jan.-Nov. |  |  |
|  | 1954 | 1955 | 1955 | 1956* |  | 1954 | 1955 | 1955 | 1956* |  |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | Mill. mk | \% | \% | \% | \% | Mill. mk |
| Sterling area ........... | 19.8 | 20.9 | 21.0 | 21.5 | 40127 | 25.8 | 27.3 | 27.7 | 25.4 | 41102 |
| United Kingdom ........ | 18.8 | 20.3 | 20.4 | 20.6 | 38416 | 22.5 | 24:0 | 24.5 | 2 r .5 | 34808 |
| Other OEEC countries.. | 35.3 | 36.4 | 36.2 | 39.4 | 73467 | 31.7 | 32.4 | 32.7 | 31.3 | 50684 |
| Belgium-Luxembourg | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 5598 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.4 | 7076 |
| Denmark . ....... | 2.4 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 2.7 | 4953 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 4035 |
| France | 6.2 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 10 788 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 5.2 | 8444 |
| Western Germany . . . . . . | 6.7 | 9.0 | 8.9 | 12.0 | 22405 | 7.4 | 9.1 | 9.3 | 8.8 | 14352 |
| Italy . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 1.2 | I.r | 1.0 | I. 4 | 2548 | 1.4 | 1.2 | I.I | 1.3 | 206 x |
| Netherlands | 6.5 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 7513 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 3.6 | 589 r |
| Norway . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 3422 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 1080 |
| Sweden | 4.6 | 4.9 | 49 | 5.4 | 10.072 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 3439 |
| Switzerland | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 3332 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 948 |
| Turkey . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 679 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 1042 |
| Eastern Bloc | 28.7 | 27.1 | 27.1 | 24.6 | 45857 | 27.9 | 25.7 | 25.2 | 27.2 | 44076 |
| China | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 542 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 1570 |
| Czechoslovakia | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 4554 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.9 | I. 3 | 2088 |
| Eastern Germany . . . . . . . | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 4077 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 3749 |
| Poland | 4.2 | 4.8 | 49 | 4.5 | 8434 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 3706 |
| Soviet Union | 17.8 | 14.7 | 14.6 | 13.4 | 25060 | 21.5 | 17.5 | 17.1 | 18.8 | 30409 |
| U.S. and Canada | 4.7 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 6.5 | 12169 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 6.9 | II 166 |
| United States | 4.6 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 6.3 | 11784 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 6.8 | 11065 |
| Latin America | 7.8 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 5.7 | 10703 | 4.8 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 9462 |
| Argentina | 2.0 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 1.6 | 2984 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 2.2 | I. 4 | 2297 |
| Brazil | 5.5 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 3.4 | 6413 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 4.98I |
| Others | 3.7 | 2.8 | 29 | 2.2 | 4051 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 5471 |
| Grand total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 186376 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 161960 |



PRICE INDICES

| Period | Wholesaleprices $\quad 1935=100$ |  |  |  |  |  | Cost of living |  | $1935=100$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total index | Finnish goods |  |  |  | Imported goods | Total | Rent | Taxes |
|  |  | Total | Products of agriculture | Prcducts of forestry | Products of industry |  |  |  |  |
| 1938 | 114 | 118 | 117 | 145 | 110 | 104 | 108 | III | 90 |
| 1949 | 1098 | 1099 | I 136 | r 431 | 980 | 1092 | 871 | 201 | I 875 |
| 1950 | I 265 | I 287 | 1 378 | I 664 | I 131 | I 222 | 992 | 248 | I 987 |
| 1951 | I 809 | I 886 | 1 617 | 3103 | I 561 | I 646 | I 156 | 360 | 2270 |
| 1952 | 1793 | 1 892 | 1752 | 3056 | 1 545 | I 581 | I 203 | 438 | 2509 |
| 1953 | 1727 | I 840 | 1730 | 2857 | I 532 | I 486 | I 219 | 569 | 2395 |
| 1954 | I 724 | I 841 | 1728 | 2941 | 1506 | I 475 | I 199 | 703 | 2051 |
| 1955 | 1 707 | I 822 | 1773 | 3040 | I 426 | I 462 | 1 158 | 761 | I 970 |
| $1956$ <br> March |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March | 1760 | I. 869 | I 976 | 3026 | I 444 | I 529 | I 249 | 898 | I 790 |
| April | 1764 | I 866 | 1955 | 3026 | I 446 | I 546 | 1253 | 898 | r 790 |
| May | I 790 | I 884 | 1958 | 3026 | 1474 | I 59 I | I 274 | 898 | I 790 |
| June | 1 789 | 1884 | 1928 | 3042 | I 479 | I 586 | I 277 | 898 | 1790 |
| July | r 79 r | I 88I | 1925 | 3015 | I 484 | I 598 | 1 286 | 898 | r 790 |
| Aug. | 1771 | I 854 | 1852 | 2959 | 1482 | 1593 | I 296 | 898 | 1 790 |
| Sept. | I 774 | I 856 | 1887 | 2914 | I 490 | I 599 | 1311 | 898 | 1 790 |
| Oct. | 1804 | I 872 | 1 926 | 2914 | 1503 | I 659 | I 338 | 938 | 2234 |
| Nov. | I 849 | I 890 | I 985 | 2869 | I 530 | 1762 | r 394 | 948 | 2234 |



