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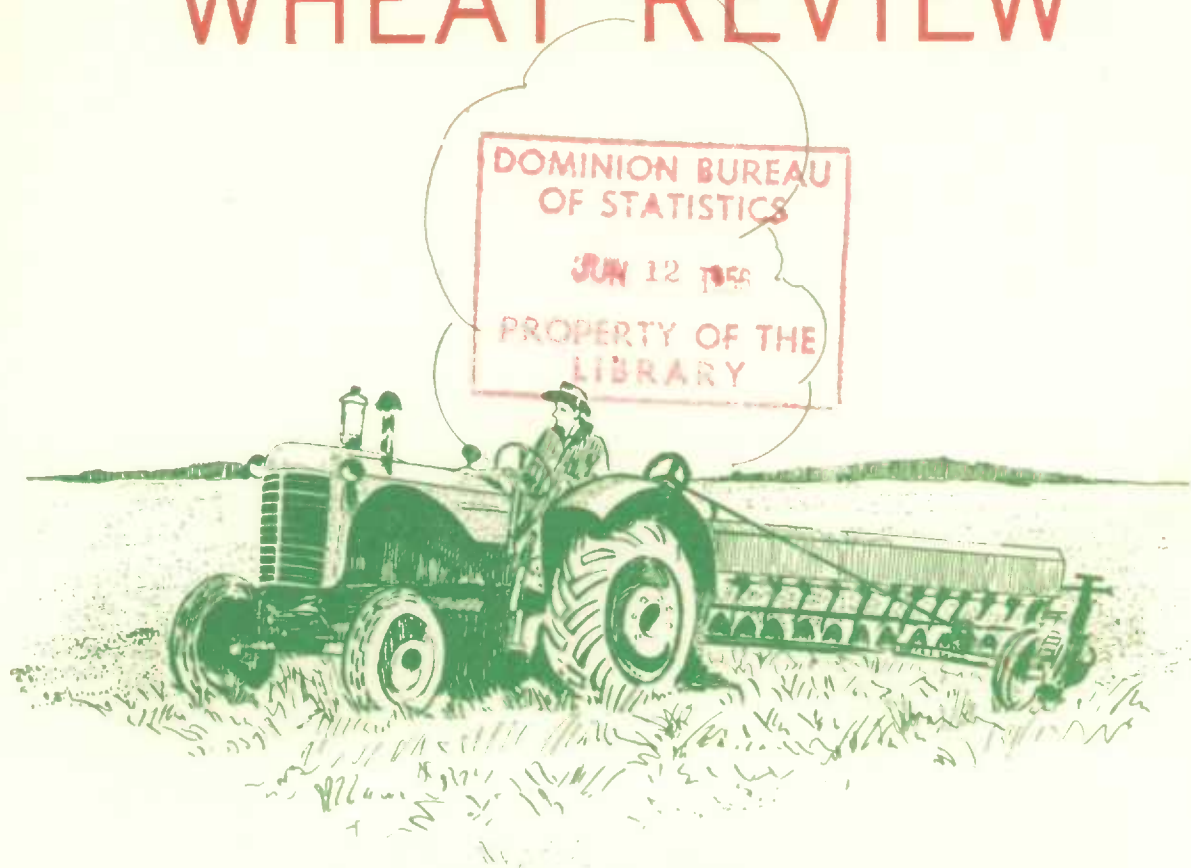
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CANADA

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
AGRICULTURE DIVISION

THE WHEAT REVIEW



MAY, 1956

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THE
WHEAT REVIEW

MAY, 1956

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Minister of Trade and Commerce

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WORLD WHEAT SITUATION

Current Supplies Latest available estimates indicate that supplies of wheat remaining on or about May 1, 1956 in the four major exporting countries for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 2,003.0 million bushels, about 4 per cent more than the 1,923.0 million available a year ago. Supplies at May 1, 1956 (in millions of bushels) were held as follows, with last year's figures in brackets: United States, 1,108.9 (1,067.7); Canada, 642.6 (561.1); Australia, 174.1 (141.0); and Argentina, 77.4 (153.2). Estimates for both years include on-farm stocks as well as those in commercial positions.

Exports Total exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat from the four major exporting countries for the first nine months (August—April) of the current Canadian crop year, at 571.5 million bushels are 0.6 per cent lower than the 575.0 million exported during the corresponding period of 1954-55. Shipments from both Canada and the United States for the period under review exceed those for the comparable months of the past crop year. However, the gain in these two countries was more than offset by reduced shipments from Argentina and Australia. Exports from each of the four countries during the period August, 1955—April, 1956 and for the comparable period of the five preceding crop years are shown in the table below.

Exports of Wheat and Flour in Terms of Wheat, August—April, 1955-56
with Comparisons

August—April	United States	Canada	Argentina	Australia	Total
- million bushels -					
1950-51	257.3	154.4	67.5	89.7	568.9
1951-52	372.5	224.5	24.0	69.8	690.8
1952-53	260.8	249.6	10.6	68.0	589.0
1953-54	146.4	187.0	86.8	43.0	463.2
1954-55 <u>1/</u>	207.4	190.4	102.6	74.6	575.0
1955-56 <u>2/</u>	217.6	191.2	90.3	72.4	571.5

1/ Revised.

2/ Preliminary.

International Wheat Agreement

According to a press report datelined London, May 30, the new International Wheat Agreement has hurdled its first obstacle.

Forty countries, including Canada, have signed the pact which is to replace the existing IWA when it expires July 31. Ten other countries, which helped to draw up the new IWA at meetings in Geneva and London, had not signed by the May 18 deadline for signatures.

The absence of these signatures does not affect the agreement, since they represent only 13 per cent of the quantities covered by the agreement, and the regulations stipulate that only two-thirds of the quantities need be covered.

