

Section 5.—Agricultural Statistics of the Census

This Section presents a limited amount of information from the 1966 Census of Agriculture; details are contained in Volumes III, IV and V of the 1966 Census of Canada. A list of the special and advance census reports that have been released is available on request.

Number of Census-Farms and Commercial Farms.—The number of census-farms in Canada declined 10.5 p.c. from 480,903 in 1961 to 430,522 in 1966. On the other hand, the number of commercial farms increased 6.9 p.c. from 259,037 to 276,835 in the same comparison.

For both census years, 1961 and 1966, a census-farm was defined as a holding of one acre or more with sales of agricultural products valued at \$50 or more during the 12 months preceding the census date of June 1. In 1966, a commercial farm was defined as a census-farm that had sales of agricultural products valued at \$2,500 or more during the 12 months preceding the census date; for the 1961 Census a census-farm was classed as commercial if it reported sales of agricultural products valued at \$1,200 or more. In Table 46, however, for both census years the term commercial farm refers to census-farms having had sales of agricultural products during the previous 12 months valued at \$2,500 or more.

46.—Number of Census-Farms and Commercial Farms, by Province, Censuses of 1961 and 1966

Province or Territory	Census-Farms		Commercial Farms	
	1961	1966	1961	1966
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland.....	1,752	1,709	281	301
Prince Edward Island.....	7,335	6,357	2,886	3,328
Nova Scotia.....	12,518	9,621	3,016	2,867
New Brunswick.....	11,786	8,706	3,073	2,538
Quebec.....	55,777	80,294	38,927	41,961
Ontario.....	121,333	109,887	69,667	70,724
Manitoba.....	43,306	39,747	24,286	27,372
Saskatchewan.....	93,924	85,686	63,546	69,962
Alberta.....	73,212	69,411	45,203	48,971
British Columbia.....	19,934	19,085	8,150	8,407
Yukon and Northwest Territories.....	26	19	2	4
Canada.....	480,903	430,522	259,037	276,835

Farm Areas.—The total area of census-farms in 1966 was 174,124,828 acres, a 0.9-p.c. increase over the 172,551,051 acres recorded in 1961. All provinces east of Manitoba experienced decreases in total agricultural area but the four western provinces reported increases. For all of Canada, the percentage increase in improved land (4.6 p.c.) was identical to the percentage decrease in the acreage of unimproved land. The total improved land area increased from 103,403,426 acres in 1961 to 108,154,377 acres in 1966 and the total unimproved land area dropped from 69,147,625 to 65,970,451 acres. The increase in improved land reflected larger areas in crops and pasture in 1966, which more than offset a decrease of 9.2 p.c. in the acreage of summerfallow. The drop in unimproved land was accounted for almost entirely by a decrease in the area of woodland.