PRODUGTION - INTERNAL TRADE - WORK CESSATIONS

| Period | Index ofindustrial production ${ }^{\text { }}$ ( $1948=100$ |  |  |  |  |  | Commercial <br> timber <br> fellings <br> 1000 <br> piled <br> cu. $m$ | Milk received by dajries <br> 1000 <br> tons | $\begin{gathered} \text { Wholesale } \\ \text { trade } \\ \text { volume } \\ \text { index }{ }^{2} \text { ) } \\ 1954=100 \end{gathered}$ | Workingdays lost in work cessations <br> Thousands |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total | Home market industry |  | Export industry |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Total | Metal industry | Total | Paper industry | Wood industry |  |  |  |  |
| 1949 | 105 | 109 | 106 | 96 | 93 | IOI | 23010 | 1021 | 70 | 1195 |
| 1950 | 113 | 115 | 96 | 107 | III | 102 | 25770 | I 245 | 81 | 4644 |
| 1951 | I3I | 133 | 122 | 126 | 130 | 120 | 36070 | I 447 | 85 | 324 |
| 1952 | 125 | 133 | 12I | 108 | 112 | 102 | 35079 | I 560 | 92 | 54 |
| 1953 | 133 | 140 | 120 | 116 | 121 | 108 | 29170 | 1 657 | 93 | 64 |
| 1954 | 152 | 158 | 140 | 140 | I5I | 124 | 35370 | 1703 | 100 | 116 |
| 1955 | 169 | 175 | 157 | I54 | 173 | 126 | 38600 | 1705 | I 16 | 345 |
| 1955 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| April | 163 | 172 | 156 | 144 | 153 | 134 | 2961 | 150 | 119 | 25 |
| May | 169 | 176 | I58 | I53 | 171 | 127 | 7970 | I66 | II8 | 16 |
| June | 167 | 176 | I56 | 148 | 162 | 129 | I OI4 | 174 | I 18 | 10 |
| July | $x 35$ | 127 | 97 | 150 | I69 | 123 | 1220 | r82 | 107 | 4 |
| Aug. | 174 | 181 | 156 | 158 | 184 | 120 | I 287 | r56 | 122 | 2 |
| Sept. | I84 | 193 | 167 | 164 | 187 | 129 | 1589 | 137 | 130 | 12 |
| Oct. | 186 | 193 | 177 | 170 | 196 | 132 | 2237 | 123 | 128 | 8 |
| Nov. | 184 | 195 | 175 | 160 | 191 | 112 | 3000 | 121 | 128 | 2 |
| Dec. | 164 | 174 | 163 | 142 | 167 | 105 | 3540 | I33 | 128 | 2 |
| 工956 |  |  |  |  |  | , |  |  |  |  |
| Jan. | 174 | 179 | 169 | 162 | 191 | 119 | 4275 | I46* | 93 | 6 |
| Feb. | 174 | 181 | 170 | 157 | 189 | 109 | 4176 | 141* | 102 | I |
| March | 80 | 90 | 69 | 57 | 6 r | 52 | 3450 | 149* | 91 | 6950 |
| April | 184 | 191 | 171 | . 66 | 187 | 135 | 2399 | 180* | 124 | 4 |
| May | 187 | 192 | 165 | 171 | 190 | 143 | 8083 | 208* | 138 | - |
| June | 180 | 194 | 169 | 159 | 179 | 132 | 1 I 31 | 215* | 124 | - |
| July | 153 | 145 | 113 | 168 | 196 | 125 | I 156 | 204* | 119 | I |
| Aug. | 190 | 197 | 164 | 174 | 209 | 124 | I 659 | 186* | 139 | - |
| Sept. | 190 | r98 | 174 | 174 | 207 | 126 | I 758 | 162 | 132 | I |
| Cct. | 208 | 219 | 192 | 185 | 220 | 133 | 2463 | 148 | 136 | 3 |

${ }^{\text {1) }}$ ) Figures for 1955 and 1956 revised but not final.
) Converted from $1948=100$


BUILDING - WAGES - EMPLOYMENT - TRANSPORT

| Period | Buildings completedy, mill. cu.m |  |  |  |  | Buildings under construction at end of period ${ }^{1}$ ) mill. cu. m | Wages <br> Oct. $1951=100$ |  | Index of working hours in industry |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total | Dwelling houses | Farm buildings | Commercial and industrial premises | Official buildings |  | Industrial workers | Forest workers |  |
| 1953 | 20.09 | 8.44 | 5.66 | 2.53 | 2.25 | 22.66 | 103.1 | 89.7 | - |
| 1954 | 22.02 | 9.36 | 5.24 | 3.54 | 2.87 | 22.85 | 105.6 | 93.4 | - |
| 1955 | 20.25 | 9.47 | 4.29 | 3.12 | 2.29 | 23.75 | 110.4 | I13.3 | - |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { 1955 } \\ \text { July-Sept. } \end{gathered}$ | 5.56 | 2.41 | 1.50 | 0.77 | 0.53 | 28.32 | 112.2 | I 18.4 | 101.5 |
| Oct.-Dec. | 8.25 | 3.94 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 0.83 | 23.75 | 112.2 | I 17.1 | 102.0 |
| 1956 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan.-Mar. | 3.45* | 1.71* | $0.15{ }^{\text {* }}$ | 1.10* | 0.35* | 23.86* | 112.2 | I17.4 | 104.2 |
| Apr.-June | 3.76* | 1.52* | 0.38* | 1.08* | $0.51^{\star}$ | 25.39* | 126.5 | 120.4 | 104.2 |
| July-Sept. | 5.19* | 2.16* | 0.81* | I.OI* | 0.77* | 29.68* | $\cdots$ | 127.5 | 103.3 |