International Wheat Agreement Sales and Purchases for Crop Year 1955-56

Importing Countries	Guaranteed Quantities	S O U R C E				Total Purchases	Remainder 3/
		Canada 1/	Australia 2/	France 2/	U.S.A. 2/		
- thousand bushels -							
Austria	9,186	1,008	-	-	1,064	2,072	7,114
Belgium	23,883	7,507	4	-	4,927	12,438	11,445
Bolivia	4,042	-	-	-	3,996	3,996	46
Brazil	13,228	-	-	-	216	216	13,012
Ceylon	10,288	-	7,259	363	-	7,622	2,666
Costa Rica	1,286	430	-	-	685	1,115	171
Cuba	7,422	756	-	-	5,953	6,709	713
Denmark	1,837	2	-	-	891	893	944
Dominican Republic	1,102	425	-	-	459	884	218
Ecuador	2,388	960	-	-	257	1,217	1,171
Egypt	14,697	-	-	-	6,683	6,683	8,014
El Salvador	735	154	-	-	508	662	73
Germany	55,116	17,497	7,577	-	18,247	43,321	11,795
Greece	12,860	-	-	-	8,580	8,580	4,280
Guatemala	1,286	141	-	-	528	669	617
Haiti	1,837	428	-	-	1,135	1,563	274
Honduras Republic.	735	28	-	-	317	345	390
Iceland	404	4	-	-	30	34	370
India	36,744	-	6,170	-	7,549	13,719	23,025
Indonesia 4/	6,246	-	6,249	-	101	6,350	-
Ireland	10,105	3,039	995	-	-	4,034	6,071
Israel	8,267	724	-	-	3,157	3,881	4,386
Italy	3,674	-	-	-	2,604	2,604	1,070
Japan 4/	36,744	15,813	6,756	-	14,490	37,059	-
Jordan	2,940	-	-	-	208	208	2,732
Korea	1,470	-	-	-	-	-	1,470
Lebanon	2,756	-	-	-	770	770	1,986
Liberia	73	8	-	-	27	35	38
Mexico	14,697	-	-	-	3,967	3,967	10,730
Netherlands	24,802	1,613	95	-	9,360	11,068	13,734
New Zealand	5,879	-	5,860	-	-	5,860	19
Nicaragua 4/	367	131	-	-	229	360	-
Norway	8,451	3,480	-	-	2,600	6,080	2,371
Panama	845	198	-	-	401	599	246
Peru	7,349	-	-	-	43	43	7,306
Philippines 4/ ...	8,672	4,968	205	-	3,635	8,808	-
Portugal	7,349	387	631	-	3,830	4,848	2,501
Saudi Arabia	4,409	-	-	-	698	698	3,711
Spain	9,186	-	-	-	1,728	1,728	7,458
Switzerland	7,900	5,372	-	-	-	5,372	2,528
Union of S. Africa	13,228	5,040	-	-	1,045	6,085	7,143
Vatican City 4/ ..	551	-	-	-	551	551	-
Venezuela	6,247	2,640	-	-	3,524	6,164	83
Yugoslavia	3,674	-	-	-	3,620	3,620	54
Totals	394,957	72,753	41,801	363	118,613	233,530	
Guaranteed Quantities (Exporting Countries)		153,077	45,013	344	196,523	394,957	
Balance		80,324	3,212	(19)	77,910	161,427	

1/ Canadian sales through May 22, 1956.

2/ Sales recorded by International Wheat Council through May 18, 1956.

3/ The quantities are the unfulfilled balances of the total guaranteed quantities for the year.

4/ Quota filled.

CANADIAN SITUATION

1954-55 Wheat Pool
Account Closed

1956.

The following statement on the closing of the 1954-55 Wheat Pool Account was made in the House of Commons by the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, on Friday, May 18,

"On May 3 I advised the House that the Canadian Wheat Board was making a cut-off as at May 4 covering the 1954-55 Pool Wheat Account and that I would be in a position at about this time to announce to the House the amount of the final payment and the rate per bushel for each grade of wheat delivered to the Pool by producers.

Producers' deliveries of wheat to the Pool were 318.4 million bushels. A total of 164.1 million bushels, including 42.9 million bushels of priced open sales contracts, was transferred to the 1954-55 Pool from the 1953-54 Pool as at April 29, 1955. Deliveries from other than producers amounted to 600 thousand bushels, bringing the total volume of wheat in the Pool to 483.1 million bushels. Completed sales to the close of business on May 4 amounted to 321.7 million bushels. Therefore, there remained as at May 4 a balance of 161.4 million bushels. These stocks included 112.0 million bushels covered by sales contracts and unsold stocks of 49.4 million bushels.

In closing out the 1954-55 Pool, the sales contracts were transferred to the 1955-56 Pool at contract prices and unsold stocks were transferred on the basis of Board selling prices for May 4. No allowance was made for carrying charges subsequent to the date of transfer as provision for such carrying charges has been made in the basis of allocation between the 1954-55 Pool and the 1955-56 Pool of the monies receivable by the Board under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act; nor was any allowance made for market risk on any of the unsold stocks as the Board considered such unnecessary in view of prevailing market conditions.

The final operating surplus in the 1954-55 Pool is \$62,588,000, from which must be deducted the interim payment made earlier this year. This payment amounted to \$22,261,000. After providing for P.F.A.A. Levy on the interim and final payments and after allowing for final payment expenses, the surplus for distribution to producers as a final payment is \$39,680,000.

On producers' deliveries of 318.4 million bushels the average final payment is 12.461 cents per bushel.

The final net payments to producers on the principal grades of wheat are as follows:

	<u>cents per bushel</u>
No. 1 Northern	14.815
No. 2 Northern	15.143
No. 3 Northern	12.163
No. 4 Northern	11.440
No. 5 Wheat	6.553
No. 6 Wheat	8.533
Feed Wheat	10.513

Prior to the deduction of the P.F.A.A. Levy the net price realized by producers for No. 1 Northern Wheat basis in store Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver will be \$1.65066 per bushel.

As in the case of the 1953-54 crop the Durum Wheat position continued very strong in 1954-55 and again in the present crop year. The final payments on Durum Wheat grades are as follows:

	<u>cents per bushel</u>
No. 1 Amber Durum	58.653
No. 2 Amber Durum	58.653
No. 3 Amber Durum	62.118
No. 4 Amber Durum	48.753
No. 5 Amber Durum	31.083
No. 6 Amber Durum	32.073

Prior to the deduction of the P.F.A.A. Levy the net price realized by producers for No. 1 Amber Durum will be \$2.34498 per bushel.

There will be a final payment on all grades of wheat delivered to the Pool. However, the final payments on the feeding grades of wheat, grades that did not participate in the interim payment referred to, will not be as large as the final payments on the milling grades. Honourable Members will appreciate that it was necessary for the Board, in disposing of stocks of low grade wheat delivered to the 1954-55 Pool, to sell the grain at levels competitive with prices for similar qualities of wheat being offered from other countries and, to a degree, in competition with other types of feeding grains. I am very pleased, however, to be able to report to the House that the Board's marketing efforts in connection with low grade wheat delivered to the 1954-55 Pool Account were successful. After taking into consideration sales contracts, practically no stocks of low grade wheat are involved in the transfer of stocks to the 1955-56 Pool.

Carrying charges were again a factor of considerable importance in the handling of the 1954-55 Pool Account. Although somewhat less than in the previous year, carrying charges were incurred to the extent of 16.83 cents per bushel. These charges were partially offset, however, by a credit of around 7.30 cents per bushel representing the participation of the 1954-55 Pool Account in the monies received by the Board under the provisions of the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act. The effect of the latter credit was therefore to raise the final payments to producers by an average of around 7.30 cents per bushel on the 318.4 million bushels delivered by producers to the Pool.

The Board intends to commence mailing cheques early next week and hopes to complete the payment to producers by the first week in June."

Supply Position Canadian wheat supplies for the 1955-56 crop year, consisting of the August 1 carryover of 499.7 million bushels and the 1955 crop of 494.1 million amounted to 993.8 million bushels, about 9 per cent above the 1954-55 total of 910.6 million. With anticipated domestic disappearance placed at 160.0 million bushels, some 833.8 million are available for export and for carryover in the current crop year as against 751.5 million available during the preceding year.

Canadian Wheat Supplies

Item	1954-55 1/	1955-56 2/
- million bushels -		
Carryover in North America at beginning of crop year (August 1)	601.7	499.7
New Crop	308.9	494.1
Imports of wheat, August—March	0.1	2/
Total estimated supplies	910.6	993.8
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year	159.1	160.0
Available for export and for carryover	751.5	833.8
Deduct:		
Overseas clearances of wheat as grain, August—April ...	156.1	158.1
Exports of Canadian wheat to U.S., August—April	2.5	4.5
Total exports of wheat	158.6	162.7
Exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat, August—April .	31.8 4/	28.5 5/
Total exports of wheat and wheat flour	190.4	191.2
Balance on May 1 for export and for carryover	561.1	642.6

1/ Subject to revision. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than '50,000 bushels.

