

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1949 issued for the first time the index numbers of physical volume of agricultural production. In keeping with other Bureau indexes the base period for the construction of this index is the five-year period 1935 to 1939 inclusive. The index is constructed in such a manner that it represents a measure of "net farm production". This is achieved by removing duplication, e.g., when feed grains credited to field crops production also appear in the various forms of live stock and live-stock products.

The high point of the index, 164.2, was reached in 1942. In 1948 it stood at 125.2 as against 115.8 in 1947.

10.—Index Numbers of Physical Volume of Agricultural Production in Canada, by Provinces, 1935-48

(1935-39=100)

NOTE.—For a description of this index, methods and coverage, see Dominion Bureau of Statistics "Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics" for July-September, 1949.

Year	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Total
1935.....	90.5	99.2	93.7	93.6	98.7	77.2	106.9	87.3	91.2	95.2
1936.....	102.2	98.2	105.1	99.3	90.2	66.8	83.9	71.0	94.8	85.1
1937.....	99.6	104.4	105.5	97.6	102.1	115.0	31.1	81.1	101.1	83.7
1938.....	102.1	100.5	94.5	97.6	101.1	113.8	103.1	129.1	102.5	107.4
1939.....	105.6	97.7	101.1	111.9	108.0	127.2	175.0	131.5	110.4	123.7
1940.....	103.9	90.2	108.2	111.8	103.8	134.9	165.1	152.0	115.5	130.1
1941.....	90.6	91.3	101.9	106.2	107.4	133.9	110.1	100.9	113.4	108.7
1942.....	121.9	88.5	104.0	121.7	125.0	174.2	247.9	184.2	99.9	164.2
1943.....	102.7	89.6	133.2	112.4	89.4	152.2	138.1	104.6	114.7	113.7
1944.....	119.2	107.3	136.8	131.1	114.0	145.1	196.4	125.2	140.0	140.4
1945.....	121.3	80.7	106.7	100.7	107.6	116.9	129.3	97.6	131.1	110.9
1946.....	123.6	100.3	119.6	112.2	117.6	139.1	138.7	123.6	151.9	125.8
1947.....	129.1	87.3	119.2	102.5	107.0	121.5	128.3	116.1	145.6	115.8
1948.....	134.7	87.8	124.4	122.6	117.8	144.1	132.2	120.0	144.1	125.2

Subsection 4.—Acreages, Yields and Values of Field Crops

The post-war world wheat shortage was relieved somewhat during 1948. In Western Canada wheat farmers were assured of a minimum price of \$1.55 per bushel, basis No. 1 Northern in store Fort William-Port Arthur, in addition to payments accruing from the five-year pool operated by the Canadian Wheat Board. Despite adverse weather during the spring seeding season, the acreage seeded to wheat was 24,100,000 acres in 1948 which was only slightly below the 1947 level of 24,300,000 acres. Fortunately, growing conditions following the very late spring proved favourable and fairly satisfactory crops were harvested in Western Canada. Production in 1948 of all major field crops was well above that of 1947.

The acreage seeded to oats in 1948 was slightly above that of 1947 but the barley acreage at 6,500,000 was nearly 1,000,000 acres below the 1947 seedings of this crop. Reflecting the world-wide shortage of bread grains which prevailed up to harvest time in 1948, the price for rye had risen to high levels with the result that Canadian rye growers almost doubled their seedings in the spring of 1948. The acreage devoted to flaxseed also was increased, reaching a near-record total of nearly 2,000,000 acres.

Canada's 1948 wheat production amounted to 393,300,000 bu. as compared with 341,800,000 bu. in 1947. Production of oats increased from 278,700,000 bu. in 1947 to 358,800,000 bu. in 1948, an increase of almost 29 p.c. The decrease in total acreage in barley was offset by a much higher yield in 1948, production amounting to 155,000,000 bu. as against 141,400,000 in 1947. The 1948 rye crop totalled 25,300,000 bu. while the production of flax amounted to 17,400,000 bu.