| Period | $\frac{\text { Railways }}{\substack{\text { Goods trucks loaded } \\ \text { Thousands }}}$ |  | Foreignshipping |  |  |  | Unemployed at endofmonth |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Vessels arrived with cargo - |  | Vessels departed 0 net reg. tons |  | Registered |  | On relief work, \% |  |
|  | 1955 | 1956 | 1955 | 1956* | r955 | 1956* | 1955 | 1956 | 1955 | 1956 |
| Jan. | 136 | 136 | 335 | 284 | 316 | 299 | 21165 | 20583 | 76.5 | 78.7 |
| Feb. | 142 | 126 | 252 | 154 | 258 | 142 | 24305 | 25751 | 86.5 | 84.1 |
| March | 105 | 42 | 226 | 74 | 201 | 53 | 26053 | 26047 | 91.1 | 89.1 |
| April | 154 | 147 | 313 | 225 | 307 | I 88 | 19434 | 19992 | 92.0 | 94.4 |
| May | 169 | 168 | 446 | 419 | 405 | 370 | 5008 | 7231 | 92.2 | 98.9 |
| June | 168 | 166 | 440 | 410 | 582 | 551 | - | - | - | - |
| July | 175 | 170 | 413 | 470 | 684 | 679 | - | - | - | - |
| Aug. | 175 | 175 | 412 | 445 | 742 | 701 | - | - | - | - |
| Sept. | 175 | 168 | 384 | 384 | 614 | 609 | - | - | - | - |
| Oct. | 172 | 170 | 361 | 436 | 596 | 568 | 164 | 1711 | 47.0 | 50.5 |
| Nov. | 165 | I5I | 384 | 426 | 479 | 434 | 3337 | I5 924 | 51.9 | 61.8 |
| Dec. | 131 |  | 380 |  | 404 |  | I2 259 |  | 64.2 |  |

${ }^{2}$ ) Quarterly figures incomplete; those given for the previous year are adjusted so as to be comparable with the figures for the latest corresponding quarters.


# EXPLANATIONS RELATING TO THE STATISTICAL SECTION 

## BANK OF FINLAND

Page 3. The items of the statement of the Bank of Finland are described in Monthly Bulletin No. 10, 1955, p. 25.

Page 4. Other foreign assets $=$ Foreign bills + Foreign bonds. Other foreign liabilities $=$ Mark accounts of holders abroad + Long-term foreign liabilities. Cash reserve accounts consist of deposits made by the banks and tied by special conditions. Included in Long-term Finnish liabilities.

Page 5. Treasury bills and bonds: up to August 1953, bills, and thereafter Treasury bond loan + Treasury bill covering certain IMF and IBRD accounts (included in Other claims). Trade and industry, other advances = Inland bills in foreign currency + Cheque accounts (assets) + Other claims excl. Treasury's IMF and IBRD bill. Deposits against import licences $=$ importers' obligatory deposits of $10 \%$ of the value of the goods for which they have received import licences (from April 4, up to Juine $x, 20 \%$ for goods for which licensing is not automatic). Included in Long-term Finnish liabilities. Other liabilities $=$ Other short-term liabilities + Other cheque accounts. - Diagrams. Left: Net claims on others than banks $=$ Net foreign assets + Net claims on the Treasury + Net claims on the public + Finnish bonds + Finnish coin -(Long-term Finnish liabilities - Cash reserve accounts Deposits against import licences) - Equalisation accounts. Right: Net debt of banks = net claims on banks, plotted as negative figures in order that their dependence on Net claims on others than banks might be more clearly evident.

## DEPOSITS BY THE PUBLIC ADVANCES TO THE PUBLIC

Commercial bank and mortgage bank figures obtained from the official bank statistics, savings bank figures from the Central Statistical Office, other figures from the respective credit institutions or their central banks.

Page 6. Cheque accounts in all credit institutions relates to commercial banks, savings banks, co-operative credit societies, and mortgage banks. Term deposits in all credit institutions includes a small amount of deposits in mortgage banks.

## STATE FINANCES

Page 8. Official monthly figures adjusted by the Bank of Finland Institute for Economic Research. Revenue and expenditure: All extra-budgetary funds are included, and figures are reported on a payment basis. - Annual figures will be published in separate articles. Debt: Index-tied bond loans are given at their nominal values. Cash debt (net) = net debt to the Bank of Finland plus short-term debt to the Post Office Savings Bank minus cash holdings of State departments. The change in this item $=$ surplus (deficit) in the table on revenue and expenditure. Diagram. The 12 -month totals are plotted to the last month of the respective periods.

## FOREIGN TRADE

Pages 9-12. Figures supplied by the Board of Customs, except for the price indices (p. 9), which are calculated by the Central Statistical Office. Foreign trade by countries (p. 12): imports by countries of purchase, exports by countries of sale.

## PRICE INDICES

Page 13. Wholesale price index and Building cost index calculated by the Central Statistical Office. Cost of living indices calculated by the Ministry for Social Affairs. The series based on Oct. I95I does not include direct taxes.

