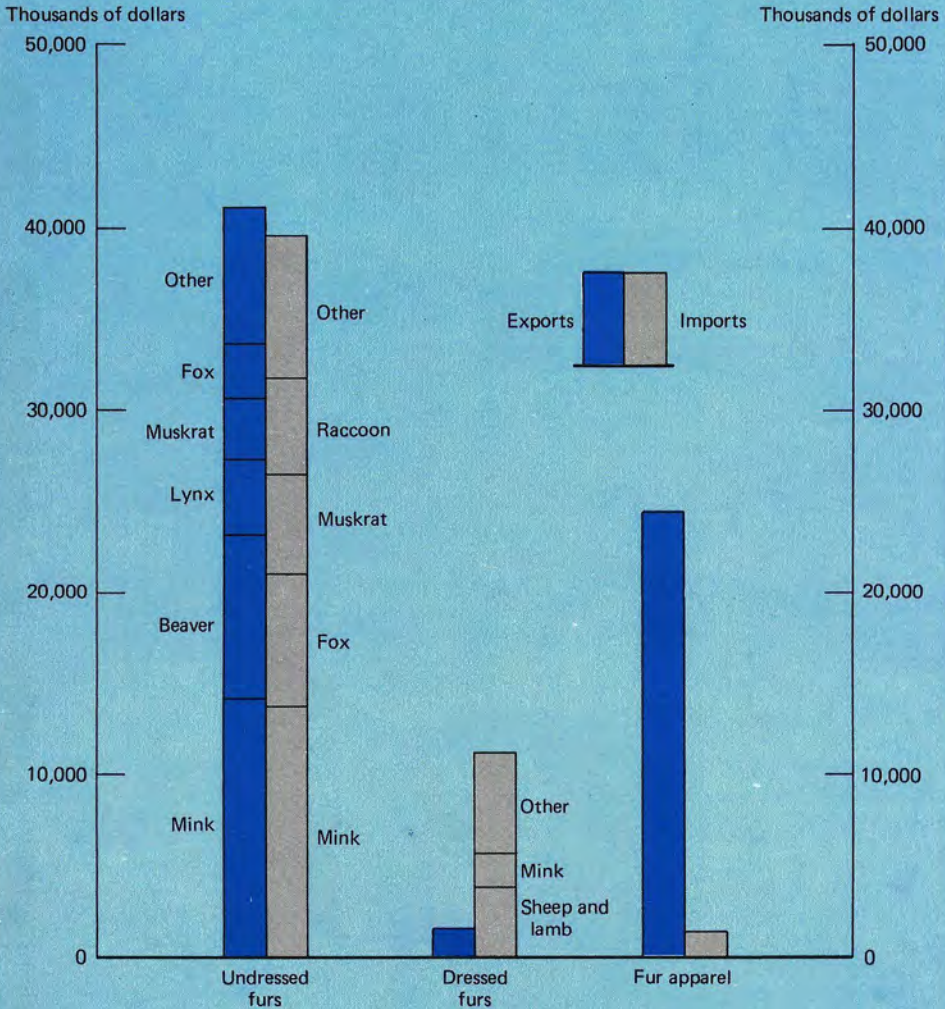


Fur exports and imports, 1972-73 fur season



Notwithstanding the spottier trapping coverage, pelt production figures in recent years compare favourably with the output in the 1920s and 1930s.

Fur farming. In 1972 Canadian mink ranchers produced 1 million pelts on 614 farms located in all provinces except Newfoundland for a value of \$16.7 million (Table 10.22). The principal producers of pelts, in order of importance, were Ontario (39.9%), British Columbia (17.9%), Alberta (10.4%), Quebec (10.3%), and Nova Scotia (9.9%). The average value of the 1972 pelts was \$16.01, up 26% from the 1971 average of \$12.67. The 1972 production was approximately 10% below the 1971 output, continuing a decline that commenced in 1968. World production of mink has also declined and, with mink still the dominant fur of the industry, it is hoped that the more manageable quantities now being produced will result in a continuing firm market situation. Despite steadily increasing production costs, 1972 returns to mink ranchers were below levels prevailing throughout most of the 1950s, and mink ranching remains viable mainly because it has become a vastly more efficient operation in recent years. The trend toward larger enterprises has encouraged the use of labour-saving machinery, and