

of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959 the lakes have been open to ocean-going vessels. Churchill is a seasonal port for Prairie grains; Vancouver and Halifax are year-round ports.

9.3.4 Marketing and supplies

Farm product marketing combines private trading, public sales and auctions, and sales under contract and through co-operatives or marketing boards.

Canada's principal livestock markets are at Montréal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton. Most cattle and calves are marketed by auction at public stockyards; some are exported; hogs, sheep and lambs are sold directly to packing houses. Hog sales are usually handled by marketing boards. Canadian marketing agencies regulate sales of eggs, turkeys and chickens.

Provincial marketing agencies, under direction of the Canadian Dairy Commission, regulate fluid milk marketing in terms of quality, prices and deliveries. In all provinces except Newfoundland, a marketing plan allocates producers a share of the Canadian market for milk used for manufacturing.

The Canadian Wheat Board is responsible for marketing wheat, oats and barley, grown in the Prairie provinces. All Ontario wheat is sold through the Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board.

Fruit and vegetables are distributed through fresh and frozen food markets, canneries and other processors. Most produce is grown under a contract or a pre-arranged marketing scheme; marketing boards, producer associations and co-operatives are common. Tobacco is controlled by marketing boards in Ontario and Quebec, soybeans by a board in Ontario and sugar beets by contracts with refineries in Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta.

Farmers' co-operatives handle or market crops or livestock and supply goods and services needed in farming. Co-operative pool arrangements for farm products guarantee farmers cash advances on deliveries.

Marketing of seed is carried on by private seed companies, farmer-owned co-operatives and seed growers. Seed grades are established by federal regulation. Pedigree seed is produced by members of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association under conditions that ensure purity.

Farm machinery, building materials, fertilizers, agricultural chemicals and other supplies are obtained through commercial and co-operative outlets.

9.4 Statistics on agriculture

Statistics Canada collects, compiles, analyzes and publishes statistics relating to agriculture. Information is obtained through censuses, surveys and administrative records. Primary and secondary statistics on agriculture are published annually, semi-annually, quarterly and monthly.

Primary statistics relate mainly to reporting crop conditions and production, crop and livestock inventories, wages of farm labour and prices received by farmers for their products. 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.

By collecting annual and monthly statistics, the federal agriculture department and various provincial departments, as well as such agencies as the Canadian Grain Commission, the Canadian Wheat Board and the Canadian Dairy Commission contribute data and aid directly in Statistics Canada's statistical work. Principal annual statistics are derived from an annual probability enumerative survey. Supplementary annual, quarterly and monthly data are provided by thousands of farmers throughout Canada who send in reports voluntarily. Valuable data are also obtained from dealers and processors who handle agricultural products.

Much of the demand for agricultural statistics is derived from the policy objectives of the food and agriculture sector. These objectives are related to the supply to society of high quality food at reasonable prices and the assurance of a decent living to efficient farmers. Their attainment depends in part on the efficient operation of commodity markets. Agricultural statistics play an important role because efficiency improves when all participants have equal access to good information. The agriculture statistics division of Statistics Canada is continually striving to produce superior data and to make them accessible to all interested parties, through the census of agriculture and intercensal surveys. Surveys keep information updated between census years. They use the census as a benchmark and also as a source from which to draw samples.

Agricultural statistics are an essential analytical tool for a wide variety of situations. For example, private firms use census data to help determine the best markets for new products. Public agencies need good information in policy development. Agricultural researchers use census data to analyze trends and developments in the industry.

9.4.1 Census of agriculture, 1981

A census of agriculture has been taken every five years since 1951 and before that was taken every 10 years from 1871 to 1951. From it statistics are compiled on crops, livestock, farm land, labour, capital and many other variables that are significant to the public and private sectors.

Number of census-farms. For census year 1981 a census-farm was defined as a farm, ranch or other agricultural holding with sales of agricultural products during the past 12 months of \$250 or more. For census year 1976 a sales figure of \$1,200 or more was used. To compare with 1981 data, census data for