## PRODUCTION - INTERNAL TRADE WORK CESSATIONS

Page 14. Index of industrial production calculated by the Central Statistical Office. It is based on net values of industrial production at constant prices. Unadjusted for seasonal variations. Weights: Home market industry 69.5, of which metal industry 28.2, export industry 30.5, of which paper industry 18.0 and wood industry 12.5 ; total industry roo.0. Commercial timber fellings calculated by the Ministry of Communications and Public Works. Milk received by dairies calculated by the Board of Agriculture. Figures cover about $50-60 \%$ of the total milk production. The share of the dairies having grown over the last few years, this series does not correctly reflect the development of total milk production during a prolonged period. Wholesale trade, volume index, calculated by the Ministry of Finance. Based on sales statistics compiled by the daily Uusi Suomi, covering about $50 \%$ of all internal wholesale trade. Price fluctuations have been eliminated by means of the wholesale price index so revised that the combined weight of wood and paper products has been reduced from 17.6 to 3.2 . Working days lost in work cessations calculated by the Ministry for Social Affairs. Diagram. Left: Index of productive activity calculated by the periodical Mercator. It comprises all sectors of the economy. Annual averages are revised according to national income figures.

## BUILDING - WAGES - EMPLOYMENT - TRANSPORT

Page 15. Building figures supplied by the Central Statistical Office. Wages of industrial workers (average hourly earnings) calculated by the Ministry for Social Affairs. Its base period changed to correspond with October 1951 by calculating a weighted average of the last two quarters of the year. Wages of forest workers (average daily earnings) monthly figures supplied by the Ministry for Social Affairs, changed to quarterly index. Base calculated to correspond with Oct. 195I by taking average from August to December 1951. Index of working hours in industry calculated by the Ministry for Social Affairs. The index is based on the number of working hours during the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Railway figures supplied by the Board of Railways. Shipping figures supplied by the Shipping Board. Unemployment figures supplied by the Ministry of Communications and Public Works.

## SYMBOLS USED

* Preliminary 0 Less than half the final digit shown
.. Not available - Nil

A line drawn across a column between two consecutive figures indicates that the figures above and below the line are not strictly comparable.

Beginning May 1956 figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit. For this reason there may be an appar-
ent slight discrepancy between the total and the sum of the constituent items.

More detailed statistical information about Finland is obtained from the Finnish Official Statistics: Statistical Yearbook of Finland, Bulletin of Statistics (monthly), Foreign Trade (yearly and monthly), Bank Statistics concerning commercial banks. and mortgage institutions (yearly and monthly).

## SOME PARTICULARS ABOUT FINLAND

## FORM OF GOVERNMENT

From 1154 to 1809 Finland formed a part of the kingdom of Sweden. It then became an autonomous Grand Duchy connected with Russia until December 6, 1917, the date of Finland's declaration of independence. The republican constitution was adopted in 1919. The legislative power of the country is vested in the Diet and the President. The highest executive power is held by the President, elected for a period of 6 years. The president for the current period, March I, 3956, to March I, 1962, is Urho Kaleva Kekkonen.

The Diet, comprising 200 members, is elected by universal suffrage. The number of seats of the different parties in the Diet elected in 1954 are as follows: Social Democrats 54, Agrarians 53, People's Democrats 43, Conservatives 24, Swedish Party 13, Finnish People's Party 13.

## LAND

THE AREA is 337009 square kilometres (Great Britain's area is 245000 sq. km and Italy's area $301000 \mathrm{sq} . \mathrm{km}$ ). Of the total area $9.4 \%$ are inland waters. On an average $13.9 \%$ of the land in the South of Finland is cultivated (1950), $1.9 \%$ in the North and $8.0 \%$ of the land as a whole. Of the land area 21.8 mill. ha ( 53.9 mill. acres), or $71.6 \%$, are covered by forests

OWNERSHIP OF LAND (1950): The total land area was distributed among different classes of owners approximately as follows: private $56.9 \%$, State $35.0 \%$, joint stock companies etc. $6.4 \%$, communes $\mathbf{x . 7} \%$.

## POPULATION

NUMBER OF INHABITANTS (1955): 4.3 mullions. Sweden (1954) 7.2, Switzerland (1954) 5.0, Denmark (1954) 4.4 and Norway (1954) 3.4 millions.

DENSITY OF POPULATION (1955): In South Finland 23.7, in North Finland 3.8 and in the whole country an average of 13.9 inhabitants to the square kilometre.

DISTRIBUTION BY AREA (1955): $65.8 \%$ of the population inhabit the rural areas, $34.2 \%$ the towns and market towns. The largest towns are (1956): Helsinki (Helsingfors), the capital, 412200 inhabitants, Turku (Abo) 112 800, Tampere (Tammerfors) 114200.

OCCUPATION (1950): Agriculture and forestry $42 \%$, industry $29 \%$, commerce $7 \%$, transport and communication $6 \%$, services $9 \%$, other economic activities I\%, economically inactive persons $6 \%$.

LANGUAGE (1950): Finnish speaking 91.I \%, Swedish speaking $8.6 \%$, others $0.3 \%$.

EDUCATION (1955): Practically all persons over 15 years of age are literate. There are three universities (the oldest founded in 1640) and 12 colleges of university standard.

INCREASE OF POPULATION (I954): Births $21.5 \% 00$, deaths $9.1 \%$ o, increase $12.1 \%$. Deaths in France (1954) $12.0 \%$ and in Great Britain (1954) $11.4 \%$.

## TRADE AND COMMUNICATIONS

NATIONAL INCOME (1955, in thousand million marks): Gross national income at market price 985. Net national product at factor cost, by industrial origin: agriculture 89 ( $12 \%$ ), forestry and fishing 96 ( $13 \%$ ), manufacturing 250 ( $33 \%$ ), construction 69 ( $9 \%$ ), transport and communications 55 ( $7 \%$ ), commerce, banking and insurance 93 ( $12 \%$ ), public activities 72 ( $9 \%$ ), other services 45 ( $6 \%$ ), total 770 . Volume index 143 (1948 $=100$ ).