4/ Adjusted to remove effect of time lag in the returns made by Customs. Conversion rate: 4.5 bushels per barrel of 196 pounds.

5/ Conversion rate: 2.3 bushels per cwt.

Combined exports of wheat as grain and wheat flour in terms of grain equivalent during the first three quarters (August—April) of the 1955-56 crop year amounted to 191.2 million bushels, exceeding by a narrow margin the 190.4 million exported during the same months of 1954-55. The balance remaining at May 1 this year, for export and for carryover at the end of the crop year amounted to 642.6 million bushels, some 15 per cent greater than the 561.1 million on hand at the same date a year ago.

Marketings of wheat by farmers in the three Prairie Provinces during the period April 19 to May 16 averaged some 10.7 million bushels per week, in contrast to the comparable 1955 figure of 4.2 million. Total farmers' marketings of wheat since the beginning of the crop year to May 16, at 200.5 million bushels, now surpass by 9 per cent the corresponding 1954-55 total of 184.1 million. Reflecting the sharp increase in primary deliveries, the visible supply of Canadian wheat moved slightly upward during the period under review, despite an average weekly disappearance (overseas clearances plus Canadian domestic use plus imports into the United States) of approximately 9.1 million bushels.

At May 16 this year the total visible supply of Canadian wheat stood at 336.4 million bushels and showed relatively little change from either the 1955

total of 322.7 million or the 1954 mid-May level of 341.6 million bushels. Of the current total, some 189.2 million bushels or 56 per cent was held in country elevators. Stocks in country elevators a year ago were 183.5 million bushels and two years ago the total was 191.5 million, representing 57 per cent and 56 per cent, respectively, of all visible supplies. Some 13.4 million bushels were "in transit rail (Western Division)" at mid-May this year exceeding both the 1955 and 1954 totals of 11.5 million and 7.3 million bushels, respectively. Stocks in Lakehead positions amounted to 43.5 million bushels, well above the 30.5 million in this position a year ago but considerably below the 55.8 million of two years ago. A total of 5.1 million bushels were "in transit lake" at May 16 this year as against 5.8 million at approximately the same date in 1955 and 1.3 million in 1954. In the Eastern Division some 3.4 million bushels were "in transit rail" surpassing both the 1955 and 1954 figures of 1.6 million and 1.0 million bushels, respectively. Supplies in Lower St. Lawrence and Maritime ports, at 16.6 million bushels were down from both the corresponding 1955 total of 23.9 million and the 1954 total of 19.6 million bushels. In the three west coast ports of Vancouver-New Westminster, Victoria and Prince Rupert supplies of wheat amounted to a combined total of 11.5 million bushels compared with 9.6 million a year ago and 12.0 million two years ago.

April Exports Highest
for any Month Since
July, 1953

Due almost entirely to sharply increased overseas clearances of wheat as grain, exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour in terms of grain equivalent during April amounted to some 33.6 million bushels exceeding by 60 per cent the March, 1956 total of 20.9 million and 90 per cent greater than the 17.7 million bushels exported during April, 1955. The ten-year (1945-1954) average for the month of April was 20.2 million bushels. Exports of wheat as grain during April this year amounted to 30.3 million bushels in contrast to 17.8 million exported during the preceding month and 12.9 million exported during April last year. On the basis of preliminary Customs returns, the equivalent of 3.3 million bushels of wheat was exported in the form of flour during April, 1956, virtually unchanged from the March level of 3.2 million but down sharply from the adjusted April, 1955 figure of 4.8 million bushels.

Cumulative exports of wheat as grain during the first three-quarters (August-April) of the current crop year amounted to 162.7 million bushels exceeding by a small margin the comparable 1954-55 total of 158.6 million. The United Kingdom, as Canada's principal market for wheat as grain, received shipments of 67.9 million bushels, representing 42 per cent of the total August-April export movement of wheat as grain. Other leading importers of Canadian wheat as grain during the period under review, with quantities in millions of bushels, were as follows: Federal Republic of Germany, 18.8; Japan, 17.3; Poland, 10.2; Belgium, 9.9; Italy, 5.6; Netherlands, 4.9; United States, 4.5 (including 0.1 for milling in bond); Switzerland, 4.1; Union of South Africa, 3.6; Norway, 2.9; Austria, 2.3; U.S.S.R. (Russia), 2.3; and Ireland, 2.0.

Exports of wheat flour from the beginning of the current crop year to April 30, according to preliminary Customs returns, amounted to the equivalent of 28.5 million bushels of wheat, about 10 per cent below the adjusted total of 31.8 million bushels exported during the same period of 1954-55. The United Kingdom accounted for some 31 per cent of the nine month total, receiving shipments equivalent to 8.7 million bushels of wheat. Other major markets for Canadian wheat flour during the period, with quantities in millions of bushels of wheat equivalent, went to the following: Philippine Islands, 4.5; Venezuela, 2.6; Trinidad and Tobago, 1.6; and Jamaica, 1.2.

Farmers' Marketings of Wheat in the Prairie Provinces, 1955-56

Week ending		Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Total	Last Year <u>1/</u>
		- bushels -				
August	10, 1955 .	-	-	-	-	4,309
	17	31,456	109,355	43,576	184,387	5,138
	24	437,746	1,472,425	450,092	2,360,263	2,609
	31	656,780	2,174,213	675,519	3,506,512	149,920
September	7	697,862	4,984,565	983,712	6,666,139	291,945
	14	667,123	4,667,118	1,744,408	7,078,649	601,588
	21	475,731	3,309,906	1,714,465	5,500,102	765,404
	28	316,008	1,776,279	925,933	3,018,220	1,559,360
October	5	429,775	2,345,989	1,070,864	3,846,628	2,005,274
	12	401,022	1,781,424	1,016,420	3,198,866	2,630,510
	19	504,323	2,111,378	1,348,295	3,963,996	8,744,537
	26	560,576	2,187,426	1,271,783	4,019,785	10,778,849
November	2	733,638	2,202,273	1,121,821	4,057,732	9,266,388
	9	745,002	3,061,854	975,578	4,782,434	8,027,519
	16	769,387	3,834,898	1,053,152	5,657,437	7,159,311
	23	654,412	3,815,850	1,127,161	5,597,423	7,535,766
	30	439,614	3,466,772	1,052,857	4,959,243	8,239,759
December	7	516,879	3,550,977	1,040,755	5,108,611	9,556,484
	14	678,774	4,298,529	1,520,139	6,497,442	10,821,432
	21	418,894	1,997,236	1,177,246	3,593,376	10,690,288
	28	360,226	1,330,437	1,224,384	2,915,047	8,443,684
January	4, 1956 .	514,361	1,991,856	1,363,145	3,869,362	5,673,461
	11	599,347	2,663,110	1,507,972	4,770,429	8,656,216
	18	568,479	3,344,909	1,807,506	5,720,894	5,345,966
	25	377,814	2,021,080	2,079,468	4,478,362	4,252,213
February	1	544,148	2,967,617	2,109,843	5,621,608	3,816,169
	8	438,140	2,239,319	2,011,334	4,688,793	3,089,687
	15	456,664	3,352,409	2,388,033	6,197,106	1,804,112
	22	208,227	1,240,180	1,074,384	2,522,791	2,806,090
	29	195,086	849,338	1,161,480	2,205,904	1,526,166
March	7	396,436	2,319,894	2,071,449	4,787,779	1,889,922
	14	246,793	1,537,176	1,352,587	3,136,556	3,833,387
	21	469,686	3,039,030	2,071,750	5,580,466	2,891,955
	28	859,183	3,488,778	2,035,825	6,383,786	2,187,474
April	4	302,901	1,793,759	1,006,550	3,103,210	3,574,671
	11	481,857	2,069,605	1,222,818	3,774,280	2,787,058
	18	379,155	2,708,419	1,296,491	4,384,065	6,070,856
	25	511,890	4,257,789	1,859,297	6,628,976	3,127,328
May	2	1,172,320	8,365,247	3,069,146	12,606,713	3,567,110
	9	1,334,345	8,674,586	3,006,164	13,015,095	4,444,789
	16	1,422,772	6,619,601	2,494,669	10,537,042	5,471,372
Totals		21,974,832	120,022,606	58,528,071	200,525,509	184,096,076
Average similar period:						
1944-45-1953-54.		35,289,119	166,065,150	85,360,871	286,715,139	

