

Section 4.—Statistics of Agriculture*

The collection, compilation and publication of statistics relating to agriculture is a responsibility of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Valuable information obtained through the Censuses of Canada and partial-coverage surveys may be obtained in reports issued by the Bureau.†

The Bureau also collects and publishes primary and secondary statistics of agriculture on an annual and monthly basis. The primary statistics relate mainly to the reporting of crop conditions, crop and livestock estimates, wages of farm labour and prices received by farmers for their products. The secondary statistics relate to farm income and expenditure, per capita food consumption, marketing of grain and livestock, dairying, milling and sugar industries and cold storage holdings. In the collection of annual and monthly statistics, the federal Department of Agriculture and the provincial Departments of Agriculture, as well as such agencies as the Board of Grain Commissioners and the Canadian Wheat Board, co-operate with the Bureau. Also, many thousands of farmers throughout Canada send in reports voluntarily. The figures contained in this Section do not include estimates for Newfoundland. Agriculture plays a relatively minor part in Newfoundland's economy, commercial production of most agricultural products being quite small.

A review of agricultural production and trade covering 1960 is given in Subsection 1; details for the year 1959 are presented in Subsections 2 to 4 and 7 to 9. At the time of going to press, 1960 details were available only for livestock and poultry and dairying, given in Subsections 5 and 6.

Subsection 1.—Review of Agricultural Production and Trade, 1960

The upward trend experienced by the Canadian economy, which began in mid-1958 following a mild recession, was again interrupted in 1960. Gross national product in that year was only about 3 p.c. above the level of the previous year, whereas the 1959 estimate was nearly 7 p.c. above that of 1958. It is estimated that the physical volume of output in 1960 was about 2 p.c. above that of 1959, with final product prices higher by approximately 1.5 p.c. The physical volume of agricultural output was higher in 1960 than in the previous year, largely as a result of increased production of grain, potatoes, tobacco and maple products.

Preliminary estimates place farm net income for 1960 at \$1,352,199,000, about 12 p.c. above the revised estimate of \$1,206,325,000 for 1959. Although cash income from the sale of farm products was down slightly and operating expenses continued to rise, these two items were more than offset by an increase in farm-held inventories of grains and livestock, and larger supplementary payments.

Field Crops.—Canada's 1960 wheat crop amounted to 489,600,000 bu., compared with the 1959 crop of 413,500,000 bu. and the 1958 crop of 371,700,000 bu. Total supplies of wheat in the 1960-61 crop year (carryover at July 31 plus the 1960 crop) amounted to 1,027,200,000 bu. compared with 962,500,000 bu. in the previous year. The 1960 oat crop of 456,100,000 bu. was 38,200,000 bu. larger than in 1959, while production of barley at 207,000,000 bu. was below the 1959 level of 225,600,000 bu. Total supplies of oats and barley for the 1960-61 crop year amounted to 549,000,000 bu. and 328,500,000 bu., respectively. The combined fall and spring rye crop was estimated at 10,100,000 bu., giving total supplies for the 1960-61 crop year of 16,900,000 bu.

Reduced carryover stocks of oats, barley and rye and a smaller barley, corn and mixed grain crop in 1960 brought total supplies of Canadian feed grains in the crop year 1960-61 down about 2 p.c. below those of 1959-60, despite higher levels of production for oats, rye and buckwheat. Crop-year supplies of oats (the Aug. 1 carryover of 92,800,000 bu. and the 1960 production of 456,100,000 bu.) amounted to 549,000,000 bu., an increase of 2 p.c.

*Revised in the Agriculture Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

†Copies obtainable from the Dominion Statistician or the Queen's Printer, Ottawa.