

11.—Index Numbers of Physical Volume of Agricultural Production by Province 1945-54

(1935-39=100. Exclusive of Newfoundland)

NOTE.—For a description of this index, methods and coverage, see *DBS Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics* for April-June, 1952. Figures for 1935-44 are given in the 1950 Year Book, p. 420.

Year	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Total
1945.....	121.3	80.7	106.7	100.7	107.6	116.8	129.3	97.6	131.1	110.9
1946.....	123.6	100.3	119.6	112.2	117.6	139.1	138.7	122.7	151.9	125.6
1947.....	128.9	86.7	119.0	102.6	107.7	122.1	128.2	115.8	146.4	116.0
1948.....	133.3	91.8	124.3	121.6	119.0	143.8	131.8	118.5	143.7	125.1
1949.....	158.8	105.1	145.8	126.4	124.9	125.7	128.1	98.1	148.7	122.3
1950.....	148.2	105.2	140.2	136.3	128.1	137.8	168.3	121.8	134.2	137.8
1951.....	119.5	87.7	110.4	139.0	128.6	146.4	218.1	157.1	126.9	154.7
1952.....	142.3	80.6	109.4	124.7	119.6	162.5	267.4	174.8	133.3	166.0
1953.....	142.8	80.6	121.6	132.9	129.5	132.1	230.2	157.5	137.6	156.2
1954.....	144.6	86.0	114.4	127.9	128.0	101.9	94.7	108.9	137.2	114.3

Subsection 3.—Field Crops

After an unprecedented three year period of unusually high and in some instances record field crop production, Canadian farmers in 1954 experienced what was in some respects one of the most difficult and disappointing seasons in many years. The effect of a late spring on delaying seeding in many sections of the country was further aggravated by excessive rainfall particularly in the Prairie Provinces, eastern Ontario and Quebec. Plant growth however was generally rapid and rank as the result of abundant moisture and crop progress early in August pointed to the possibility of western grain crops being substantially above average for the fourth consecutive season. However the rapid development of the most severe rust epidemic in western Canada's history, together with serious sawfly infestation, widespread rain, wind and hail damage and September frosts and snow caused rapid deterioration of crop prospects. As a result, average per acre yields of all crops except tame hay, dry beans and rapeseed were below those of 1953. Among the crops with the sharpest declines in production from 1953 were spring wheat and all rye (spring and fall), each less than one-half the size of the 1953 crop; barley, down by one-third; and oats and potatoes, each down by one-quarter from 1953. Production of several other crops, including flaxseed, mixed grains, grain corn, dry beans, soybeans, sunflower seed, rapeseed, sugar beets and tame hay, was above 1953 levels largely as the result of increased acreages.

Although adverse weather conditions throughout the planting, growing and harvesting seasons were experienced in practically all parts of the country, the heaviest damage was suffered by Prairie grain farmers. For many however the effects of the poor 1954 harvest were offset to some extent by reserve stocks of grain which had accumulated from the record or near record crops of the three preceding years. Despite abnormally heavy marketings during this period Canadian farm stocks of wheat, barley and rye at July 31, 1954 were the highest on record for the end of a crop-year and those of oats and flaxseed had been exceeded only once before. Although marketings and exports of Canadian grain during the 1953-54 crop-year did not continue the record breaking levels of the preceding two crop-years they were well above average in total volume. Marketings of the five major grains in Western Canada in 1953-54 totalled about 610,100,000 bu. compared with