

REVIEW OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE UNION IN 1953

In continuation of the review of a year ago, which led to the conclusion that, in the economic field, the Union had entered a phase of relative stability in 1952, compared with the marked expansion in the immediately foregoing years, a brief survey of the available statistical material is undertaken in the following pages in order to establish a general picture of the trends in the various sectors of the Union's economy during 1953. Unfortunately, in spite of several improvements during the year, notably the issue of a new and much improved monthly statistical bulletin by the Bureau of Census and Statistics, there are still a number of gaps in the available statistical material which seriously hamper a survey of this kind. So, for instance, there are still no monthly physical volume indexes available of industrial production, imports and exports, while several of the available indexes are in need of revision in the light of post-war conditions. In addition, there is need for current information of various kinds which will serve as a basis for improving the existing national accounts and balance of payments figures.

As in the past, numerous external influences had their effect, directly or indirectly, on the Union's economy in 1953. Some of these were the slackening of expenditure on defence by a number of countries in the light of the cease-fire arrangements in Korea and the lessening of the immediate danger of the outbreak of another world war; the expanded productive capacity which aided production in catching up with demand in many fields, resulting in increased international competition and in a further decline in world raw material prices, thus making businessmen cautious of holding stocks; the subsidence of inflationary pressures and the signs of a decline in economic activity in some overseas countries, notably the United States, towards the end of the year, although this may prove to be a phase of readjustment rather than a positive downward trend; and, finally, the continued scarcity of capital available abroad for investment in developing countries like the Union.

In regard to internal factors which also played an important part in shaping the Union's economy in 1953, mention should be made of the acceptance by the Union's Public Authorities as well as by a large number of industrialists of a policy of consolidation; the attempt by the Government not only to combat inflation, but also to provide for the finance required for essential capital works, by increasing taxation and maintaining the higher interest rate structure; the successful conclusion of negotiations with the I.B.R.D. for a new loan of 60 million U.S. dollars for Escom and the South African Railways in order to relieve the power and transportation shortages;

the excellent progress made in respect of other State sponsored projects such as Sasol and Foskor; the maintenance of price controls although these were relaxed in respect of certain commodities; the maintenance of import control; and the continued shortage in mining labour, which, however, showed signs of improvement towards the end of the year. In addition, the year 1953 cannot be passed over without referring to the fact that the production of uranium was started by several gold mining companies, while a further number is expected to reach the production stage in 1954.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

The latest estimates published by the Bureau of Census and Statistics indicate that the Union's total geographical income increased from about £1,268 million in 1951/52 to about £1,387 million in 1952/53, while its net national income increased from about £1,148 million to about £1,247 million, respectively. As will be seen from Table XXXVIII of this Bulletin, the increase of about £118 million in the geographical monetary income was in large part accounted for by the increases of about £40 million and £29 million in income originating in "Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing" and "Private Manufacturing", respectively, but substantial increases were also registered under several of the other headings, such as the increase of about £18 million under "Public Authorities" and that of about £10 million under "Trade and Commerce."

These estimates of the Bureau refer to the years ended 30th June, but from such information as is available at present, it would appear that, also on a calendar year basis, there was a substantial increase in the monetary national income as well as in the gross national product from 1952 to 1953.

Turning to the expenditure side of the national accounts picture, very provisional estimates indicate that total gross investment showed a substantial increase from 1952 to 1953. As the Union's net current deficit with the outside world declined during this period, it appears that there was also a substantial increase in total gross domestic saving, and this was partly accounted for by a substantial increase in the current surplus of the public sector, reflecting the Government's policy of providing from current revenue for part of the finance required for essential capital works. Furthermore, it would appear that there was also an increase in consumption, i.e. in the combined current expenditure of the public and the private sectors.

In regard to the increase in total gross investment, the available information indicates that this was largely accounted for by a much smaller decline in investment in inventories in 1953 than in 1952, and by the increased investment on the part of the South

African Railways, Escom, Sasol, Foskor and other State sponsored projects as well as a number of large-scale private projects, such as the several plants being erected by African Explosives and Chemical Industries, Ltd., and the factory of the South African Industrial Cellulose Corporation at Umkomaas, which, however, is also partly State sponsored.

PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT

Agriculture: According to the latest preliminary estimates by the Division of Economics and Markets, the gross value of agricultural production, which, largely as a result of a drop in the price of wool, had declined from about £289 million in 1950/51 to about £252 million in 1951/52, increased to the new record level of about £310 million in 1952/53.

The increase of about £58 million or 23 per cent from 1951/52 to 1952/53, which was in a large part accounted for by increases in the output of maize and wool, was substantially higher than the increase of about 15 per cent in the combined price index of agricultural products, so that it appears that there was also a strong increase in the physical volume of agricultural production during this period. The production of maize increased from about £32 million or 21.5 million bags in 1951/52 to about £53 million or 33.3 million bags in 1952/53, and the wool output from about £44 million or 221.6 million lbs. to about £55 million or 240.8 million lbs., while increases were registered in the output of most other agricultural products.

While the above figures refer to the years ending 30th June, and not to the calendar years 1952 and 1953, it appears, according to the Division, that also on a calendar year basis, the value of agricultural production was substantially higher in 1953 than in 1952.

Mining: Revised figures published by the Government Mining Engineer show that, excluding uranium and quarry products, the Union's total value of mineral production (largely based on sales figures), which had increased from £201.6 million in 1951 to a new high level of £210.7 million in 1952, declined slightly to £210.4 million in 1953. This small decline of only £0.3 million from 1952 to 1953, which was in large part accounted for by lower average prices realised for several kinds of minerals, indicates that it is most likely that with the inclusion of uranium, the production of which was started in 1953, the Union's total value of mineral production reached a new record level in 1953. The production figures of uranium are, however, not published, in view of the confidential nature of this information.

With the number of producing mines in the Orange Free State increasing from two to five, gold

production in that area increased from 224,000 fine ounces in 1952 to 431,000 fine ounces in 1953, but, largely on account of the continued labour shortage, the production in the rest of the Union showed a small decline, namely, from 11,595,000 fine ounces to 11,510,000 fine ounces. The Union's total gold output, therefore, increased from 11,819,000 fine ounces in 1952 to 11,941,000 fine ounces in 1953, but, on account of a decline in the average official price realised for gold, from approximately 248s. 11*½*d. per fine ounce in 1952 to 247s. 2d. per fine ounce in 1953, the value of output increased only by about £0.5 million, namely, £147.1 million to £147.6 million,* respectively.

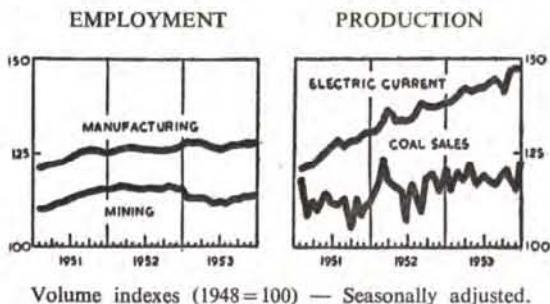
The amount of coal sold increased from 30,038,000 tons in 1952 to the new record level of 30,570,000 tons in 1953, or in terms of value, from £14.6 million to £16.5 million, while copper sales, on account of a lower average price realised, declined from £11.6 million to £9.3 million, although the quantity sold only declined from 37,700 tons to 37,600 tons. The combined sales of all other base minerals declined from £17.8 million to £16.5 million and those of diamonds from £14.8 to £14.0 million, although the quantity of diamonds sold increased from 2,350,000 metric carats to 2,627,000 metric carats. The sales of precious metals, excluding gold, on the other hand, increased from £4.8 million to £6.7 million.

In regard to the physical volume of mineral production, preliminary calculations indicate that, while the output of base metals increased by about 10 per cent from 1952 to 1953, that of non-metaliferous base minerals declined by about 6 per cent, largely as a result of a strong decline in the output of asbestos. Taking account of the increases of about one per cent and 12 per cent in the output of gold and diamonds, respectively, the total physical volume of mineral production is found to have increased by about 3 per cent.

Turning to mining employment, the average monthly index† declined from 116 in 1952 to 113 in 1953, but, as will be seen from the chart below, the monthly indexes, excluding seasonal changes, showed an upward tendency during the second half of 1953, following a downward movement during the first half of the year. The upward movement during the second half of the year was continued during the early months of 1954, when the labour position showed a substantial improvement, especially as far as native labour in the gold mining industry is concerned.

* These value figures do not include the additional revenue of about £3 million in 1952 and about £2 million in 1953 received by the gold mining companies in respect of gold sold at enhanced prices.

† Unless otherwise stated, all the indexes quoted in this review refer to the base 1948=100.



Manufacturing: In the absence of comprehensive up-to-date information on the output of manufacturing industries, very little can be said about the tendencies during 1953 in this vital sector of the Union's economy. Judging from the available index of manufacturing employment, it would appear that there was a further increase in the physical volume of output from 1952 to 1953, and considering in addition the increase in the average monthly index of Union wholesale prices during this period, it appears that the value of manufacturing output also showed a further increase.

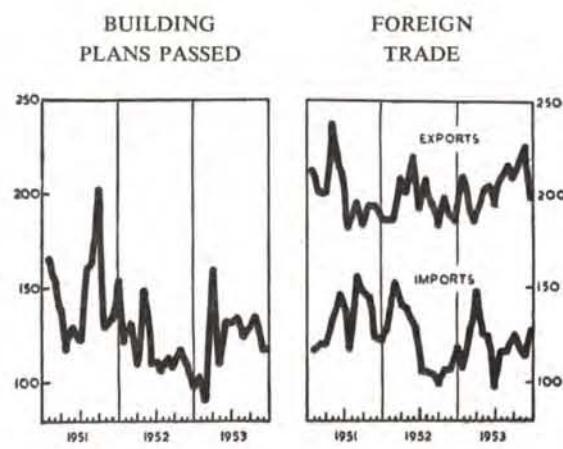
In regard to the index of manufacturing employment, it should be noted that the results of the 1950/51 Census of Industrial Establishments, which have recently become available, indicate that the true increase in manufacturing employment since 1948 has been substantially understated by the monthly indexes which are based on sample employment figures collected and published by the Bureau of Census and Statistics, and this is probably largely due to the fact that the monthly sample statistics do not adequately cover employment in new industries established during this period. Revising the index in the light of the latest census results (see p. 31), it is found that, whereas the old index indicated a somewhat slower rate of increase in manufacturing employment than in mining employment after 1948, the new index shows that the increase in the former was actually substantially higher than that in the latter. From 100 in the base year 1948, manufacturing employment rose to about 126 in 1952 and about 128 in 1953, compared with indexes of 116 and 113, respectively, in the case of mining employment, but here again it should be noted that the new 1952 and 1953 index figures for manufacturing employment are subject to further adjustment (which will most likely be upward), when the results of the census figures for these years become available. It is understood, however, that the Bureau of Census and Statistics is making an attempt to obtain monthly employment figures from a larger number of firms in order to publish a more representative sample.