FOREST RESOURCES ( 1951 -1953): The growing stock comprised I 491 million of solid cu. m incl. bark ( 52660 million cu. ft), of which pine $43.7 \%$ and spruce $35.7 \%$, the rest $20.6 \%$ being leaf-trees, chiefly birch. Of the growing stock, 10900 million $\mathrm{cu} . \mathrm{ft}, 58.0 \%$ of them pine, was up to the standard required for logs. The annual growth is 46 million solid cu. m green wood excl. bark ( 620 mill. cu. ft). The total removal in 1954 calculated according to the use of wood was 45 million $\mathrm{cu} . \mathrm{m}$ ( I 589 million $\mathrm{cu} . \mathrm{ft}$ ).

AGRICULTURE (1950): Cultivated land 2.4 million hectares of which holdings of less than 5 ha amount to $18 \%$, 5 to 15 ha $45 \%$, is to $50 \mathrm{ha} 32 \%$ and more than 50 ha $5 \%$. Number of holdings 287000 , of which 130000 are of more than 5 ha. Index of agricultural production 1or for 1955 ( $1938=100$ ). Measure of self-sufficiency in the crop year 1954/55: bread cereals $48 \%$, fertilizers $49 \%$, dairy products $102 \%$, meat ro4 \%, fodder $92 \%$.

INDUSTRY (1954): Gross value of industrial production ${ }^{\text {- }}$ 580000 mill. marks, number of workers 288000 , administrative employees 46000 , motive power (1953) 1.9 mill. HP. Index of industrial production 200 for $1954(1938=100)$.

RAILWAYS (1955): Length 5046 km , of which 4859 km are State and 187 km private railways. The gauge of State railways I 524 m .

MERCHANT FLEET (Sept. 1, 1956): Steamer $\$ 293$ (4r4 000 gross reg. tons), motor vessels 169 (309 000 gross reg. tons), sailing vessels with auxiliary engines 116 ( 12000 gross reg. tons). Total 578 ( 735000 gross reg. tons).

MOTOR VEHICLES (I955): Passenger cars 85 400, lorries and delivery vans 50 200, buses 4 300, others I 700. Totan 14I 600.

## FINANCE AND BANKINC

CURRENCY. Since 1860, Finland has had its own monetary system. From 1877 until 1914 the country was on the gold standard, and returned to it in 1926. Since 1931, the redemption of bank notes in gold has been suspended. The currency unit is the mark (Finnish markka). Its official par value is 230 marks per one U.S. dollar. Finland has been a member of the International Monetary Fund since 1948.

MUNICIPAL FINANCES. In the finance accounts for 1954 expenditure amounted to IIr 000 mill. marks. Total revenue was III 000 million, of which income from taxation 56000 million. The municipal income tax (non-progressive) averaged $11.08 \%$ of the ratepayers' taxable income.

THE CENTRAL BANK. The Bank of Finland functions under the guarantee and supervision of the Diet. Its Board of Management is appointed by the President of the Republic; the Bank Supervisors, nine in number, are elected by the Diet. The Bank has a head office in Helsinki and $\mathbf{1 2}$ branch offices in other towns.

OTHER CREDIT INSTITUTIONS (195s). There are three big and three small commercial banks with in all 520 offices, 42 I savings banks, 594 co-operative credit societies and their central bank, six mortgage societies, and the Post Office Savings Bank. The savings departments of the co-operative stores accept deposits from the public.

RATES OF INTEREST. (April 19, 1956). Bank of Finland: discount rates $61 / 2-8 \%$. Other credit institutions: term deposits $5 \% \%$ and sight deposits I - $1 / 2 \%$; lending rate $8 \%$ in general.

# THE BANK OF FINLAND IN 1956 

BY<br>REINO ROSSI, Ph. D.

HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH OF THE BANK OF FINLAND

## MONETARY POLICY

In some respects, the year 1956 opened in conditions that were exceptional. During the previous year, the Bank of Finland had pursued as restrictive a monetary policy as had been possible, and new measures were adopted, the most important of which were, the cash reserve system and the system of deposits against import licences. It was by these means in particular that the liquidity of the credit institutions, and consequently their ability to grant credits, had been considerably reduced. The banks were obliged to resort to rediscounting bills on an appreciable scale, and a portfolio of nearly 23000 million marks was carried over to 1956. As the banks had to pay interest on the whole of this amount at a rate which was 3 per cent in excess of what they were entitled to charge their customers, they were in a very difficult position, and were forced to adopt all possible means to restrict their lending.

In 1956 the money market remained tight, and the holdings of rediscounted bills were in general above the level recorded at the turn of the year. At the end of the year, the amount of rediscounted bills totalled nearly 34000 million. On this occasion, however, the increase was not to be ascribed to the
monetary policy of the Bank of Finland, but mainly to the reduction of the foreign exchange reserve, as well as to the increase of the notes in circulation.

As the decrease in the foreign exchange reserve considerably tightened the money market, the special measures of monetary policy which had been adopted in the previous year were deemed unnecessary, and the Bank therefore decided not to renew with the credit institutions the cash reserve agreement which expired at the end of June. By the terms of the agreement, the amounts standing on the accounts at the conclusion of the term of agreement should have been refunded in four instalments in the course of one year. However, in view of the stringency of the situation, the Bank of Finland considered it possible to refund them in full before the end of the year. Thus, on the last day of December there were no funds on the cash reserve accounts.