1/ Revised.

Visible Supply of Canadian Wheat, May 16, 1956
Compared with Approximately the Same Date, 1954 and 1955

Position	1954	1955	1956
- thousand bushels -			
Country elevators - Manitoba	23,876	21,420	19,248
Saskatchewan	115,770	99,794	99,603
Alberta	51,888	62,266	70,314
Totals	191,534	183,480	189,164
Interior private and mill	7,121	6,564	6,662
Interior terminals	15,161	15,295	13,759
Vancouver-New Westminster	11,210	8,708	10,921
Victoria	774	842	509
Prince Rupert	53	53	37
Churchill	2,516	2,400	4,206
Fort William-Port Arthur	55,777	30,548	43,476
In transit rail (Western Division)	7,309	11,462	13,391
Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence Ports	26,743	31,184	27,884
Lower St. Lawrence and Maritime Ports	19,577	23,904	16,600
In transit lake	1,284	5,825	5,128
In transit rail (Eastern Division)	968	1,604	3,359
United States ports	1,578	873	1,313
Totals	341,605	322,742	336,408

Grading of Wheat Inspected, August—April, 1955-56 with Comparisons

Grade	Crop Year		August—April			
	Average		1954-55		1955-56	
	1949-50— 1953-54	1954-55	1954-55		1955-56	
	per cent	per cent	cars	per cent	cars	per cent
1 Hard	1/	-	-	-	-	-
1 Man. Northern	7.6	4.3	6,093	5.3	3,844	3.2
2 Man. Northern	30.8	35.8	46,661	40.9	38,819	32.2
3 Man. Northern	16.1	26.4	27,894	24.4	27,610	22.9
4 Man. Northern	8.0	8.3	6,765	5.9	8,414	7.0
5 Wheat	8.2	4.5	3,382	3.0	13,413	11.1
6 Wheat	4.2	2.2	1,786	1.6	4,189	3.5
Feed Wheat	0.7	1.0	936	0.8	790	0.7
Garnet	0.8	0.9	1,309	1.1	502	0.4
Amber Durum	2.3	1.8	2,398	2.1	6,416	5.3
Alberta Winter	0.3	0.4	430	0.4	816	0.7
Toughs 2/ 3/	16.2	11.9	13,712	12.0	10,660	8.8
Damps 2/ 4/	3.6	0.3	428	0.4	10	1/
Rejected 2/	0.7	2.1	1,878	1.6	4,570	3.8
All Others	0.5	0.4	444	0.4	639	0.5
Totals	100.0	100.0	114,116	100.0	120,692	100.0

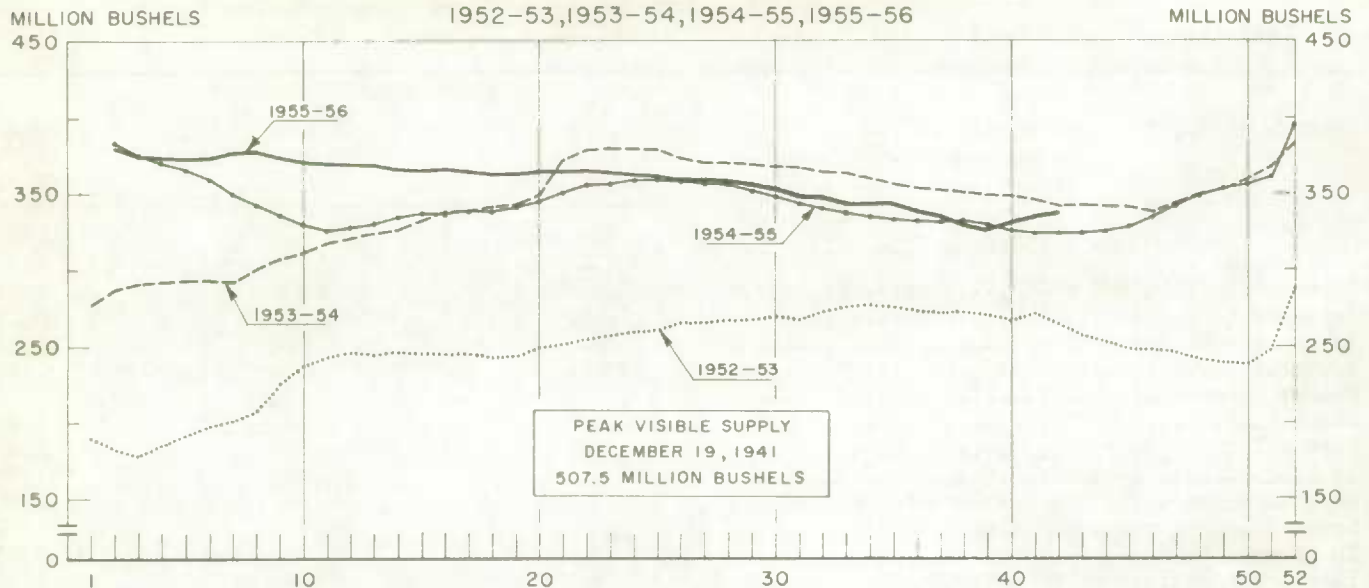
1/ Less than .05 per cent.

2/ All varieties and grades.