From the chart above, on which the revised indexes are shown, it appears that, excluding seasonal

changes, manufacturing employment tended to decline slightly during the first half of 1953, but then rose again during the second half of the year.

Electricity: The fairly strong upward movement during 1951 and 1952 in the index of electric current generated, was continued during 1953, as can be seen from the accompanying chart. The average monthly index rose from 135 in 1952 to 143 in 1953, compared with 126 in 1951.

Building: After declining from 148.5 in 1951 to 115.1 in 1952, the average monthly index of the value of building plans passed in the eighteen principal cities of the Union, increased to 124.1 in 1953, largely on account of an increase in the plans passed for residential buildings. As can be seen from the chart below, the downward movement in the monthly indexes during 1952 was reversed during the first half of 1953, but during the second half of 1953 the tendency was once again downward. Similar tendencies are revealed by the index of the value of buildings commenced, in which case the average monthly index rose from 128.8 in 1952 to 142.3 in 1953, compared with 151.9 in 1951. These indexes do not, however, provide a good indication of actual building activity during the periods to which they relate, and, judging from the available sample figures of employment in the building and contracting industry, it appears that the volume of activity was on a slightly lower level in 1953 than in 1952. These employment figures show that the downward movement which was in evidence during the second half of 1952, was continued during the first half of 1953, whereafter there was a slight upward movement during the rest of the year. The downward tendency in building plans passed during 1952, therefore, still made itself felt during the first half of 1953.



Value indexes (1948 = 100) — Seasonally adjusted.

FOREIGN TRADE

After declining in 1952 from the record levels established in 1951, the value of the Union's foreign trade, excluding gold and gold products, increased again in 1953.

While the Government's import control policy remained approximately the same in 1953 as in 1952, it was found necessary to make further allocations in respect of imports of Government stores for defence, transport and other purposes. Thus, the imports of Government stores, after increasing from £13 million in 1951 to £22 million in 1952, rose further to about £36 million in 1953, and this caused the Union's total value of merchandise imports to show an increase from £419 million in 1952 to about £425 million in 1953, compared with £470 million in 1951. Excluding Government stores, there was, therefore, actually a decline of about £8 million in imports in 1953, but this looks small when compared with the corresponding drop of about £60 million which took place in 1952. As shown in the table below, this much smaller decline in 1953 than in 1952, was to a large extent accounted for by the fact that, whereas the imports of "Textiles, Apparel, Yarns and Fibres" declined by about £59 million in 1952, there was actually an increase of about £12 million under this heading in 1953. On the other hand, there was a notable decline of about £12 million in the imports of "Metals, Metal Manufactures, Machinery and Vehicles" in 1953, while declines were also registered under the headings "Wood, Cane, etc." and "Books, Paper and Stationery".

Increase or Decrease
in £ millions.

Class of Imports	1952	1953
Animals, Agricultural and Pastoral Products	—1	2
Food, Drink and Tobacco	7	1
Textiles, Apparel, Yarns and Fibres	—59	12
Metals, Metal Manufactures, Machinery and Vehicles	3	—12
Minerals, Earthenware and Glassware	3	—1
Oils, Waxes, Resins, Paints and Varnish	—1	—
Drugs, Chemicals, and Fertilizers	1	—3
Leather, Rubber and Manufactures thereof	—6	1
Wood, Cane, Wicker and Manufactures thereof	—2	—3
Books, Paper and Stationery	—4	—5
Jewellery, Timepieces, Fancy Goods and Musical Instruments	—1	—
Miscellaneous	—	—
TOTAL	—60	—8

In regard to the trend in the monthly figures for the value of imports, the chart above shows that, excluding seasonal changes, the fairly strong downward movement during 1952 was reversed during 1953, the indexes revealing a slight upward tendency during the year. Since the prices of imported goods declined during 1953, it would appear, therefore, that the physical volume of imports, apart from being higher in 1953 than in 1952, also showed an upward tendency during the year 1953.

Turning to the Union's exports of merchandise, the figures published by the Department of Customs and Excise, which exclude gold bullion but include gold products, show a slight decline from £336 million in 1952 to about £335 million in 1953. Excluding gold products, however (which declined in 1953 owing to the virtual disappearance during the year of the premium on gold sold on the free market), the exports of merchandise proper, which had declined from £277 million in 1951 to £271 million in 1952, rose to the new record level of about £283 million in 1953. The increase of about £12 million in 1953 took place in spite of a decline of about £6 million in imported goods re-exported, which means that the exports of South African produce actually increased by about £18 million, namely from £224 million in 1952 to about £242 million in 1953. Of this increase, approximately £7 million were accounted for by wool exports and about £6 million by the exports of foodstuffs.

As will be seen from the chart above, the monthly indexes of the value of exports, excluding seasonal changes, showed a fairly strong upward tendency during 1953, following the downward movement during the last seven months of 1952. In regard to the physical volume of South African produce exported (excluding gold), preliminary calculations indicate an increase of about 4 per cent from 1952 to 1953.

INTERNAL TRADE

Judging from the indexes published by the Chambers of Commerce for some of the principal urban areas in the Union, it would appear that, while the average monthly value of retail sales was higher in 1953 than in 1952, the physical volume of sales was slightly lower.

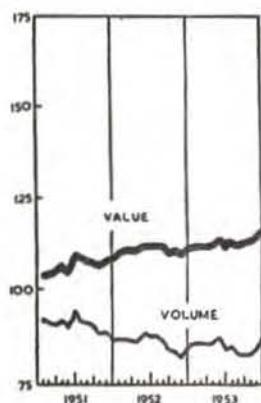
The average monthly indexes relating to the value of turnover increased from 108.3 in 1952 to 110.1 in 1953 in the case of Johannesburg, from 121.1 to 122.5 in the case of Pretoria, from 106.3 to 106.6 in the case of Cape Town, from 123.6 to 130.0 in the case of East London and from 112.7 to 117.6 in the case of Durban. Combining these figures, the weighted average index for the five areas increased from 110.6 in 1952 to 112.6 in 1953. As this increase of about 1.8 per cent was slightly lower than the corresponding increase of about 2.7 per cent in the Union's retail

price index (excluding rent), it would appear that the physical volume of goods sold at retail was slightly lower in 1953 than in 1952.

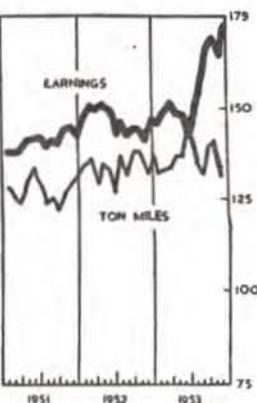
Considering the movements in the monthly indexes for the five areas combined, it would appear from the chart below that, in the case of the value turnover, the trend was slightly upward during the year 1953 following the declining tendency during the second half of 1952. In the case of the physical volume turnover, it appears that the trend was approximately constant during 1953, compared with the slight downward tendency which was in evidence during 1951 and 1952.

It should, however, be borne in mind that the above combined index of retail sales is based on restricted samples relating only to the five areas mentioned.

RETAIL SALES



S.A. RAILWAYS



Indexes (1948=100) — Seasonally adjusted.

RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION

After increasing from 141 in 1951 to 146 in 1952, the average monthly index of railway earnings, showed a strong increase to 155 in 1953. As will be seen from the chart above, this strong increase in 1953 was largely accounted for by a sharp upward movement in the monthly indexes during the second half of the year, following the increase in railway rates which came into operation towards the beginning of that period.

The index of total ton miles of revenue-earning traffic, on the other hand, also tended to move upwards during the year 1953, but did not show the spectacular rise revealed by the index of railway earnings during the second half of the year. This, of course, reflects the important part played by the increased railway rates in pushing railway earnings to new record levels towards the end of the year.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Principally as a result of increased merchandise exports, the Union's net current deficit with the

outside world showed a small decline in 1953 compared with 1952. On the other hand, there was a substantial decrease in the net inflow of capital, so that the decline in the country's gold and foreign assets was considerably more in 1953 than in 1952.

Correcting the import and export figures of the Union quoted under the heading "Foreign Trade" above, in order to include the Territory of South West Africa and to make various other adjustments for balance of payments purposes, it is found that the imports of merchandise, after declining from £467 million in 1951 to £417 million in 1952, increased slightly to about £423 million in 1953. Imports from the dollar area declined by about £14 million from 1952 to 1953, while those from other non-sterling countries increased by about £13 million and those from the sterling area by about £7 million.

The exports of merchandise, excluding gold bullion, gold products and ships' stores, on the other hand, which had declined from £281 million in 1951 to £277 million in 1952, increased to about £288 million in 1953. This increase of about £11 million from 1952 to 1953, was made up of increases of about £1 million, £3 million and £7 million in exports to the dollar area, other non-sterling countries and the sterling area, respectively.

The country's trade deficit, therefore, after dropping from £186 million in 1951 to £140 million in 1952, declined to £135 million in 1953, and taking account of the net gold output, on the one hand, and the deficit in respect of current invisible items, on the other, the net current deficit with the outside world declined from £60 million in 1952 to about £56 million in 1953, compared with about £102 million in 1951.

In regard to capital movements in 1953, the Union's drawings under the uranium loans amounted to about £15 million, while, according to preliminary estimates, other net private capital receipts, including trade credits, amounted to about £9 million. In addition, the Union Government drew about £9 million under the I.B.R.D. loans and received about £2.5 million in the form of a Swiss loan, but these official capital receipts were partly offset by the repayment during this period of about £3.6 million of the revolving dollar credits received from a group of American banks and of the Swiss loan of about £3 million received during 1950, while the banks' short-term foreign liabilities also showed a decline of about £2 million. Thus, the total net inflow of capital from all sources amounted to about £27 million in 1953, compared with about £53 million in 1952 and about £64 million in 1951. Of the net amount of about £27 million received in 1953, approximately £20 million came from outside the sterling area.