It was not considered expedient during the year to abandon the system of deposits against import licences. The reason was that this system plays an important part in the restriction of imports. During the year, however, the regulations which relate to such deposits were relaxed, so that at the end of the year these deposits amounted to 2500
million marks less than had been the case at the beginning.

At the beginning of the year the rates of interest charged by the Bank of Finland on its direct loans to trade and industry were between 5 and $71 / 2$ per cent. In April the rates were raised to $61 / 2-8$ per cent. Since November the lowest discount rate in use has been $71 / 2$ per cent. On rediscounted bills, the Bank of Finland charged an excess rate of 3 per cent above the rate charged by the rediscounting bank. In addition, from October 1, the Board of Management of the Bank of Finland was granted discretion to raise this excess rate of interest to 5 per cent. In August it was decided to abandon the excess rate of interest on rediscounted bills up to a certain limit, insofar as were concerned those banking establishments that had not been in debt to the Bank of Finland for more than 120 days during the 12 months preceding the month in which bills were rediscounted.

As regards foreign exchange policy, an important event was the introduction of fluctuating rates of exchange for some foreign currencies. Although Finland is not a member of the Western European ,arbitrage club", it is able, to a limited extent, to arbitrate in many EPU currencies. On the last day of 1955, fluctuating rates of exchange were introduced for Sterling, Swedish, Norwegian and Danish crowns, Dutch florins, Swiss and Belgian francs and Deutsche marks. The fluctuation was fixed at $\pm 3 / 4$ per cent. In April 1956 the French franc was added to the list.

In the following table, the items of the balance sheet of the Bank of Finland have been regrouped and condensed into a number of net amounts in order to allow of an analysis of the factors affecting central bank money in private hands. The bills rediscounted by the credit institutions appear separately in the table.

FACTORS AFFECTING CENTRAL BANK MONEY IN PRIVATE HANDS IN 1956

Effect, mill. mk (increasing + decreasing -)

| Net foreign | 10479 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Net debt of the Treasury, decrease | 3234 |
| Advances to business enterprises, increase | + 2473 |
| Cash reserve accounts, decrease | + 6677 |
| Deposits against import licences, decr. | + 2453 |
| Bank's own funds, increase | 1252 |
| USSR gold credit, increase | 1016 |
| Other factors, net change | 2346 |
| Effect of the factors above | 6724 |
| Rediscounts, increase | + 11037 |
| Net change | + 4313 |

CATEGORIES OF CENTRAL BANK MONEY
Change, mill. mk
Notes in circulation ..................... +4852
Cheque accounts of banks excl. cash
reserve accounts ....................... - 539
Net change +4313

The principal contractive factor during the course of last year was the deterioration in the foreign payments position, as stated above. The decrease in the net foreign assets amounted to 10500 million marks. This large reduction was due to the fact that, in view of the strong inflationary pressure, it was considered important to increase imports in order to remove the disproportion between supply and demand, although an increase in imports could occur only at the expense of the foreign exchange reserve. Further, the influence of the Treasury was restrictive. This, however, was to a large extent only apparent: during the greater part of the year the State finances showed a deficit, but at the end of the year the current account of the Treasury temporarily increased to a considerable extent.

A counterbalance to the circumstances referred to, and to other restrictive factors which are to be observed in the table was provided by the abandonment or relaxation of the measures of monetary policy of the Bank of Finland that have already been mentioned. The freeing of the cash reserve
deposits signified a relaxation of 6700 million marks, while the reduction of deposits against import licences represented 2500 million. In addition to this, the credits granted or negotiated by the Bank of Finland in various forms for trade and industry increased by approximately 2500 million marks. The influence of the contractive factors was, nevertheless, considerably greater than that of the expansive factors. The difference between them amounted to 6700 million marks. However, owing to the rise in the general level of earnings the amount of notes in circulation was not reduced, but increased by 4900 million marks. As a result, the banks had to increase their borrowing by 11000 million marks in the form of rediscounted bills, and to reduce by 500 million their current accounts at the Bank of Finland. At the end of the year, the liquidity of the banking establishments was therefore lower than ever before.

## THE BALANCE SHEET

## A change in Accountancy

Until the end of May, the cash reserves deposited by the banks in accordance with the cash reserve agreement were treated as short-term liabilities and entered under „cheque accounts of banks", while the deposits against import licences were included in ,,other cheque accounts". On May 31 these items were transferred to „long-term Finnish liabilities".

## Foreign Balances

As is shown in the balance sheet, foreign exchange assets were in 1956 reduced by 6500 million marks. The net decrease in the exchange reserves was, however, 7300 million marks, as simultaneously the shortterm liabilities on foreign exchange accounts increased by 700 million. Other foreign liabilities also increased. The liabilities on