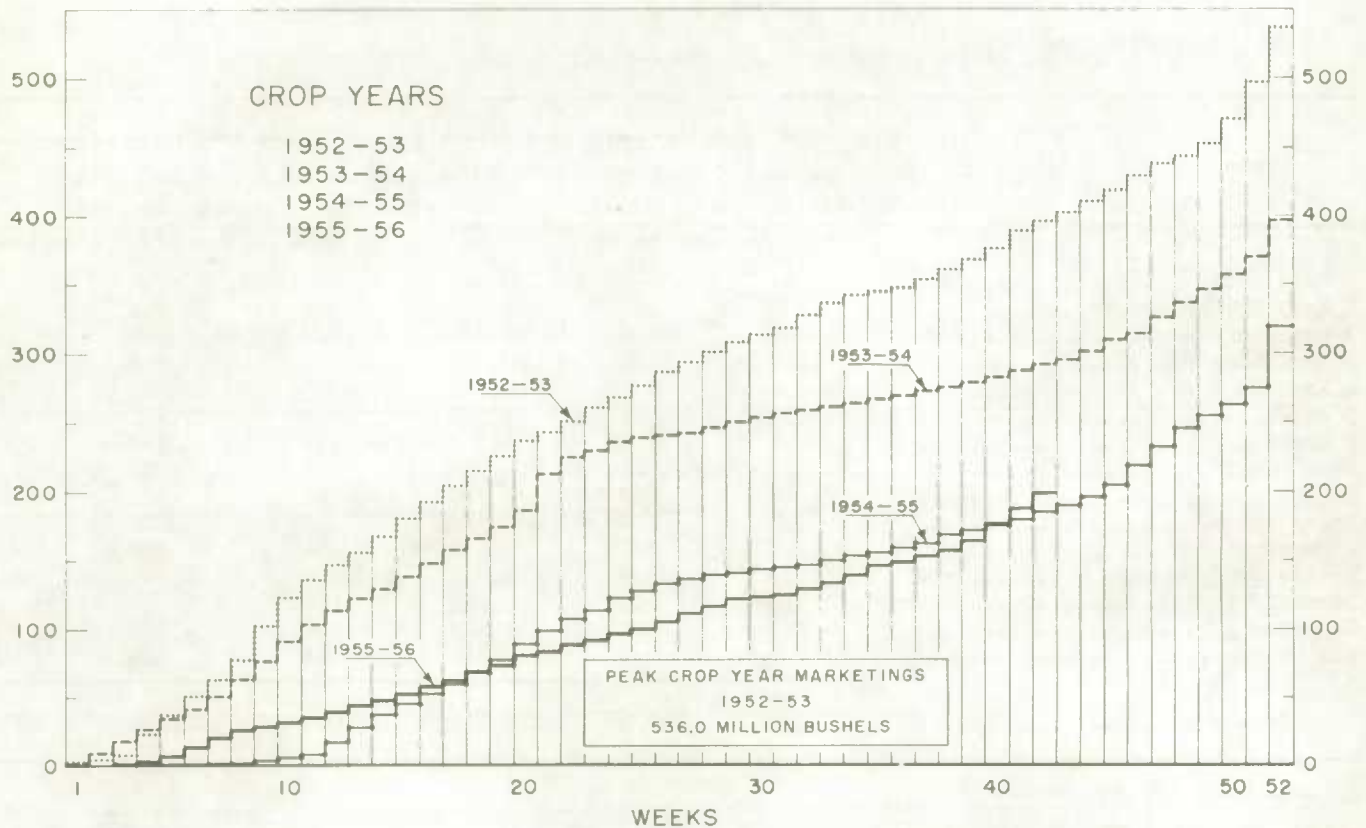
3/ Moisture content 14.9 to 17 per cent for Durum, 14.6 to 17 per cent for all other varieties.

4/ Moisture content over 17 per cent.

WEEKLY VISIBLE SUPPLY OF CANADIAN WHEAT



CUMULATIVE RECORD OF WHEAT MARKETINGS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY WEEKS



(Data in both charts for crop years beginning August 1)

Lake Shipments of Canadian Grain from the Opening of Navigation to May 16, 1956
and to Approximately the Same Date, 1946 to 1955*

Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed	Total
- thousand bushels -						
1946	24,167	15,411	6,590	518	219	46,905
1947	18,840	7,787	3,627	841	-	31,094
1948	18,470	3,214	2,983	231	960	25,859
1949	48,361	4,351	4,888	3,540	2,993	64,133
1950	21,847	2,155	4,024	662	69	28,757
1951	32,253	10,147	6,068	1,362	136	49,966
1952	50,532	12,876	14,006	1,882	1,392	80,688
1953	59,955	15,907	23,224	2,702	1,109	102,896
1954	4,988	12,771	11,196	1,223	1,123	31,301
1955	35,343	6,330	16,271	4,481	1,381	63,807
1956	44,706	5,096	16,483	3,385	687	70,357

* Shipments from opening of navigation to May 14, 1946 and 1947. Shipments for subsequent years to the following dates: May 13, 1948; May 19, 1949; May 18, 1950; May 17, 1951; May 15, 1952; May 14, 1953; May 17, 1954; and May 18, 1955.

Reflecting a substantially greater movement of wheat, total shipments of the five major grains out of Lakehead terminals from the opening of navigation to May 16 this year amounted to some 70.4 million bushels, exceeding by 10 per cent the 63.8 million shipped during the corresponding period last year. Shipments of oats, rye and flaxseed were down from 1955 levels while shipments of barley were relatively unchanged.

General Quota Position By May 25, 1956 the Canadian Wheat Board had been able to place 531 out of a total of 2,080 shipping points in the Western Division on a quota of 6 bushels per specified acre, while an additional 491 points were on a 5-bushel quota. Of the remainder, 540 were on a 4-bushel quota, 450 on a 3-bushel quota and 50 on a 2-bushel quota. Eighteen stations were reported as "closed".

Summary of Elevator Shipping Points in Each Quota Group
as at May 25, 1956

Province	General Quota in Bushels per Specified Acre					Closed Stations	Total
	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six		
Ontario	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Manitoba	-	15	67	122	172	2	378
Saskatchewan	48	328	365	221	142	2	1,106
Alberta	2	107	108	146	214	13	590
British Columbia ..	-	-	-	2	2	-	4
All Provinces.	50	450	540	491	531	18	2,080

Wheat Shipments* to the United States by Destination
August 1, 1955 to May 16, 1956
Compared with Approximately the Same Period 1953-54 and 1954-55

Destination	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
		- bushels -	
<u>By Vessel</u>			
Erie	153,776	-	-
Duluth-Superior	73,026	26,619	1,099,406
Milwaukee	40,940	71,923	170,524
Chicago	68,700	-	341,044
Huron	68,592	80,000	40,000
Buffalo	5,169,931	2,750,168	3,218,266
Totals, Vessel	5,574,965	2,928,710	4,869,240
<u>By Rail</u>			
U.S.A. Seaboard Ports	16,534	35,822	1,335
Other U.S.A. Points	1,711,419	867,357	1,711,902
Totals, Rail	1,727,953	903,179	1,713,237
Totals, Shipments	7,302,918	3,831,889	6,582,477

*Either for re-export or retention for domestic use.

Shipments of wheat to the United States, either for re-export or retention for domestic use from the beginning of the current crop year to May 16, amounted to some 6.6 million bushels, well above the 3.8 million shipped during approximately the same period of 1954-55 but still below the 7.3 million of 1953-54. Some 74 per cent of this season's total shipments were moved by vessel, the bulk of which was unloaded at Buffalo.

Rail shipments of wheat to Maritime ports from Bay Lake and Upper St. Lawrence during the first three quarters of the 1955-56 crop year amounted to 32.3 million bushels, exceeding by 8 per cent the August, 1954-April, 1955 total of 29.9 million.