As a result of the above-mentioned factors, the Union's total gold and foreign assets declined by

about £29 million in 1953, compared with declines of £7 million in 1952 and £38 million in 1951.

During the month of January, 1954, the Reserve Bank's gold and foreign assets showed a strong decline, largely owing to rumours of a pending devaluation of the South African pound. The position corrected itself, however, in the weeks that followed, so that by the week ending the 19th March, the reserves stood at £103.6 million compared with £104.5 million at the end of December, 1953. This small net decline of about £1 million compares favourably with the decline of about £12 million during the corresponding period in 1953.

MONEY IN CIRCULATION

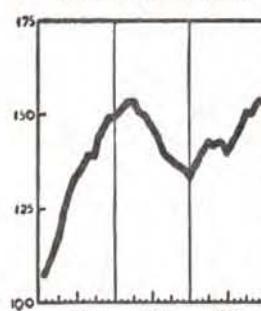
After showing a small net increase of about £2 million during the year 1952, the quantity of money in circulation in the Union declined from £439 million at the end of that year to £422 million at the end of August, 1953, but, principally as a result of a favourable balance of payments in the last quarter of the year, the amount in circulation increased again to £444 million by the end of 1953. The net increase during the year 1953, therefore, amounted to about £5 million, which was made up of an increase of about £8 million in notes and coin in circulation and a decrease of about £3 million in the banks' current account deposits. Taken on an ownership basis, there was a decline of about £2 million in the money supply owned by the foreign sector and a drop of about £16 million in that held by the Government,* as against an increase of about £23 million in the amount in the hands of the private sector.

The fact that the money supply showed a net increase of about £5 million during 1953, in spite of a decline of about £26 million† in the Reserve Bank's gold and foreign assets, was largely due to an increase of about £29 million in bank credit extended in the Union. Reserve Bank credit increased by about £18 million and commercial bank credit by about £11 million, the latter being the net result of an increase of about £27 million in the banks' discounts and advances, and decreases of about £13 million and £3 million in their balances with the National Finance Corporation and in their investments, respectively. These figures indicate a reversal of the tendencies in 1952, when there were fairly strong increases in the commercial banks' investments and balances with the National Finance

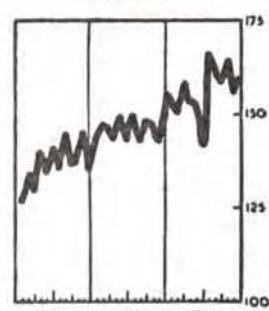
Corporation, as against a substantial drop in their discounts and advances to the public. In that year, as was pointed out in the review of a year ago, the increased interest rate structure played an important part in the diversion which took place of bank credit from the private to the Government sector, when there was an increase of about £38 million in bank credit extended directly, or indirectly through the National Finance Corporation, to the Union Government, compared with a decline of about £12 million in the amount extended to the private sector. In 1953, with the interest rate structure showing little change, this picture was changed considerably, when, as revealed by a more detailed analysis of the increase of about £29 million in total bank credit, there was an increase of only about £10 million in the amount extended to the Government, as against an increase of about £19 million in the amount going to the private sector. These figures explain to some extent the increase of about £23 million, mentioned above, in the money supply held by the private sector during 1953, while the drop of about £16 million in the amount held by the Government sector, which took place in spite of the increase of about £10 million in bank credit extended to that sector, reflects the high expenditure the Government was called upon to make during the year.

In regard to the short-term movement in the commercial banks' discounts and advances, the chart below shows that, excluding seasonal changes, the tendency was strongly upward during 1953, compared with the equally strong downward movement in 1952. The average month-end index of discounts and advances was also slightly higher in 1953 than in 1952.

COMMERCIAL BANKS' DISCOUNTS AND ADVANCES



BANK DEBITS



Value indexes (1948=100) — Seasonally adjusted.

BANK DEBITS

The average monthly index of bank debits, which covers all debits to current accounts in banks in the Union, except Government accounts, and which had increased from 137 in 1951 to 147 in 1952, rose further to the new record level of 156 in 1953. As shown in the chart above, the tendency in the monthly indexes was strongly upward during 1953, following

* Including South African Railways and Provincial Administrations.

† The actual decline in the Reserve Bank's gold and foreign assets during 1953 amounted to £30.4 million, but from this must be deducted the net repayment by the Bank of the dollar credits and Swiss loans referred to above, which amounted to £4.1 million and which did not affect the quantity of money in circulation. (See footnote (1) to Table XVI).

the substantial reduction during 1952 of the upward movement which was in evidence prior to that year.

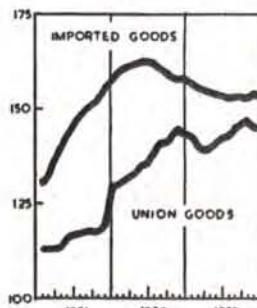
The rate of increase in the average monthly index of bank debits from 1952 to 1953 was higher than that in the quantity of money in circulation, so that the index of the velocity of circulation of the money supply increased further from 164 in 1952 to 171 in 1953.

COMMODITY PRICES

As will be seen from the chart on page iv, the indexes of total wholesale and retail prices remained relatively stable during 1953, compared with the sharp upward movement during 1951 and 1952.

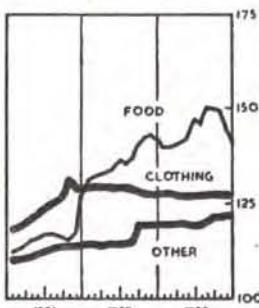
The average monthly index of wholesale prices for all goods, which had risen from 129.1 in 1951 to 148.0 in 1952, increased only to 149.3 in 1953, owing to a substantial decline in the prices of imported goods. As will be seen from the chart below, the monthly indexes of the prices of imported goods showed a continuation throughout the year 1953 of the downward movement which had set in during the second half of 1952, while the index of the prices of Union goods, after declining in the early months of 1953, increased again up till the month of October, and then declined in November and December. While the average monthly index in the case of Union goods, therefore, still reached a new high peak in 1953, the increase from December, 1952, to December, 1953, was only 0.3 per cent, compared with the increase of 11.2 per cent from December, 1951, to December, 1952.

WHOLESALE PRICES



Indexes (1948=100).

RETAIL PRICES



The average monthly index of retail prices also increased further in 1953, namely, from 125.8 in 1952 to 130.2 in 1953, compared with 115.7 in 1951, but here again the rate of increase during the year 1953 was substantially lower than that during 1952. From 129.0 in December, 1952, it increased to 129.8 in December, 1953, i.e., by only 0.6 per cent, compared with the increase of 6.2 per cent from December, 1951, to December, 1952.

As shown on the chart above, the further upward movement in retail prices was largely the result of

increased food prices, the indexes of clothing and of "other" items having remained relatively stable.

In the case of agricultural prices, the average monthly index covering all products, after declining from 182 in 1951 to 144 in 1952, increased to 164 in 1953. The increase of about 14 per cent from 1952 to 1953, was principally accounted for by an increase in the price of wool, as reflected in the increase of about 27 per cent in the index for the group "wool, mohair, hides and skins." The index for all other agricultural products combined, increased by only about 3 per cent.

While the average monthly index of agricultural prices increased in 1953, the monthly indexes actually showed a decline of about 1 per cent from December 1952 to December, 1953, and this was the net result of the changes in the indexes for the principal groups of products as shown in the table below :

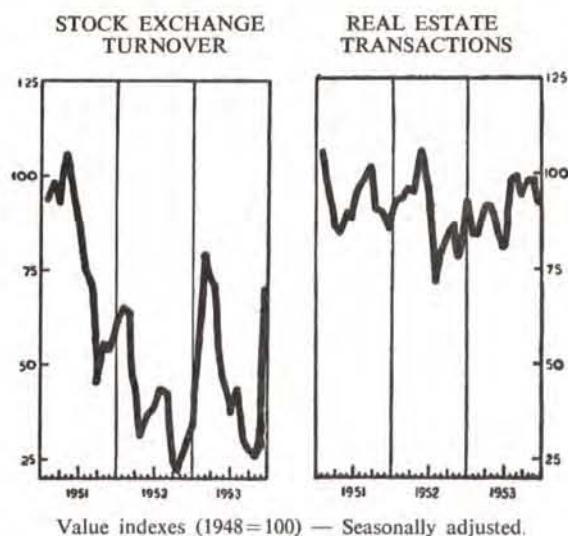
Group	Percentage Change
Mealies and kaffircorn	4.1
Wheat, oats and rye	1.4
Lucerne and tef hay	-19.0
Potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions and dry beans	-55.8
Wool, mohair, hides and skins	-1.2
Butterfat, cheese, milk and condensed milk	2.7
Cattle, sheep and pigs	3.4
Fowls, turkeys and eggs	5.6
Weighted average	-1.4

In regard to wool, the weighted average price of all types of wool (based on prices actually paid for wool in the grease at public auction in Union harbours) stood at 58.11 pence per lb. in December, 1953, compared with 55.38 pence per lb. in December, 1952.

STOCK EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

Stock exchange activity fluctuated on a somewhat higher level in 1953 than in 1952. After an initial increase in January and February, 1953, the index of stock exchange turnover declined sharply until about October, whereafter it staged a strong revival in December, so that the average monthly index rose to 48.4 in 1953, compared with 39.0 in 1952.

The revival of activity in December, 1953, was continued throughout the early months of 1954, but was mainly confined to the shares of developing gold mines, following favourable quarterly reports on development as well as rumours of favourable reports to come. Thus the index of turnover rose from 38.9 in November, 1953, to 142.9 in February, 1954, while the price index of the shares of developing gold mines rose from 96 to 155, and that of the shares of producing gold mines from 76 to 78, respectively.



REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

As will be seen from the chart above, the index of the value of property transactions, which dropped heavily around the middle of 1952 and then increased again during the last five months of that year, continued to show an upward tendency throughout the year 1953. The average monthly index, after declining from 92 in 1951 to 90 in 1952, increased again to 92 in 1953.