BALANCE SHEET

| Assets | $\underset{1956}{\text { Dec. }{ }^{31}}$ | Change <br> in 1950 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Mill. mk |  |
| Ordinary note cover | 32300 | 6014 |
| Gold | 7849 |  |
| Foreign exchange | 21561 | 6528 |
| Foreign bills | 115 |  |
| Foreign bonds | 2775 | + 514 |
| Supplementary note cover | 75452 | + 9876 |
| Inland bills discounted |  |  |
| In foreign currency | 9366 | + 855 |
| In Finnish currency | 14921 | + 484 |
| Rediscounted bills | 33665 | + 11037 |
| Treasury bond loan | 17500 | - 2500 |
| Other assets | 13370 | + 1753 |
| Finnish bonds | 1794 | 121 |
| Cheque accounts | 862 | + 372 $+\quad 188$ |
| Finnish coin | 354 | + 158 |
| Other claims | 10360 | +1344 |


| Liabilities |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Notes in circulation | 60735 | + 4852 |
| Short-term liabilities | 24725 | + 4671 |
| Foreign exchange accounts | 4600 | + 745 |
| Mark accounts of holders abroad | 7047 | + 3149 |
| Cheque account of the Treasury | 10550 | + 734 |
| Cheque accounts of banks | 1167 | 539 |
| Other cheque accounts | 368 | + 213 |
| Other short-term liabilities | 993 | + 369 |
| Long-term liabilities | 14725 | 7543 |
| Foreign | 8290 | + 571 |
| Finnish | 6435 | 8114 |
| Equalisation accounts | 8073 | + 2383 |
| Bank's own funds | 12864 | + 1252 |
| Capital | 10000 |  |
| Reserve fund | 812 | + 812 |
| Profits undisposed |  |  |
| Earnings less expenses | 2052 | + 440 |
| Total | 1122 | 56 |

the mark accounts of holders abroad grew by 3100 million marks, and the long-term foreign liabilities by 600 million. A slight increase in foreign bonds provided a counterweight to these. Thus the above changes resulted in a decrease of 10500 million marks in the net foreign assets of the Bank of Finland.

## Credits granted to trade and industry

It has already been mentioned that the net balances due to the Bank of Finland from trade and industry increased by 2500 million marks. Of this increase, 700 million
represented the growth of the actual credits granted by the Bank of Finland itself, the remainder being due to the negotiation of foreign credits. The prepayments for exports to the USSR, which are included in the item "Other claims", amounted to 8400 million marks at the end of the year, that is to say to 1300 million more than was the case at the beginning. The financing of these prepayments has been gradually transferred to the Treasury, the Bank of Finland acting as an intermediary.

## Accounts of the Treasury

During last year the current account of the Treasury at the Bank of Finland was on several occasions almost exhausted. At the end of the year, however, this account increased to 10500 million marks, or 700 million more than it was at the beginning of the year. In the course of the year the Treasury had also to reduce its bond loan from the Bank of Finland. Owing to these factors, the net liability of the Treasury to the Bank of Finland decreased by 3200 million marks.

## THE NOTE ISSUE

The following table shows the changes for 1956 in the right to issue notes, and the amount of the note issue used, the figures
for the end of 1955 having been recalculated according to the present method of accountancy.

| Statement of note issue |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Right of note issue | $\underset{\mathbf{1 9 5 6}}{\text { Dec. }}$ | Change <br> in 1956 |
|  | Mill. mk |  |
| Ordinary cover | 32300 | - 6014 |
| Supplementary cover (maximum $58000 \mathrm{mill} . \mathrm{mk})$............. | 58000 | - |
| Total | 90300 | 6014 |
| Note issue |  |  |
| Notes in circulation. | 60735 | + 4852 |
| Short-term liabilities | 24725 | + 4671 |
| Undrawn on cheque crcdits | 316 | - 178 |
| Note reserve | 4524 | -15359 |
| Total | 90300 | - 6014 |

The large reduction of the foreign exchange that serves as ordinary cover, together with the growth of the amount of notes in circulation by 4900 million marks to 60700 million exposed the note reserve to a severe strain. It will be seen from the above table that the note reserve fell off by 15400 million marks, and at the end of the year amounted to 4500 million marks only.

## THE BANK'S OWN FUNDS

At the beginning of the year, one-half of the profit for the previous year, 800 million marks, was transferred to the Reserve Fund. The profit for 1956 amounted to 2000 million marks, half of which goes to the State, while the remaining half is retained on the Reserve Fund of the Bank.

## ITEMS

Trade agreements. Finland has recently concluded trade agreements with the following countries.

Columbia, on November 16, 1956. The term of validity of the current trade agreement was extended to the end of 1957.

Eastern Germany, on December 10, 1956. Period: 1957. Total trade is esimated at some 34.5 mill. dollars. The quota list for exports from Finland includes round wood, sawn wood, veneers and plywood, board, fibre board, chemical pulp, various qualities of paper, and cheese, while the import list includes sodium sulphate, chemicals and chemical products, machinery, vehicles, and sugar.

Norway, on December 31, 1956. The term of validity of the agreement of December 1955 was extended to November 30, 1957. After taking into consideration Finland's difficult exchange situation, it was agreed that, during the first six months, Finland should license only 25 per cent of the quota-bound import goods which are still under restriction.

Poland, on December 21, 1956. Period: 1957. Finnish exports are estimated at about 25 million dollars, and imports at 23 mill. dollars. Including deliveries under the previous agreement which were not effected during 1956, the total value of imports during the current year will amount to about 29 mill. dollars.

The new agreement differs essentially from the foregoing ones in that it includes no tripartite arrangements with the USSR. In view of the fact that in 1956 such transfers were made to the value of 14 mill. dollars, imports of coal, which form the major part of imports from Poland, cannot
be continued on their former scale unless a proportion can be paid for in third country currencies. On this account, Poland has undertaken to deliver, during 1957, 1100000 tons of coal, of which 400000 tons may be paid for in Western currencies. In addition, Poland will deliver the 300000 tons of coal due under the previous agreement.