Rail Shipments of Wheat to Maritime Ports from Bay, Lake
and Upper St. Lawrence Ports

Origin of Shipments	August 1, 1954 to April 30, 1955	August 1, 1955 to April 30, 1956
		- bushels -
Port McNicoll	8,689,290	9,549,111
Midland	11,010,304	13,696,052
Collingwood	2,032,709	1,466,896
Owen Sound	2,955,967	3,505,705
Goderich	1,087,464	575,289
Sarnia	3,782,365	3,223,540
Walkerville	348,776	-
Lakefield	-	245,063
Totals	29,906,875	32,261,656

Rail Shipments of Wheat from Fort William-Port Arthur, 1952-53--1955-56

Month	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
- bushels -				
August	191,711	191,336	61,070	56,951
September	1,181,046	236,030	50,633	64,033
October	936,757	173,043	46,053	63,975
November	651,957	138,440	81,253	148,576
December	464,914	347,824	179,272	477,622
January	6,550,958	510,486	352,109	2,340,921
February	9,566,151	368,662	318,009	1,735,097
March	6,285,944	555,518	245,958	1,599,503
April	189,339	378,681	169,137	300,913
May	216,046	253,606	68,878	
June	136,014	37,349	43,601	
July	223,687	74,020	57,619	
Totals	26,594,524	3,264,995	1,673,591	

Distribution of Rail Shipments of Wheat from Fort William-Port Arthur, April, 1956

Grade	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	U.S.A.
- bushels -						
3 Northern	-	-	-	32,000	-	-
5 Wheat	-	11,000	2,667	48,667	25,000	-
6 Wheat	-	-	-	4,000	2,000	72,000
Feed	-	-	-	3,000	-	-
Toughs	1,500	1,500	17,733	37,333	11,081	-
Rejected	-	-	1,500	-	5,829	-
Amber Durum	-	-	-	3,500	12,000	-
All Others	-	-	-	1,500	7,103	-
Totals	1,500	12,500	21,900	130,000	63,013	72,000

Overseas Exports of Canadian Grain by Ports of Loading, August 1, 1955--May 16, 1956,
with Comparisons

Ports	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed
- bushels -					
<u>Pacific Seaboard</u>					
Vancouver-New Westminster	68,254,615	272,192	9,007,678	353,927	702,869
Victoria	1,799,305	-	-	-	-
Prince Rupert	354,667	-	4,060,863	-	-
<u>Churchill</u>	12,818,845	-	-	-	-
<u>St. Lawrence</u>					
Montreal	30,361,813	1,303,651	7,833,759	2,430,840	5,451,756
Sorel	4,973,330	-	748,477	-	155,769
Three Rivers	5,703,228	-	420,000	-	-
Quebec	6,924,441	-	128,218	-	-
<u>Maritime Ports</u>					
Saint John	2,731,539	-	-	-	-
West Saint John	21,223,675	49,420	81,588	232,560	2,465,737
Halifax	17,078,031	-	-	92,163	1,059,398
<u>U.S. Atlantic Seaboard</u>	182,333	-	-	-	-
Totals	172,405,822	1,625,263	22,280,583	3,109,490	9,835,529
August 1, 1954--May 18, 1955	166,069,184	4,914,952	42,456,527	3,830,780	5,003,615

Freight Assistance Shipments Claims filed for payment up to April 30, 1956 represent the movement of 10.9 million bushels of wheat from the Prairie Provinces to Eastern Canada and British Columbia under the freight assistance policy during the first eight months of the current crop year. This preliminary total, subject to upward revision with the filing of additional claims has already exceeded by 15 per cent the revised August, 1954-March, 1955 total of 9.5 million bushels. The bulk of the current crop shipments, some 8.3 million bushels, went to destinations in Ontario and Quebec.

Provincial Distribution of Wheat Shipments under the Freight Assistance Policy
August-March, 1955-56 and 1954-55

Month	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	B.C.	Total
- thousand bushels -								
August, 1955	7	26	76	58	487	441	234	1,329
September	10	21	114	52	495	439	195	1,325
October	11	15	57	48	543	446	177	1,298
November	12	22	90	58	588	544	272	1,586
December	6	12	85	47	623	542	194	1,510
January, 1956	5	21	65	56	592	556	194	1,489
February	6	26	75	38	454	535	107	1,241
March	2	16	57	29	485	489	48	1,126
Totals <u>1/</u>	60	160	620	386	4,266	3,992	1,420	10,905
Same period 1954-55:								
Preliminary <u>2/</u>	52	78	543	316	3,519	2,942	1,600	9,051
Revised <u>1/</u>	57	82	562	328	3,640	3,021	1,810	9,499

Preliminary data on millfeed shipments under the freight assistance policy indicate the movement of 344,511 tons during the August-March period of the current crop year. As with freight assisted shipments of wheat, this total is based on claims submitted up to April 30, 1956 and may be subject to considerable upward revision with the filing of additional claims. Some 171,243 tons of this year's shipments went to destinations in Quebec while Ontario accounted for an additional 97,653 tons.

Provincial Distribution of Millfeed Shipments under the Freight Assistance Policy
August-March, 1955-56 and 1954-55

Province	1954-55		1955-56
	Preliminary <u>2/</u>	Revised <u>1/</u>	Preliminary <u>1/</u>
- tons -			
Newfoundland	2,204	2,407	2,451
Prince Edward Island	4,459	4,787	5,180
Nova Scotia	23,464	24,378	22,934
New Brunswick	20,147	21,169	20,625
Quebec	173,862	182,533	171,243
Ontario	93,628	98,745	97,653
British Columbia	27,399	33,307	24,425
Totals	345,163	367,326	344,511

1/ Based on claims filed up to April 30, 1956.

2/ Based on claims filed up to April 30, 1955.

Monthly Export Clearances, Etc., in Comparison with the Customs Exports of Wheat and Wheat Flour

Year and Month	Overseas Clearances of Canadian Wheat 1/	Exports of Canadian Wheat to U.S.A. for Domestic Use and Milling in Bond 2/	Customs 3/ Exports of Canadian Wheat Flour	Total	Customs 3/ Exports of Wheat and Wheat Flour
- thousand bushels -					
<u>1953-54</u>					
August	24,152	569	3,983	28,704	27,321
September	20,672	198	3,670	24,540	24,574
October	22,072	258	3,653	25,984	30,838
November	18,815	1,549	3,791	24,155	23,850
December	12,857	795	4,110	17,762	20,283
January	13,416	409	3,778	17,604	17,218
February	10,273	287	3,427	13,987	15,025
March	14,079	167	3,939	18,186	17,266
April	10,708	777	4,611	16,096	16,454
May	16,987	1,228	3,888	22,103	24,353
June	19,854	1,320	4,002	25,176	23,828
July	17,271	120	3,393	20,784	19,472
Totals	201,157	7,678	46,246	255,081	260,482
<u>1954-55</u>					
August	15,666	185	3,326	19,177	18,481
September	25,744	209	3,699	29,653	28,460
October	20,046	882	4,063	24,990	28,269
November	20,160	331	3,145	23,636	21,526
December	16,201	131	3,132	19,465	22,001
January	14,792	335	2,850	17,976	17,184
February	14,102	96	3,181	17,379	17,706
March	16,719	173	3,564	20,456	17,603
April	12,705	152	4,844	17,701	20,080
May	15,041	531	3,649	19,221	20,175
June	18,510	1,048	2,710	22,268	21,992
July	17,143	386	2,458	19,987	19,491
Totals	206,829	4,458	40,622	251,909	252,968
<u>1955-56 4/</u>					
August	19,777	469	2,673	22,920	20,830
September	14,877	292	3,462	18,631	18,138
October	14,075	416	3,559	18,049	18,141
November	16,447	440	3,085	19,972	19,382
December	10,323	429	3,076	13,828	17,708
January	19,053	476	2,792	22,320	19,057
February	16,985	537	3,445	20,967	23,764
March	17,631	130	3,181	20,942	20,789
April	28,974	1,333	3,276	33,583	29,405
Totals	158,141	4,522	28,548	191,211	187,213

1/ Compiled by the Statistics Branch, Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada.