CONCLUSION

From the brief survey above, it will be clear that the Union's monetary volume of economic activity showed a further increase from 1952 to 1953, as reflected in the increases in the average monthly figures of a large number of the indexes reviewed, such as the national income, investment, the value of agricultural production, the value of manufacturing output, the value of imports and exports (excluding gold), retail sales, railway earnings, discounts and advances of the commercial banks, bank debits, stock exchange turnover and the value of property transactions. Furthermore, it would appear from the movements in the monthly indexes, that the trend was slightly upward throughout the year 1953, compared with the more or less constant trend which prevailed during 1952.

The further increase in the monetary volume of economic activity from 1952 to 1953, although accompanied by a small further increase in the general level of prices, also reflected an increase in

the physical volume of activity. In the case of the latter, it would appear that the short-term movement was slightly upward during 1953, compared with the slight downward tendency which was in evidence during 1952.

In regard to the balance of payments, there was a further substantial decline in the country's gold and foreign assets during 1953, and while this was partly accounted for by a decline in the inflow of capital, it should also be read in conjunction with the Government's policy of surrendering part of the available reserves in order to maintain the imports of essential capital equipment. Thus imports actually increased from 1952 to 1953, but on account of rising exports, especially of South African produce, the net current deficit showed a small decline, so that the ratio thereof to the geographical national income declined to about 5 per cent, compared with about 6 per cent in 1952 and about 10 per cent in 1951.

On the whole, therefore, it would appear that the policy of consolidation, in conjunction with import control, was successfully applied in 1953, in so far as it caused no actual setback in the Union's general economic development and aided in directing the available capital and labour resources along the lines most needed. Thus it was found above that the increased investment in 1953, excluding the change in inventories, was largely accounted for by the South African Railways, Escom and other State sponsored projects, as well as by the development of a number of key projects in the private sector, which have already brought about improved transport and power services and also increased the country's productive capacity. Furthermore, it was found that towards the end of the year, and especially during the early months of 1954, an improved labour position was developing in the gold mining industry.

The upward movement in the Union's economic cycle during 1953, moreover, differed from that during the foregoing years in that it was accompanied by a relatively stable price level. Thus it would appear that the tide of inflation has been halted, and that, with its rapidly expanding productive capacity, which should have a very favourable long-run effect on the national income and the balance of payments, the Union can face the future with confidence. The course of the country's economic cycle, which has shown no signs of a recession during 1953, will, however, as far as the immediate future is concerned, depend to a large extent on developments overseas.

T. W. de Jongh,
Statistician.

OORSIG VAN EKONOMIESE TOESTANDE IN DIE UNIE IN 1953

In aansluiting by die oorsig van 'n jaar gelede, wat tot die gevolgtrekking geleid het dat die Unie se ekonomiese bedrywigheid 'n fase van relatiewe stabiliteit in 1952 binnegegaan het, in vergelyking met die besondere uitbreiding gedurende die onmiddellik voorafgaande jare, word 'n kort oorsig van die beskikbare statistiese gegewens in die volgende bladsye onderneem ten einde 'n algemene beeld van die neigings in die verskeie sektors van die Unie se ekonomiese bedrywigheid gedurende 1953 te verkry. Nieteenstaande verskeie verbeterings gedurende die jaar, veral die uitgawe van 'n nuwe en baie verbeterde statistiese maandblad deur die Buro vir Sensus en Statistiek, is daar ongelukkig nog 'n aantal leemtes in die beskikbare statistiese gegewens wat 'n oorsig van dié aard ernstig aan bande lê. So, byvoorbeeld, is daar nog steeds geen maandelikse indekse van die fisiese omvang van nywerheidsproduksie, invoere en uitvoere beskikbaar nie, terwyl verskeie van die bestaande indekse hersiening in die lig van naoorlogse toestande vereis. Hierbenewens is daar 'n behoefte aan lopende inligting van verskeie aard wat as basis vir die verbetering van die bestaande nasionale rekening- en betalingsbalanssyfers kan dien.

Soos in die verlede het menige eksterne faktore gedurende 1953 direk of indirek 'n uitwerking op die Unie se ekonomiese gang gehad. Enkele hiervan was die verslapping van uitgawes op verdediging deur 'n aantal lande in die lig van die staakvuurooreenkoms in Korea en die vermindering van die onmiddellike gevaar van die uitbreek van nog 'n wêreldoorlog; die verhoogde produksievermoë wat produksie meegehelp het om aanvraag in te haal op verskeie gebiede en dus skerper internasionale mededinging en 'n verdere daling in die wêrelde se grondstofprysse veroorsaak het, en sodoende sakelui versigtig gemaak het om voorrade te hou; die afname van die inflasionele druk en die tekens van 'n afname in die ekonomiese bedrywigheid van enkele oorsese lande, veral die Verenigde State, teen die end van die jaar, hoewel dit 'n fase van heraanpassing eerder as 'n besliste afwaartse neiging mag blyk te wees; en, ten slotte, die volgehoue skaarste aan kapitaal in die buiteland beskikbaar vir belegging in ontwikkelende lande soos die Unie.

Met betrekking tot interne faktore wat ook 'n belangrike rol in die Unie se ekonomiese gang gedurende 1953 gespeel het, moet melding gemaak word van die aanname deur die Unie se Openbare Owerhede sowel as deur 'n groot aantal sakelui van 'n beleid van konsolidasie; die poging van die Regering nie alleen om inflasie te bekamp nie, maar ook om voorsiening te maak vir die fondse benodig vir noodsaklike kapitaalwerke, deur belastings te verhoog en die hoër rentekoersstruktuur te

handhaaf; die suksesvolle afloop van onderhandelings met die I.B.H.O. vir 'n nuwe lening van 60 miljoen V.S.A. dollars vir Eskom en die Suid-Afrikaanse Spoerweë ten einde die krag- en vervoertekorte te verlig; die goeie vordering wat ten opsigte van ander Staatsondersteunde projekte soos Sasol en Foskor gemaak is; die handhawing van prysbeheer alhoewel dit ten opsigte van sekere goedere verslap is; die handhawing van invoerbeheer; en die volgehoue tekort aan mynarbeid wat egter teen die einde van die jaar tekens van verbetering getoon het. Verder kan die jaar 1953 nie daargelaat word nie, sonder verwysing na die feit dat 'n aanvang met die produksie van uraan deur verskeie goudmynmaatskappye gemaak is, terwyl 'n verdere aantal verwag word om in 1954 die produksiestadium te bereik.

NASIONALE REKENINGE

Die jongste skattings gepubliseer deur die Buro vir Sensus en Statistiek dui aan dat die Unie se totale geografiese volksinkome van omtrent £1,268 miljoen in 1951/52 tot ongeveer £1,387 miljoen in 1952/53 toegeneem het, terwyl die netto volksinkome gestyg het van omtrent £1,148 miljoen tot ongeveer £1,247 miljoen, onderskeidelik. Soos gesien kan word van Tabel XXXVIII van hierdie Blad, was die styng van omtrent £118 miljoen in die geografiese inkome in groot mate die gevolg van die toenames van omtrent £40 miljoen en £29 miljoen in die inkome wat ontstaan in „Landbou, Bosbou en Visserye“ en „Private Fabriekswese“, onderskeidelik, maar aansienlike toenames is ook aangeteken onder verskeie ander hoofde, soos die toename van omtrent £18 miljoen onder „Openbare Owerhede“ en dié van ongeveer £10 miljoen onder „Handel“.

Hierdie skattings van die Buro het betrekking op die jare geëindig 30 Junie, maar sulke inligting as wat tans beskikbaar is, dui daarop dat, ook op 'n kalenderjaarbasis, daar 'n aansienlike toename in die monetêre volksinkome sowel as in die bruto volksproduksie van 1952 tot 1953 was.

Wat die uitgawe-kant van die nasionale rekeninge betref, toon voorlopige skattings aan dat daar 'n aansienlike styng in totale bruto belegging van 1952 tot 1953 was. Aangesien die Unie se netto lopende tekort teenoor die buiteland gedurende dié tydperk gedaal het, wil dit voorkom asof daar ook 'n aansienlike styng was in totale bruto binne-landse besparing, en dit was gedeeltelik die gevolg van 'n aansienlike toename in die lopende surplus van owerheidsliggame, wat die Regering se beleid weerspieël om uit lopende inkomste te voorsien vir 'n deel van die fondse wat benodig word vir noodsaklike kapitaalwerke. Ook wil dit voorkom asof daar 'n toename was in verbruik, d.w.s. in die lopende

uitgawes van beide die openbare en die private sektors.

Wat dje toename in totale bruto belegging betref, dui die beskikbare inligting daarop dat dit grootliks toe te skryf is aan 'n veel kleiner daling in belegging in voorrade in 1953 as in 1952, en aan die verhoogde belegging van die Suid-Afrikaanse Spoorweë, Eskom, Sasol, Foskor en ander Staatsondersteunde projekte sowel as 'n aantal grootskaalse private projekte soos die verskeie produksie-eenhede wat opgerig word deur African Explosives and Chemical Industries, Ltd., en die fabriek van die South African Industrial Cellulose Corporation te Umkomaas, wat egter ook gedeeltelik deur die Staat ondersteun word.

PRODUKSIE EN WERKVERSKAFFING

Landbou. Volgens die jongste voorlopige skatings van die Afdeling Ekonomiese Marke het die bruto waarde van die landbouproduksie, wat hoofsaaklik as gevolg van 'n daling in die prys van wol van omtrent £289 miljoen in 1950/51 tot omtrent £252 miljoen in 1951/52 afgeneem het, gestyg tot die nuwe rekordpeil van ongeveer £310 miljoen in 1952/53.

Die styging van omtrent £58 miljoen of 23 persent van 1951/52 tot 1952/53, wat in groot mate te wye was aan toenames in die produksie van mielies en wol, was aansienlik groter as die styging van omtrent 15 persent in die gesamentlike prysindeks van landbouprodukte, sodat dit skyn asof daar ook 'n sterk styging in die fisiese omvang van die landbouproduksie gedurende hierdie tydperk was. Die produksie van mielies het toegeneem van omtrent £32 miljoen of 21.5 miljoen sak in 1951/52 tot omtrent £53 miljoen of 33.3 miljoen sak in 1952/53, en die wolskeersel van omtrent £44 miljoen of 221.6 miljoen lb. tot omtrent £55 miljoen of 240.8 miljoen lb., terwyl daar toenames was in die produksie van meeste ander landbouprodukte.

