

Section 2.—Food Consumption of the Civilian Population, 1935-45

The importance of food consumption in the war years 1939-45 compared with the immediately preceding five-year period has been the subject of special study in the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics owing to its significance on so many aspects of the internal economy and to the fundamental value of these statistics. Such consumption figures have been desirable and for commodities such as wheat, alcoholic beverages, meats, etc., have been compiled for a considerable period on a total basis. The War, however, made it more necessary than ever to establish consumption data on a comparable basis.

The series given in Table 2 presents official estimates of supplies of food moving into civilian consumption in pounds per capita, per annum, for the five pre-war years, 1935-39, as an average for comparison with the individual years 1944 and 1945 (the estimates for 1945 are preliminary and subject to later revision). For those foods rationed under Government control, the data have been checked by officials of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. As pointed out, the figures include supplies moving into civilian consumption only after adjusting total production for imports, exports, changes in stocks, marketing losses, industrial uses and supplies going to the Armed Forces. Per capita figures are derived by dividing the supplies by the estimated total civilian population. All calculations are made at the retail stage of distribution except for meats where figures are worked out at the wholesale stage. The amounts of foods actually eaten would be somewhat lower than the figures cited because of losses and wastes occurring after the products reached the hands of consumers. It should also be pointed out that there are minor discrepancies in certain of the figures since storage stocks in the hands of retailers and consumers were not available for certain commodities. In the main, however, the figures represent the best summary of food consumption data that has been compiled for Canada.

All basic foods have been classified into fourteen main commodity groups. Totals for each group have been computed by using a common denominator for that group (such as milk solids—dry weight—in the case of the milk and milk products group; fat content in the case of oils and fats; and fresh equivalent in the case of fruits). All foods have been included in their basic form, that is, as flour, fat or sugar, rather than in more highly manufactured forms.

2.—Per Capita Supplies of Food Moving into Civilian Consumption, 1944 and 1945, with Averages, 1935-39

Item	Specification	Pounds per Capita per Annum			Percentages of 1935-39 Average	
		1935-39	1944	1945 ¹	1944	1945 ¹
Dairy Products (Excluding Butter)—						
Fluid whole milk	Retail wt.	347.3	401.0	404.2	115	116
Fluid cream, n.e.s.	"	12.8 ²	18.4 ³	18.4 ³	144	144
Cheese, cheddar	"	3.4	4.0	4.0	118	118
Cheese, other	"	0.3	0.3	0.3	100	100
Evaporated whole milk	"	6.1 ⁴	9.2	10.4	151	170
Condensed whole milk	"	0.6	0.9	1.0	150	167
Malted milk	"	0.1	0.06	0.04	60	40
Dried whole milk	"	0.1	0.4	0.4	400	400
Dried skim milk	"	1.8	2.6	2.4	144	133
Condensed skim milk	"	0.4	0.5 ⁵	0.6 ⁵	125	150
Skim milk cheese	"	0.1	0.4	0.4	400	400
Skim and buttermilk	"	4.8 ⁴	5.0	5.0	104	104
Milk in ice cream, n.e.s. (whole milk)	"	13.0 ⁶	24.5 ⁶	22.8 ⁶	188	175
Totals, Dairy Products	Milk Solids	55.8⁴	67.3	67.6	121	121

For footnotes, see end of table, p. 592.