2/ Compiled by the Statistics Branch, Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada, from returns of Canadian elevator licensees and shippers and advice from American grain correspondents.

3/ Exports for crop years 1953-54 and 1954-55 adjusted to remove effect of time lag in the returns made by Customs for both wheat and wheat flour. Wheat flour conversion rate: 4.5 bushels per barrel of 196 pounds.

4/ Subject to revision. Wheat flour conversion rate: 2.3 bushels per cwt.

Exports of Canadian Wheat and Wheat Flour by Destination 1955-56

Destination	January	April		August—April	
	Wheat Flour 1/2/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/
COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES					
			- bushels -		
United Kingdom	756,350	1,195,676	9,526,474	8,709,997	67,851,864
<u>Africa</u>					
British East Africa	-	-	-	9,294	-
Gambia	4,570	2,925	-	33,343	-
Gold Coast	7,726	42,446	-	524,073	-
Nigeria	10,782	13,089	-	216,989	-
Other British West Africa	6,438	6,440	-	19,598	-
Rhodesia	-	-	18,667	-	393,867
Sierra Leone	18,032	21,838	-	212,561	-
Union of South Africa	-	-	1,090,320	-	3,605,840
<u>Asia</u>					
Ceylon	-	118,751	-	231,897	-
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	343,467
Hong Kong	33,677	37,950	38,267	448,677	459,181
Malaya and Singapore	42,267	37,582	-	388,569	-
<u>Europe</u>					
Gibraltar	9,274	9,306	-	73,170	-
Malta	-	-	384,160	-	804,160
<u>North America</u>					
Bahamas	18,078	33,451	-	184,745	-
Barbados	30,422	29,824	-	267,706	833
Bermuda	16,224	9,170	-	81,593	-
British Honduras	1,654	2,436	-	28,157	-
Jamaica	190,003	189,493	-	1,163,759	8,264
Leeward and Windward Islands	75,886	51,258	-	748,666	-
Trinidad and Tobago	141,321	93,401	-	1,562,054	1,877
<u>Oceania</u>					
Fiji	-	-	-	920	-
<u>South America</u>					
British Guiana	8,395	13,214	-	56,109	-
Totals, Commonwealth Countries .	1,371,099	1,908,250	11,057,888	14,961,877	73,469,353
FOREIGN COUNTRIES					
<u>Africa</u>					
Azores and Madeira	6,723	5,833	-	42,785	-
Belgian Congo	83,053	51,311	-	583,411	4,592
Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	1,333
Liberia	1,428	1,210	-	9,784	-
Morocco	3,197	-	-	31,434	-
Portuguese East Africa	-	2,802	-	11,889	150,826
Portuguese West Africa	7,866	5,118	-	52,477	-
<u>Asia</u>					
Arabia	2,052	1,835	-	15,118	20,209
Israel	-	-	-	-	724,266
Japan	48,360	67,043	1,497,440	502,451	17,342,837
Korea	-	-	-	50,706	50
Lebanon	11,026	7,900	-	118,153	-
Philippine Islands	364,566	479,263	-	4,516,791	-
Portuguese Asia	-	39,399	-	120,929	-
Syria	400	255	-	1,564	-
Thailand	41,685	28,002	-	263,242	-
<u>Europe</u>					
Austria	-	-	127,307	-	2,286,141
Belgium	80,084	27,720	1,757,691	254,088	9,942,199
Czechoslovakia	-	-	831,413	-	831,413

Exports of Canadian Wheat and Wheat Flour by Destination 1955-56

Destination	January	April		August—April	
	Wheat Flour 1/2/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/
- bushels -					
<u>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</u>					
<u>Europe</u>					
Denmark	225	920	-	2,723	-
Finland	-	-	-	-	368,106
France	-	-	248,897	759	628,397
Germany, Eastern	-	-	372,400	-	372,400
Germany, Federal Republic	-	-	2,924,337	198,469	18,815,589
Greece	11,942	759	-	55,481	-
Hungary	-	-	373,707	-	373,707
Iceland	1,610	-	-	13,156	-
Ireland	-	-	194,133	-	2,023,466
Italy	-	2,532	2,328,501	168,787	5,578,408
Netherlands	483	966	1,007,867	1,449	4,891,921
Norway	-	-	606,666	-	2,933,992
Poland	-	-	2,529,333	-	10,164,404
Portugal	6,233	-	-	11,350	-
Switzerland	-	-	767,933	-	4,106,158
U.S.S.R. (Russia)	-	-	2,279,939	-	2,279,939
Yugoslavia	-	460	-	7,703	-
<u>North America</u>					
American Virgin Islands	1,049	1,576	-	22,370	-
Costa Rica	56,966	62,150	33,333	434,884	33,333
Cuba	22,643	50,476	-	434,523	1,000
Dominican Republic	50,752	40,250	-	359,396	2,500
El Salvador	24,757	23,704	-	245,341	-
French West Indies	-	230	-	3,043	-
Guatemala	14,713	24,024	34,906	251,464	47,425
Haiti	21,714	23,920	-	420,185	-
Honduras	4,368	7,696	-	57,838	-
Netherlands Antilles	27,411	18,855	-	168,827	-
Nicaragua	13,027	32,170	-	250,382	-
Panama	33,104	6,474	-	197,738	-
St. Pierre and Miquelon	-	-	-	14,345	-
United States					
Flour in terms of wheat	52,702	84,007	-	630,885	-
For milling in bond 4/	-	-	129,489	-	129,489
For domestic use 4/	-	-	1,203,457	-	4,392,174
<u>Oceania</u>					
French Oceania	1,681	-	-	41,920	-
Guam	690	172	-	29,357	-
<u>South America</u>					
Bolivia	-	-	-	3,452	-
Chile	113	-	-	2,183	-
Colombia	13,476	21,160	-	186,831	735
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	741,010
Peru	113	2,530	-	36,901	-
Surinam	17,554	12,937	-	130,826	-
Venezuela	342,891	232,206	-	2,629,043	5,253
Totals, Foreign Countries	1,370,657	1,367,865	19,248,749	13,586,433	89,193,272
Totals, All Countries	2,741,756	3,276,115	30,306,637	28,548,310	162,662,625

1/ Adjusted to remove effect of time lag in the returns made by Customs.

2/ In terms of wheat equivalent. Source: Canadian Customs returns. Conversion rate: 2.3 bushels per cwt.

3/ Overseas clearances as reported by the Statistics Branch, Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada, for all countries except the United States. Subject to revision.

4/ Compiled from returns of Canadian elevator licensees and shippers and advice from American grain correspondents.