Die bestaande syfers het betrekking op die jare geëindig 30 Junie, en nie op die kalenderjare 1952 en 1953, maar, volgens die Afdeling, wil dit voorkom asof die waarde van die landbouproduksie, ook op 'n kalenderjaarbasis, aansienlik hoër was in 1953 as in 1952.

Mynbou. Gewysigde syfers wat deur die Staatsmyningenieur gepubliseer is, toon aan dat, met uitsluiting van uraan en steengroefprodukte, die waarde van die Unie se minerale produksie (grotendeels op verkope gebaseer), wat van £201.6 miljoen in 1951 tot die nuwe hoe peil van £210.7 miljoen in 1952 toegeneem het, ietwat gedaal het tot omtrent £210.4 miljoen in 1953. Die geringe afname van slegs £0.3 miljoen van 1952 tot 1953, wat in groot mate te wye was aan laer gemiddelde prys wat vir verskeie soorte minerale ontvang is, toon aan dat dit hoogswaarskynlik is dat met die insluiting van uraan, wat vir die eerste keer in 1953 geproduseer is, die Unie se totale minerale produksie 'n nuwe rekordpeil in 1953 bereik het. Die produksiesyfers van uraan word egter nie gepubliseer nie omdat hierdie inligting as vertroulik beskou word.

Met 'n styging in die aantal produserende myne in die Oranje Vrystaat van twee tot vyf, het die goudproduksie in daardie gebied van 224,000 fyn onse in 1952 tot 431,000 fyn onse in 1953 toegeneem, maar hoofsaaklik weens die volgehoue tekort aan arbeid het die produksie in die res van die Unie effens van 11,595,000 fyn onse tot 11,510,000 fyn onse afgeneem. Die Unie se totale goudproduksie het dus van 11,819,000 fyn onse in 1952 tot 11,941,000 fyn onse in 1953 toegeneem, maar aangesien die gemiddelde offisiële prys wat vir goud ontvang is, gedaal het van ongeveer 248s. 11½d. per fyn ons in 1952 tot 247s. 2d. per fyn ons in 1953, het die waarde van produksie slegs met omtrent £0.5 miljoen toegeneem, nl. van £147.1 miljoen tot £147.6 miljoen.*

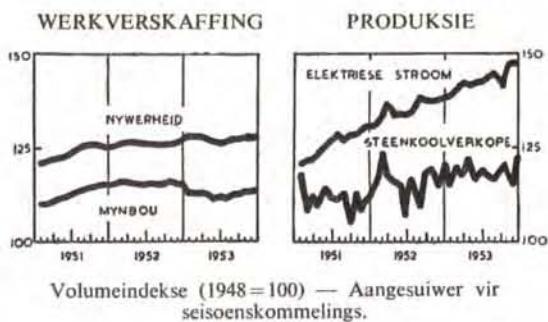
Die hoeveelheid steenkool verkoop het toegeneem van 30,038,000 ton in 1952 tot die rekordpeil van 30,570,000 ton in 1953, of in terme van waarde, van £14.6 miljoen tot £16.5 miljoen, terwyl die verkope van koper, weens 'n vermindering in die gemiddelde prys, van £11.6 miljoen tot £9.3 miljoen gedaal het, alhoewel die hoeveelheid verkoop slegs van 37,700 ton tot 37,600 ton afgeneem het. Die verkope van alle ander onedele minerale saam het afgeneem van £17.8 miljoen tot £16.5 miljoen en dié van diamante van £14.8 miljoen tot £14.0 miljoen, alhoewel die hoeveelheid diamante verkoop toegeneem het van 2,350,000 metriese karaat tot 2,627,000 metriese karaat. Die verkope van edele metale, uitgesonderd goud, aan die ander kant, het toegeneem van £4.8 miljoen tot £6.7 miljoen.

Met betrekking tot die fisiese omvang van minerale produksie, dui voorlopige berekenings aan dat, terwyl die produksie van metaalhoudende onedele minerale met omtrent 10 persent van 1952 tot 1953 toegeneem het, dié van nie-metaalhoudende onedele minerale met ongeveer 6 persent afgeneem het, hoofsaaklik as gevolg van 'n sterk afname in die produksie van asbes. Word die toenames van omtrent een persent en 12 persent in die produksie van goud en diamante onderskeidelik bygereken, dan het die totale fisiese omvang van die minerale produksie met omtrent 3 persent gestyg.

Wat mynarbeid betref, het die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks† van 116 in 1952 tot 113 in 1953 afgeneem, maar soos blyk uit die onderstaande grafiek, het die maandelikse indekssyfers, met uitsluiting van seisoenskommelings, 'n opwaartse neiging gedurende die tweede helfte van 1953 getoon, nadat die tendens afaarts was gedurende die eerste helfte van die jaar. Die opwaartse beweging gedurende die tweede helfte van die jaar is voortgesit gedurende die eerste maande van 1954, toe die arbeidspositie 'n aansienlike verbetering getoon het, veral wat naturellarbeid in die goudmynbedryf betref.

* Hierdie waardesyfers sluit nie die addisionele inkomste van omtrent £3 miljoen in 1952 en omtrent £2 miljoen in 1953 ontvang deur die goudmynaatskappy t.o.v. goudverkoop teen verhoogde prys, in nie.

† Tensy anders aangedui, is al die indekse wat in hierdie oorsig gemeld word, op die basis 1948=100 gebaseer.



Nywerheid. In die afwesigheid van omvattende gegewens omtrent fabrieksproduksie in die Unie vir die jongste tyd, kan weinig gesê word van die neigings gedurende 1953 in hierdie belangrike sektor van die Unie se ekonomie. Geoordeel volgens die beskikbare indeks van werkverskaffing in die nywerheid, wil dit voorkom asof daar 'n verdere toename in die fisiese omvang van produksie van 1952 tot 1953 was, en indien die stijging in die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van die Unie se groothandelspryse ook in aanmerking geneem word, skyn dit asof die waarde van fabrieksproduksie ook 'n verdere stijging ondergaan het.

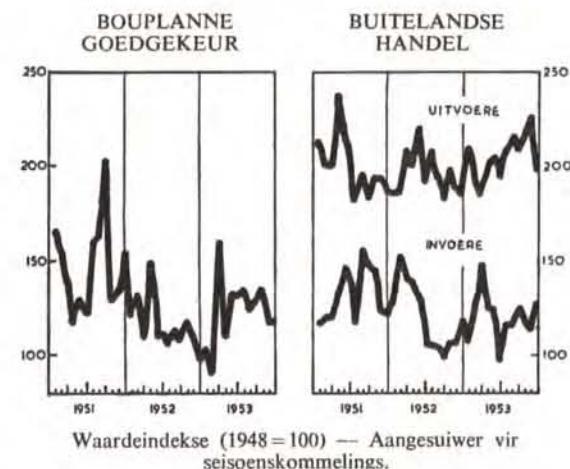
Wat die indeks van werkverskaffing in die nywerheid betref, moet daarop gelet word dat die resultate van die 1950/51 Sensus van Nywerheidsinrigtings wat onlangs beskikbaar gekom het, aandui dat die werklike stijging in werkverskaffing in die nywerheid ná 1948 heelwat meer was as wat aangetoon is deur die maandelikse indekse wat gebaseer is op die monstersyfers wat deur die Buro vir Sensus en Statistiek ingevorder en gepublisper word, en dit is waarskynlik grootliks te wyte aan die feit dat die maandelikse monstersyfers nie die werkverskaffing in nywerhede wat gedurende hierdie tydperk tot stand gekom het, dek nie. Na hersiening van die indeks in die lig van die jongste sensus-gegewens (sien bls. 31), word gevind dat, terwyl die ou indeks 'n ietwat stadiger tempo van toename in werkverskaffing in die nywerheid as in werkverskaffing in die mynbou ná 1948 aangetoon het, die nuwe indeks aandui dat die toename in eersgenoemde in werklikheid heelwat meer was as dié in laasgenoemde. Van 100 in die basisjaar 1948, het werkverskaffing in die nywerheid toegeneem tot 126 in 1952 en omtrent 128 in 1953, vergeleke met indekssyfers van 116 en 113, onderskeidelik, in die geval van werkverskaffing in die mynbou, maar hier moet weer daarop gelet word dat die nuwe 1952 en 1953 indekssyfers vir werkverskaffing in die nywerheid onderhewig is aan 'n verdere hersiening (wat hulle moontlik verder sal verhoog) wanneer die resultate van die sensusse vir hierdie jare beskikbaar word. Dit word egter verstaan dat die Buro besig is met 'n poging om maandelikse syfers van werkverskaffing van 'n groter aantal firms te verkry om sodoende 'n meer verteenwoordigende monster te publiseer.

Uit die bostaande grafiek, waarop die hersiene

indekse aangetoon word, blyk dat die werkverskaffing in die nywerheid, uitgesonderd seisoenskommelings, effens gedaal het gedurende die eerste helfte van 1953, maar dat dit daarna weer gedurende die tweede helfte van die jaar toegeneem het.

Elektrisiteit. Die taamlike sterk opwaartse neiging gedurende 1951 en 1952 in die indeks van elektriese stroom opgewek is gedurende die jaar 1953 voortgesit, soos van die bostaande grafiek aangeleid kan word. Die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks het toegeneem van 135 in 1952 tot 143 in 1953, vergeleke met 126 in 1951.

Boubedryf. Na 'n daling van 148.5 in 1951 tot 115.1 in 1952, het die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van die waarde van bouplanne goedgekeur in die agtien vernaamste stede van die Unie toegeneem tot 124.1 in 1953, hoofsaaklik weens 'n stijging in die planne wat vir woonhuise goedgekeur is. Soos blyk uit die onderstaande grafiek het daar in die afwaartse beweging in die maandelikse indekse gedurende 1952 'n kentering gekom gedurende die eerste helfte van 1953, maar gedurende die tweede helfte van 1953 was die neiging weer afwaarts. Dergelyke tendense word aangetoon deur die indeks van die waarde van geboue begin, in welke geval die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van 128.8 in 1952 tot 142.3 in 1953 toegeneem het, vergeleke met 151.9 in 1951. Hierdie indekse verskaf egter nie 'n goeie aanduiding van die werklike boubedrywigheid gedurende die tydperk waarop hulle betrekking het nie, en, geoordeel volgens die beskikbare monstersyfers van werkverskaffing in die boubedryf, wil dit voorkom asof die omvang van die bedrywigheid op 'n ietwat laer peil was in 1953 as in 1952. Hierdie syfers van werkverskaffing toon dat die afwaartse beweging gedurende die tweede helfte van 1952, gedurende die eerste helfte van 1953 voortgesit is, waarna daar 'n effens opwaartse beweging gedurende die res van die jaar ingetree het. Die afwaartse beweging in bouplanne goedgekeur gedurende 1952 het dus nog steeds 'n uitwerking getoon gedurende die eerste helfte van 1953.