The quota list for Finnish exports includes butter, chemical pulp, paper, cardboard, rayon, copper products, ore, asbestos, and machinery. The import list includes in addition to coal, chemicals, rolled products, textiles, and vehicles.

Rumania, on December 28, 1956. Period: 1957. Total trade is estimated at some 59 mill. roubles. The quota list for Finnish imports includes fuel oil, gas oil, petrol and other naphtha products. Exports will include machinery and apparatus, kraft paper, paper sacks and other paper products, rayon, and butter.

Fluctuating rates of exchanges. On January 2, the Austrian Schilling was included among those currencies for which fluctuating rates of exchange are quoted. The range of fluctuation is $3 / 4$ per cent above or below par, i.e. the same as stipulated in the arbitrage agreement of certain OEEC countries. Such exchange rates were introduced on December 31, 1955, for Sterling, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian crowns, Guilders, Swiss and Belgian franes and DM, and on April 4, 1956, for the French franc.

The third supplementary budget. On the 20th of last December the Diet passed the third supplementary budget for the year 1956. The revenue and expenditure therein
contained are shown below, together with the totals for the ordinary and the three supplementary budgets, and the final figures for 1955.

| Revenue: | $\begin{gathered} \text { 1956 } \\ \text { 3rd suppl. } \\ \text { budget } \end{gathered}$ | 1956 Ordinary and suppl. budgets | $\begin{gathered} 1955 \\ \text { Finance } \\ \text { report } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Current | 29092 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mill. m } 1 \\ 230312 \end{gathered}$ | 205615 |
| Capital | - | 4530 | 16237 |
| Loans | - | 16356 | 13530 |
| Total | 29092 | 251199 | 235382 |
| Expenditure: |  |  |  |
| Current | 17819 | 185634 | 168211 |
| Capital | 16246 | 76355 | 64732 |
| Redemptions | 855 | 9975 | 10045 |
| Total | 34921 | 271964 | 242988 |

Among items of revenue, the greatest increases relate to import duties (11450 mill. marks), purchase tax (11000) and loans ( 6000 ). Of the items of expenditure, subsidies were raised by some 18900 mill. marks, employment grants by 19100 million, and grants for the construction of power stations by 4000 million.

The Board of Management of the Bank of Finland. On December 15, 1956, the President of the Republic appointed Mr Aarre Simonen as a member of the Bank's Board of Management from September 1, 1957. Mr Simonen is at present acting as Minister of Finance in the Cabinet.

Index-tied deposits. Accounts for indextied deposits were introduced in May 1955. Deposits on these accounts - minimum amount 30000 marks and minimum period of deposit 12 months - were tied to the cost of living index to the extent of 100 per cent.

The rate of interest in 1956 was the same as that for ordinary deposits.

At the beginning, these accounts were not particularly popular, no more than 341 mill. marks having accumulated by the end of 1955 ; during 1956, however, there was a marked increase.

The table below gives an idea of the growth of index-tied deposits in various credit institutions, in millions of marks.

In November 1956, the index-tied deposits represented 13.96 per cent of all deposits in the co-operative credit societies, 9.61 per cent in the savings banks, 3.88 per cent in the Post Office Savings Bank, and 1.59 per cent in the savings accounts of co-operative stores.

When the credit institutions concluded their new interest agreement they decided that from the beginning of 1957 they would take into use two kinds of index-tied deposits. Accounts A are tied to the cost of living index to the extent of 100 per cent, and accounts $B$ to 50 per cent. The rate of interest was established at 1 per cent below the rate of ordinary deposits. In other respects the terms were practically unchanged. The commercial banks and the credit institutions functioning in the area of Greater Helsinki, which at the end of 1955 ceased to accept such deposits, resumed this form of transaction at the beginning of the current year.

According to a decision of the Diet, the capital and interest on accounts $B$ are exempt from tax, but accounts $A$ are subject to income and property tax.

|  | 1055 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | XII | I | $\Pi$ | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII | IX | X | XI |
| Savings banks | 100 | 134 | 345 | 1000 | 2125 | 3420 | 4674 | 5612 | 6599 | 7369 | 8908 | 10345 |
| Co-op. credit societies | 47 | 99 | 200 | 715 | 1688 | 2467 | 3146 | 4096 | 4992 | 5749 | 7171 | 8499 |
| Post Office Savings Bank $\qquad$ | 32 | 41 | 58 | 98 | 129 | 168 | 209 | 291 | 400 | 511 | 1091 | 1281 |
| Savings departments of co-op. stores .... | 1 | 4 | 10 | 28 | 53 | 82 | 104 | 117 | 142 | 160 | 206 | 245 |
| Total | 180 | 278 | 613 | 1841 | 3995 | 6137 | 8133 | 10116 | 12133 | 13789 | 17376 | 20370 |
| Commercial banks | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 | 161 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## BANK OF FINLAND

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

R. v. Filandt, Governor
Klaus Waris,
Deputy Governor
K. T. Jutila

Esko K. Leinonen

C. G. SUNDMAN, ad int.
heads of department

Rimo Rossí,
Institute for Economic Research
C. G. Sundman,

Foreign currency
P.-E. Österlund,

Foreign currency
J. Hel_Ander, Foreign currency control

Eino Jussila, Office
G. Engberg,

Personnel
P. Blomquist,

Accounts and Personnel
A. Kajantie,

Documentary credits and Control

Arthur Aspelidnd, Cash

- Helge Lindström, Credits
A. Nenonen,

Foreign correspondence


[^0]:    On page 18, The Bank of Flnland in 1956