BUITELANDSE HANDEL

Nadat dit in 1952 gedaal het vanaf 'n rekordpeil in 1951, het die waarde van die Unie se buitelandse handel, uitgesonderd goud en goudprodukte, weer in 1953 toegeneem.

Terwyl die Regering se invoerbeheerbeleid omtrent dieselfde was in 1953 as in 1952, is dit tog nodig gevind om verdere toekennings te maak t.o.v. die invoere van Regeringsvoorraade vir verdedigings-, vervoer- en ander doeleinades. Dus het die invoere van Regeringsvoorraade, nadat dit van £13 miljoen in 1951 tot £22 miljoen in 1952 toegeneem het, verder gestyg tot omtrent £36 miljoen in 1953, en dit het veroorsaak dat die Unie se totale waarde van goedereinvoere toegeneem het van £419 miljoen in 1952 tot omtrent £425 miljoen in 1953, vergeleke met £470 miljoen in 1951. Uitgesonderd Regeringsvoorraade was daar dus in werklikheid 'n afname van omtrent £8 miljoen in 1953, maar dit lyk klein in vergelyking met die ooreenstemmende daling van omtrent £60 miljoen wat in 1952 plaasgevind het. Soos in die tabel hieronder aangetoon, was hierdie aansienlik kleiner afname in 1953 as in 1952 in groot mate toe te skryf aan die feit dat, terwyl die invoere van „weefsels, klere, garing en vesels“ in 1952 met omtrent £59 miljoen gedaal het, daar in werklikheid 'n toename van ongeveer £12 miljoen onder hierdie hoof in 1953 was. Aan die ander kant was daar 'n daling van omtrent £12 miljoen in die invoere van „metale, metaalfabrikate, masjinerie en voertuie“ in 1953, terwyl daar ook afnames was onder die hoofde „hout, rottang, ens.“ en „boeke, papier en skryfbehoeftes“.

Toename of Afname
in £ Miljoene

Invoerklas	1952	1953
Diere, landbou- en dierlike produkte	-1	2
Voedsel, drank en tabak	7	1
Weefsel, klere, garing en vesels	-59	12
Metale, metaalfabrikate, masjinerie en voertuie	3	-12
Delfstowwe, erde- en glaswerk	3	-1
Olie, was, harssoorte, verfmiddels en versnisse	-1	-
Droperye, chemikalië en misstowwe	1	-3
Leer, rubber, en fabrikate daarvan	-6	1
Hout, rottang,riet en fabrikate daarvan	-2	-3
Boeke, papier en skryfbehoeftes	-4	-5
Juweliersware, uurwerke, weelde-artikels en musiekinstrumente	-1	-
Diverse goedere	-	-
TOTAAL	-60	-8

Wat die tendens in die maandelikse syfers vir die waarde van invoere betref, dui die bestaande grafiek aan dat, uitgesonderd seisoensbewegings daar 'n effense opwaartse neiging gedurende 1953 was, vergeleke met die taamlike sterk afwaartse beweging gedurende 1952. Aangesien die prys van invoer goedere gedurende 1953 afgeneem het, wil dit dus voorkom asof die fisiese omvang van invoere, aangesien daarvan dat dit hoër was in 1953 as in 1952,

ook 'n opwaartse neiging gedurende die jaar 1953 getoon het.

Die gepubliseerde syfers van die waarde van die Unie se goedereuitvoer, wat staafgoud uitsluit maar goudprodukte insluit, aan die ander kant, toon 'n klein vermindering van £336 miljoen in 1952 tot omtrent £335 miljoen in 1953. Word die uitvoer van goudprodukte (wat gedurende 1953 gedaal het as gevolg van die feitlike verdwyning gedurende die jaar van die premie op goud in die vrye mark verkoop) egter uitgesluit, dan het die goedereuitvoer, wat van £277 miljoen in 1951 tot £271 miljoen in 1952 afgeneem het, gestyg tot die nuwe rekordpeil van sowat £283 miljoen in 1953. Die toename van omtrent £12 miljoen in 1953 het plaasgevind ten spyte van 'n afname van omtrent £6 miljoen in ingevoerde goedere wat heruitgevoer is, wat beteken dat die uitvoere van Suid-Afrikaanse produkte in werklikheid met ongeveer £18 miljoen toegeneem het, d.w.s. van £224 miljoen in 1952 tot omtrent £242 miljoen in 1953. Van hierdie toename, het woluitvoere omtrent £7 miljoen en voedseluitvoere omtrent £6 miljoen verteenwoordig.

Soos op die bestaande grafiek gesien kan word, het die maandelikse indeks van die waarde van uitvoere, uitgesonderd seisoenskommelings, 'n taamlike sterk opwaartse neiging gedurende 1953 getoon, nadat daar 'n afwaartse beweging gedurende die laaste sewe maande van 1952 was. Wat die fisiese omvang van die uitvoere van Suid-Afrikaanse produkte (uitgesonderd goud) betref, dui voorlopige berekenings op 'n styging van omtrent 4 persent vanaf 1952 tot 1953.

BINNELANDSE HANDEL

Geoordel volgens die indeks gepubliseer deur die Kamers van Koophandel vir sekere van die belangrikste stedelike gebiede in die Unie, wil dit voorkom asof die gemiddelde maandelikse waarde van kleinhandelsverkope in 1953 groter was as in 1952, maar dat die fisiese omvang van verkope ietwat kleiner was.

Die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van die waarde van omset het gestyg van 108.3 in 1952 tot 110.1 in 1953 in die geval van Johannesburg, van 121.1 tot 122.5 in die geval van Pretoria, van 106.3 tot 106.6 in die geval van Kaapstad, van 123.6 tot 130.0 in die geval van Oos-Londen, en van 112.7 tot 117.6 in die geval van Durban. Indien hierdie syfers saamgestel word in 'n beswaarde gemiddelde indeks vir die vyf gebiede, toon dit 'n toename van 110.6 in 1952 tot 112.6 in 1953. Aangesien hierdie styging van omtrent 1.8 persent ietwat kleiner was as die ooreenstemmende styging van sowat 2.7 persent in die Unie se kleinhandelsprysindeks (huishuur uitgesonderd), skyn dit asof daar 'n klein daling was in die fisiese omvang van goedere wat in die kleinhandel verkoop is.

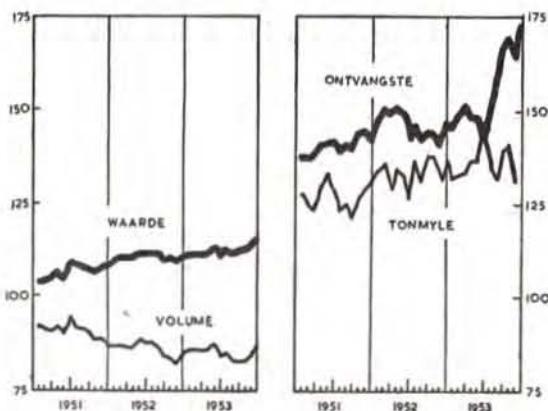
Wanneer die bewegings in die gesamentlike

maandelikse indekse vir die vyf gebiede ontleed word, wil dit voorkom uit die grafiek hieronder dat, in die geval van die waarde van kleinhandelsomset, die neiging effens opwaarts was gedurende die jaar 1953 nadat dit gedurende die tweede helfte van 1952 ietwat afwaarts was. In die geval van die fisiese omvang van omset, skyn dit asof die neiging min of meer konstant gebly het gedurende 1953 vergeleke met die effense afwaartse neiging wat gedurende 1951 en 1952 sigbaar was.

Daar moet egter in gedagte gehou word dat die bogenoemde gesamentlike indeks van kleinhandelsverkope op beperkte monsters gebaseer is wat slegs op die genoemde vyf gebiede betrekking het.

KLEINHANDELS- VERKOPE

S.A. SPOORWEE



Indekse (1948=100) — Aangesuiwer vir seisoenskommelings

SPOORWEGVERVOER

Na 'n toename vanaf 141 in 1951 tot 146 in 1952, het die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van spoorweginkomste sterk gestyg tot 155 in 1953. Soos uit die bestaande grafiek afgelei kan word, is hierdie sterk stygging in 1953 hoofsaaklik toe te skrywe aan 'n skerp opwaartse beweging in die maandelikse indekse gedurende die tweede helfte van die jaar, wat gevvolg het op die verhoging van spoorwegtariewe teen die begin van hierdie tydperk.

Die indeks van totale tonmyle van inkomstesdraende vervoer, aan die ander kant, het ook geneig om opwaarts te beweeg gedurende die jaar 1953, maar het nie die sterk stygging gedurende die tweede helfte van die jaar getoon wat in die geval van spoorweginkomste waargeneem is nie. Hieruit blyk natuurlik die belangrike rol wat die verhoogde spoorwegtariewe gespeel het in die stygging van spoorweginkomste tot 'n rekordpeil teen die end van die jaar.

BETALINGSBALANS

Hoofsaaklik as gevolg van die hoër uitvoere van koopware, het die Unie se netto lopende tekort

teenoor die buiteland effens afgeneem in 1953 vergeleke met 1952. Aan die ander kant was daar 'n aansienlike daling in die netto toevloei van kapitaal, sodat die daling in die land se goud en buitelandse bates aansienlik groter was in 1953 as in 1952.

Indien die in- en uitvoersyfers van die Unie, wat hierbo onder die hoof „Buitelandse Handel“ aangehaal is, herbereken word deur die insluiting van Suidwes-Afrika en deur die aanbring van verskeie ander wysings vir betalingsbalansdoeleindes, dan word gevind dat die goedereinvoer, nadat dit van £467 miljoen in 1951 tot £417 miljoen in 1952 afgeneem het, weer effens tot ongeveer £423 miljoen in 1953 toegeneem het. Invoere uit die dollargebied het met ongeveer £14 miljoen afgeneem vanaf 1952 tot 1953, terwyl dié uit ander nie-sterling lande met omrent £13 miljoen en dié uit die sterlinggebied met omrent £7 miljoen gestyg het.

Goedereuitvoere, met uitsluiting van staafgoud, goudprodukte en skeepsvoorraad, aan die ander kant, wat van £281 miljoen in 1951 tot £277 miljoen in 1952 afgeneem het, het tot £288 miljoen in 1953 gestyg. Hierdie styging van omrent £11 miljoen vanaf 1952 tot 1953, was saamgestel uit toenames van ongeveer £1 miljoen, £3 miljoen en £7 miljoen in uitvoere na die dollargebied, ander nie-sterling lande en die sterlinggebied, onderskeidelik.

Die land se handelstekort, wat van £186 miljoen in 1951 tot £140 miljoen in 1952 gedaal het, het dus verder afgeneem tot £135 miljoen in 1953, en word die netto goudproduksie, aan die een kant, en die tekort t.o.v. onsigbare poste op lopende rekening, aan die ander kant, in berekening gebring, dan het die netto lopende tekort teenoor die buiteland van £60 miljoen in 1952 tot omrent £56 miljoen in 1953 afgeneem, vergeleke met ongeveer £102 miljoen in 1951.

Wat kapitaalbewegings in 1953 betref, het die Unie se trekkings teen die uraanlenings ongeveer £15 miljoen beloop, terwyl voorlopige skattings aandui dat ander netto private kapitaal-ontvangste, met insluiting van handelskrediete, ongeveer £9 miljoen bedra het. Boonop het die Unie-regering ongeveer £9 miljoen teen die I.B.H.O.-lenings getrek en ongeveer £2.5 miljoen in die vorm van 'n Switserse lening ontvang, maar van hierdie offisiële kapitaalontvangste moet afgetrek word die terugbetaling gedurende hierdie tydperk van ongeveer £3.6 miljoen van die deurlopende dollarkrediete ontvang van 'n groep Amerikaanse banke, asook die terugbetaling van die Switserse lening van omrent £3 miljoen wat gedurende 1950 ontvang is, terwyl die afname van ongeveer £2 miljoen in die banke se korttermynverpligtings teenoor die buiteland ook in aanmerking geneem moet word. Dus het die totale netto toevloei van kapitaal uit alle bronne ongeveer £27 miljoen in 1953 beloop, vergeleke met omrent £53 miljoen in 1952 en omrent £64 miljoen in 1951. Van die netto bedrag

van ongeveer £27 miljoen wat in 1953 ontvang is, het omtrent £20 miljoen van buite die sterlinggebied gekom.

As gevolg van die bogenoemde faktore het die Unie se totale goud en buitelandse bates gedurende 1953 met ongeveer £29 miljoen gedaal, vergeleke met afnames van £7 miljoen in 1952 en £38 miljoen in 1951.

Gedurende die maand Januarie 1954, het die Reserwebank se goud en buitelandse bates 'n sterk daling ondergaan as gevolg van gerugte van 'n devaluasie van die Suid-Afrikaanse pond. In die daaropvolgende weke is die posisie egter weer herstel, sodat teen die end van die week geëindig 19 Maart die reserwes op £103.6 miljoen te staan gekom het, vergeleke met £104.5 miljoen aan die end van Desember 1953. Hierdie klein netto afname van omtrent £1 miljoen vergelyk gunstig met die daling van omtrent £12 miljoen wat gedurende die ooreenstemmende tydperk in 1953 plaasgevind het.

GELD IN OMLOOP

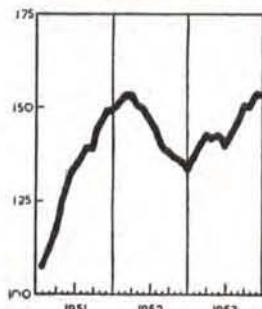
Nadat dit 'n klein netto toename van ongeveer £2 miljoen gedurende 1952 getoon het, het die hoeveelheid geld in omloop binne die Unie van £439 miljoen aan die end van daardie jaar tot £422 miljoen aan die end van Augustus 1954 gedaal, maar hoofsaaklik as gevolg van 'n gunstige betalingsbalans in die laaste kwartaal van die jaar, het die bedrag in omloop weer tot £444 miljoen aan die end van 1953 gestyg. Daar was dus 'n netto toename van ongeveer £5 miljoen gedurende die jaar 1953, bestaande uit 'n vermeerdering van omtrent £8 miljoen in banknote en munt in omloop en 'n vermindering van ongeveer £3 miljoen in die banke se onmiddellik opeisbare deposito's. Ontleed volgens besitters, was daar 'n afname van omtrent £2 miljoen in die geldhoeveelheid in besit van uitlanders en 'n daling van omtrent £16 miljoen in dié gehou deur die Regering,* teenoor 'n toename van omtrent £23 miljoen in die bedrag in die hande van die private sektor.

Die feit dat die geldhoeveelheid 'n netto toename van ongeveer £5 miljoen gedurende 1953 getoon het, ten spyte van 'n afname van omtrent £26 miljoen† in die Reserwebank se goud en buitelandse bates, was hoofsaaklik die gevolg van 'n toename van ongeveer £29 miljoen in bankkrediet in die Unie. Reserwebankkrediet het met ongeveer £18 miljoen en handelsbankkrediet met omtrent £11 miljoen toegeneem, en laasgenoemde was die netto resultaat van 'n toename van omtrent £27 miljoen in die banke

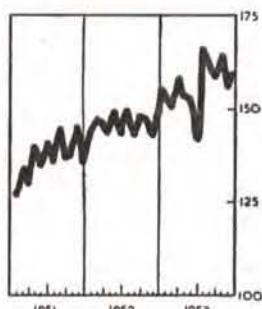
se diskontering en voorskotte en afnames van omtrent £13 miljoen en £3 miljoen in hulle saldo's by die Nasionale Finansiekorporasie en in hulle beleggings, onderskeidelik. Hierdie syfers toon 'n ommeswaai van die neigings gedurende 1952, toe daar taamlike sterk toenames was in die handelsbanke se beleggings en in hulle saldo's by die Nasionale Finansiekorporasie, teenoor 'n aansienlike daling in hul diskontering en voorskotte aan die publiek. In daardie jaar, soos in die oorsig van 'n jaar gelede aangetoon, het die hoér rentekoersstruktuur 'n belangrike rol gespeel in die verskuiwing van bankkrediet van die privaat na die Regeringsektor, toe daar 'n toename van ongeveer £38 miljoen was in bankkrediet wat direk, of indirek deur middel van die Finansiekorporasie, aan die Regering toegestaan is, vergeleke met 'n daling van omtrent £12 miljoen in die bedrag wat na die private sektor gegaan het. In 1953, toe die rentekoersstruktuur min verandering getoon het, het die prent heelwat verander. Soos blyk uit 'n meer volledige ontleding van die toename van omtrent £29 miljoen in totale bankkrediet in daardie jaar, was daar slegs 'n toename van omtrent £10 miljoen in die bedrag wat aan die Regeringsektor toegestaan is, vergeleke met 'n vermeerdering van omtrent £19 miljoen in die bedrag wat na die private sektor gegaan het. Hierdie syfers verklaar tot 'n mate die toename van omtrent £23 miljoen, hierbo gemeld, wat in die hoeveelheid geld in besit van die private sektor in 1953 plaasgevind het, terwyl die daling van omtrent £16 miljoen in die bedrag in besit van die Regeringsektor, wat plaasgevind het ten spyte van die toename van omtrent £10 miljoen in bankkrediet aan daardie sektor, die hoér uitgawes weerspieël wat die Regering gedurende die jaar moes maak.

Wat die korttermynbeweging in diskontering en voorskotte van die handelsbanke betref, blyk dit uit die onderstaande grafiek dat, uitgesonderd seisoenskommelings, die neiging sterk opwaarts was gedurende 1953, vergeleke met die ewe sterk afaartse beweging gedurende 1952. Die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van diskontering en voorskotte was ook effens hoér in 1953 as in 1952.

HANDELSBANKE:
DISKONTERINGE
EN VOORSKOTTE



BANK-
DEBETTE



Waardeindekse (1948=100) — Aangesuiwer vir seisoenskommelings.

* Insluitende Suid-Afrikaanse Spoorweë en Provinciale Administrasies.

† Die werklike daling in die Reserwebank se goud en buitelandse bates gedurende 1953 het £30.4 miljoen beloop, maar hiervan moet afgetrek word die netto terugbetaling deur die Bank van die dollarkrediete en Switserse lenings hierbo genoem, wat £4.1 miljoen beloop het en wat nie 'n invloed op die hoeveelheid geld in omloop gehad het nie. (Sien voetnota (I) Tabel XVI).

BANKDEBETTE

Die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van bankdebette, wat alle debette teen lopende rekenings in banke in die Unie dek, uitgesonderd Regeringsrekenings, en wat gestyg het van 137 in 1951 tot 147 in 1952, het verder toegeneem tot die nuwe rekordpeil van 156 in 1953. Soos op die bostaande grafiek aangedui, was die neiging in die maandelikse indekssyfers sterk opwaarts gedurende 1953, nadat daar gedurende 1952 'n aansienlike vermindering was van die stygende tendens wat in die voorafgaande jare sigbaar was.

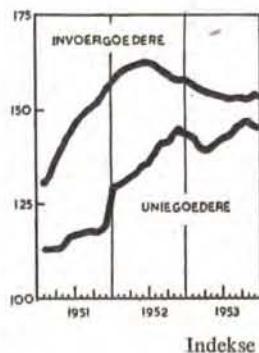
Die koers van toename in die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van bankdebette van 1951 tot 1952 was hoër as dié in die hoeveelheid geld in omloop, sodat die indeks van die omlolopsnelheid van die geldhoeveelheid verder toegeneem het van 164 in 1952 tot 171 in 1953.

GOEDEREPRYSE

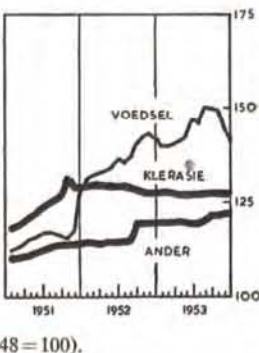
Soos blyk uit die grafiek op bladsy iv, het die indekse van totale groot- en kleinhandelspryse gedurende 1953 relatief stabiel gebly, vergeleke met die sterk opwaartse beweging gedurende 1951 en 1952.

Die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van groothandelspryse vir alle goedere wat van 129.1 in 1951 tot 148.0 in 1952 gestyg het, het slegs tot 149.3 in 1953 toegeneem, weens 'n aansienlike daling in die prys van invoergoedere. Soos blyk uit die onderstaande grafiek, het die maandelikse indekse van die prys van invoergoedere gedurende die jaar 1953 'n voortsetting getoon van die afwaartse beweging wat gedurende die tweede helfte van 1952 in werking getree het, terwyl die indeks van die prys van Uniegoedere, nadat dit gedurende die eerste paar maande van 1953 gedaal het, weer gestyg het tot die maand Oktober, en toe in November en Desember afgeneem het. Terwyl die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van Uniegoedere dus weereens 'n nuwe hoogtepunt in 1953 bereik het, het die toename van Desember 1952 tot Desember 1953 slegs 0.3 persent beloop, vergeleke met 'n toename van

GROOTHANDELS-PRYSE.



KLEINHANDELS-PRYSE



Indekse (1948=100).

11.2 persent van Desember 1951 tot Desember 1952.

Die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van kleinhandelspryse het ook in 1953 verder toegeneem, nl. van 125.8 in 1952 tot 130.2 in 1953, vergeleke met 115.7 in 1951, maar ook in hierdie geval was die tempo van toename gedurende 1953 heelwat minder as gedurende 1952. Van 129.0 in Desember 1952 het dit toegeneem tot 129.8 in Desember 1953, d.w.s. met slegs 0.6 persent, vergeleke met die styging van 6.2 persent van Desember 1951 tot Desember 1952.

Soos aangedui op die bostaande grafiek, was die verdere opwaartse beweging in kleinhandelspryse hoofsaaklik die gevolg van hoër voedselprys, aangesien die indekse van klerasie en „ander“ poste relatief stabiel gebly het.

In die geval van landboupryse, het die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks wat alle produkte omvat, nadat dit van 182 in 1951 tot 144 in 1952 afgeneem het, tot 164 in 1953 toegeneem. Die toename van omrent 14 persent van 1952 tot 1953 was hoofsaaklik die gevolg van 'n styging in die prys van wol, soos weerspieël in die styging van omrent 27 persent in die indeks vir die groep „wol, bokhaar, huide en velle.“ Die indeks vir alle ander landbouprodukte saam het slegs met 2.9 persent toegeneem.

Hoewel die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks van landboupryse toegeneem het in 1953, het die maandelikse indekssyfers in werklikheid 'n daling van omrent 1 persent van Desember 1952 tot Desember 1953 getoon en dit was die netto resultaat van die veranderings in die indekse van die vernaamste klasse van landbouprodukte soos in die tabel hieronder aangetoon:

	Persentasie verandering
Mielies en kafferkorng	4.1
Koring, hawer en rog	1.4
Lusern en tefhooi	—19.0
Aartappels, patats, tue en droëbone	—55.8
Wol, bokhaar, huide en velle	—1.2
Bottervet, kaasmelk en melk vir kondensering	2.7
Beeste, skape en varke	3.4
Hoenders, kalkoene en eiers	5.6
 Beswaarde gemiddelde	 —1.4

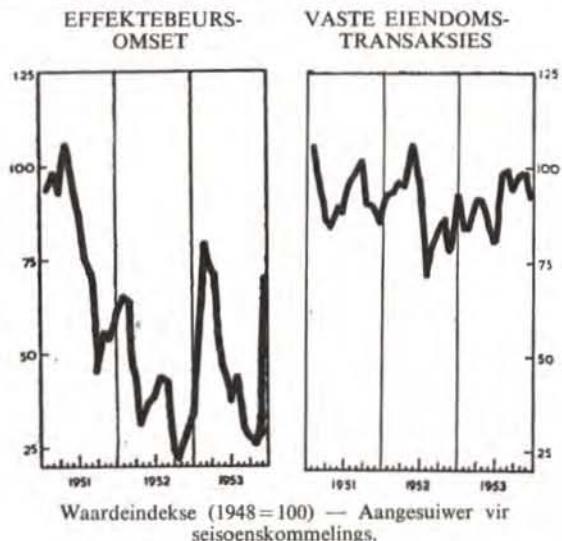
Wat wol betref, het die beswaarde gemiddelde prys van alle soorte wol (gegrond op prys wat werklik vir vetwol op openbare veilings in Unie-hawens betaal is) in Desember 1953 op 58.11d. per lb. te staan gekom, vergeleke met 55.38d. per lb. in Desember 1952.

AANDELEBEURSTRANSAKSIES

Gedurende 1953 het die bedrywigheid op die aandelebeurs teen 'n ietwat hoër peil as in 1952 geskommel. Na 'n styging in Januarie en Februarie 1953, het die indeks van aandelebeursomset vinnig gedaal tot ongeveer Oktober, maar daarna het 'n sterk oplewing gedurende Desember ingetree sodat die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks in 1953 op 48.4 te staan gekom het, vergeleke met 39.0 in 1952.

Die oplewing gedurende Desember 1953 is voort-

gesit gedurende die eerste paar maande van 1954, maar was grootliks beperk tot die aandele van ontwikkelende goudmyne, as gevolg van gunstige kwaartaalverslae oor ontwikkeling sowel as van gerugte van gunstige verslae wat sal volg. Sodoende het die omsetindeks van 38.9 in November 1953 tot 142.9 in Februarie 1954 toegeneem, terwyl die prysindeks van die aandele van ontwikkelende goudmyne gestyg het van 96 tot 155 en dié van die aandele van produserende myne van 76 tot 78, onderskeidelik.



TRANSAKSIES IN VASTE EIENDOM

Soos op die bostaande grafiek gesien kan word, het die indeks van die waarde van eiendomstransaksies, wat teen die middel van 1952 sterk gedaal en toe weer gedurende die laaste vyf maande van daardie jaar toegeneem het, 'n verdere opwaartse neiging gedurende 1953 getoon. Die gemiddelde maandelikse indeks het, nadat dit van 92 in 1951 tot 90 in 1952 afgeneem het, weer tot 92 in 1953 toegeneem.

BESLUIT

Uit die bostaande kort oorsig sal dit duidelik wees dat die *monetäre* omvang van die Unie se ekonomiese bedrywigheid 'n verdere styging vanaf 1952 tot 1953 ondergaan het, soos weerspieël in die toenames in die gemiddelde maandelikse syfers van 'n groot aantal van die indekse wat behandel is, bv. die volksinkome, belegging, die waarde van landbouproduksie, die waarde van fabrieksopbrengs, die waarde van invoere en uitvoere (uitgesondert goud), kleinhandelsverkope, spoorweginkomste, diskonteringe en voorskotte van die handelsbanke, bankdebette, aandelebeursomset en die waarde van eiendomstransaksies. Verder blyk dit uit die bewegings in die maandelikse indekse dat die neiging effens opwaarts was dwarsdeur die jaar 1953, vergeleke met die min of meer konstante tendens wat gedurende 1952 waarneembaar was.

Alhoewel die verdere styging in die *monetäre* omvang van ekonomiese bedrywigheid vanaf 1952 tot 1953 met 'n klein verdere styging in die algemene pryspeil gepaard gegaan het, weerspieël dit ook 'n toename in die *fisiese* omvang van ekonomiese bedrywigheid. In die geval van laasgenoemde wil dit voorkom asof die korttermynneiging effens opwaarts was gedurende 1953, vergeleke met die effense afwaartse tendens gedurende 1952.

Wat die betalingsbalans betref, was daar 'n verdere aansienlike afname in die land se goud en buitelandse bates gedurende 1953, en terwyl dit deels veroorsaak is deur 'n afname in die toevloei van kapitaal, moet dit ook beskou word in die lig van die Regering se beleid om 'n deel van die beskikbare reserwes op te offer ten einde die invoere van noodsaaklike kapitaaluitrusting te handhaaf. Dus het invoere in werklikheid gestyg vanaf 1952 tot 1953, maar as gevolg van hoër uitvoere, veral van Suid-Afrikaanse produkte, het die netto lopende tekort effens gedaal, sodat die verhouding daarvan tot die geografiese volksinkome tot omtrent 5 persent afgeneem het, vergeleke met omtrent 6 persent in 1952 en omtrent 10 persent in 1951.

In die geheel wil dit dus voorkom asof die beleid van konsolidasie, tesame met invoerbeheer, met sukses gedurende 1953 toegepas is, insoverre dit geen werklike terugslag in die Unie se algemene ekonomiese ontwikkeling veroorsaak het nie en gehelp het om die beskikbare kapitaal- en arbeidsbronne in die mees noodsaaklike rigtings te stuur. So is hierbo gevind dat die hoër belegging in 1953, uitgesondert die verandering in voorrade, hoofsaaklik teweeggebring is deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Spoerweë, Eskom en ander Staatsondersteunde projekte, sowel as deur die ontwikkeling van 'n aantal sleutelprojekte in die private sektor, wat reeds verbeterde vervoer- en kragdienste teweeggebring en ook die land se produksievermoë verhoog het. Ook is gevind dat teen die end van die jaar en veral gedurende die eerste maande van 1954, 'n verbeterde arbeidsposisie in die goudmyne aan die ontwikkel was.

Die opwaartse beweging in die Unie se ekonomiese siklus gedurende 1953 het ook verskil van dié gedurende die voorafgaande jare, insoverre dit vergesel was van 'n relatiewe stabiele pryspeil. Dus wil dit voorkom asof die gety van inflasie stopgesit is en dat die Unie, met sy snel uitbreidende produksievermoë, wat 'n baie gunstige langtermyn uitwerking op die volksinkome en die betalingsbalans behoort te hê, die toekoms met vertroue kan tegemoet gaan. Die gang van die land se ekonomiese siklus, wat gedurende 1953 geen tekens van 'n resessie getoon het nie, sal, egter, wat die nabye toekoms betref, in groot mate van ontwikkelings in die buiteland afhang.

T. W. de Jongh,
Statistikus.