Canadian Wheat Board Weekly Average Cash Wheat Prices
Basis in Store Fort William-Fort Arthur

Class and Grade	Week ending			
	April 27	May 4	May 11	May 18
- cents and eighths per bushel -				
<u>Initial Payment to Producers</u>				
1 Northern	140	140	140	140
2 Northern	136	136	136	136
3 Northern	134	134	134	134
4 Northern	126	126	126	126
5 Wheat	110	110	110	110
6 Wheat	104	104	104	104
Feed Wheat	98	98	98	98
1 C.W. Garnet	122	122	122	122
2 C.W. Garnet	117	117	117	117
1 Alberta Red Winter	124	124	124	124
2 Alberta Winter	119	119	119	119
1 C.W. Amber Durum	150	150	150	150
2 C.W. Amber Durum	147	147	147	147
3 C.W. Amber Durum	140	140	140	140
<u>International Wheat Agreement</u>				
<u>and Domestic Sales</u>				
1 Northern	175	175	175	175
2 Northern	171/7	172	172	172
3 Northern	162/2	162	162	162
4 Northern	158	158	158	158
5 Wheat	136/3	138	138	138
6 Wheat	132/3	134	134	134
Feed Wheat	128/3	130	130	130
1 C.W. Garnet	148/4	150	150	150/3
2 C.W. Garnet	144/4	146	146	146/3
3 C.W. Garnet	141/4	143	143	143/3
1 Alberta Red Winter	148/4	150	150	150/3
2 Alberta Winter	144/4	146	146	146/3
3 Alberta Winter	141/4	143	143	143/3
1 C.W. Amber Durum	203/7	203/7	203/5	203/2
2 C.W. Amber Durum	202	202	202	202
3 C.W. Amber Durum	201	201	201	201
<u>Exports - Class II</u>				
1 Northern	175	175	175	175
2 Northern	171/7	172	172	172
3 Northern	162/2	162	162	162
4 Northern	158	158	158	158
5 Wheat	136/3	138	138	138
6 Wheat	132/3	134	134	134
Feed Wheat	128/3	130	130	130
1 C.W. Garnet	148/4	150	150	150/3
2 C.W. Garnet	144/4	146	146	146/3
3 C.W. Garnet	141/4	142/6	143	143/3
1 C.W. Amber Durum	254	254	254	255/5
2 C.W. Amber Durum	252	252	252	253/5
3 C.W. Amber Durum	251	251	251	252/3

Canadian Wheat Board Weekly Average Cash Wheat Prices
Basis in Store Vancouver

Class and Grade	Week ending			
	April 27	May 4	May 11	May 18
- cents and eighths per bushel -				
<u>Initial Payment to Producers</u>				
1 Northern	140	140	140	140
2 Northern	136	136	136	136
3 Northern	134	134	134	134
4 Northern	126	126	126	126
5 Wheat	110	110	110	110
6 Wheat	104	104	104	104
Feed Wheat	98	98	98	98
1 C.W. Garnet	122	122	122	122
2 C.W. Garnet	117	117	117	117
1 Alberta Red Winter	124	124	124	124
2 Alberta Winter	119	119	119	119
1 C.W. Amber Durum	150	150	150	150
2 C.W. Amber Durum	147	147	147	147
3 C.W. Amber Durum	140	140	140	140
<u>International Wheat Agreement</u>				
<u>and Domestic Sales</u>				
1 Northern	173/4	175	175	175
2 Northern	170/2	172	172	172
3 Northern	162	162	162	162
4 Northern	156/4	158	158	158
5 Wheat	135/6	138	138	138
6 Wheat	131/6	134	134	134
Feed Wheat	127/6	130	130	130
1 C.W. Garnet	148/4	150	150	150/3
2 C.W. Garnet	144/4	146	146	146/3
3 C.W. Garnet	141/4	143	143	143/3
1 Alberta Red Winter	148/4	150	150	150/3
2 Alberta Winter	144/4	146	146	146/3
3 Alberta Winter	141/4	143	143	143/3
<u>Export - Class II</u>				
1 Northern	173/4	175	175	175
2 Northern	170/2	172	172	172
3 Northern	162	162	162	162
4 Northern	156/4	158	158	158
5 Wheat	135/6	138	138	138
6 Wheat	131/6	134	134	134
Feed Wheat	127/6	130	130	130
1 C.W. Garnet	148/4	150	150	150/3
2 C.W. Garnet	144/4	146	146	146/3
3 C.W. Garnet	141/4	143	143	143/3
1 Alberta Red Winter	148/4	150	150	150/3
2 Alberta Winter	144/4	146	146	146/3
3 Alberta Winter	141/4	143	143	143/3

CANADIAN FLOUR MILLING SITUATION

Production Wheat flour production by Canadian mills during April, 1956 amounted to 3,270,000 hundredweight, slightly below both the March total of 3,337,000 hundredweight and the April, 1955 level of 3,322,000 hundredweight. The ten-year (1946-1955) average production for the month of April was 3,759,000 hundredweight. Mills reporting operations during April this year had a total rated capacity of 179,269 hundredweight per 24-hour day and on the basis of a 25-day working period 73.0 per cent of this rated capacity was effective.

Wheat milled for flour during April amounted to 7.5 million bushels relatively unchanged from the 7.6 million milled during both the preceding month and during April, 1955. Some 6.8 million bushels of the wheat milled for flour during April, 1956 were Western Canadian Spring wheat (other than Durum) with the remainder consisting of Ontario Winter wheat (439,000 bushels) and Durum wheat (52,000 bushels).

Exports According to preliminary Customs returns, exports of Canadian wheat flour during April, 1956 amounted to 1,424,000 hundredweight (some 3,276,000 bushels of wheat equivalent) indicating an increase of about 3 per cent over flour exports of the preceding month. Flour exports during April went to 54 countries with shipments to the United Kingdom accounting for the equivalent of 1.2 million bushels representing 36 per cent of the total. Other principal markets for Canadian wheat flour during the month, with shipments in thousands of bushels of wheat equivalent, were as follows: Philippine Islands, 479; Venezuela, 232; Jamaica, 189; and Ceylon, 119.

Wheat Milled for Flour, and Production and Exports of Wheat Flour, Canada

Crop Year	Wheat Milled for Flour - bushels -	Wheat Flour	
		Production	Exports ^{1/}
1935-36—1939-40 average	67,845,114	29,405,451	9,603,941
1940-41—1944-45 average	99,704,638	43,908,245	23,699,546
1945-46	118,074,774	52,018,498	28,361,547
1946-47	127,775,176	56,033,374	33,116,617
1947-48	109,822,011	47,353,004	26,776,683
1948-49	90,896,984	39,944,794	20,947,620
1949-50	90,082,917	39,708,032	19,896,136
1950-51	106,748,343	46,315,153	24,356,912
1951-52	104,494,021	44,771,184	22,258,324
1952-53	106,727,237	46,776,625	24,609,199
1953-54	91,855,269	40,769,909	20,142,824
1954-55	92,406,768	40,606,599	17,692,945
1955-56 ^{2/}			
August	7,580,542	3,295,109	1,162,347
September	8,039,098	3,513,073	1,505,186
October	7,964,143	3,471,597	1,547,224
November	8,307,997	3,640,577	1,341,357
December	7,342,888	3,214,933	1,337,400
January	7,099,211	3,100,787	1,213,809
February	7,160,710	3,124,518	1,497,615
March	7,593,348	3,336,875	1,382,973
April	7,458,319	3,270,379	1,424,398
Totals	68,546,256	29,967,848	12,412,309
Same period 1954-55 ^{3/}	71,103,428	31,308,287	13,852,537

^{1/} Based on Customs returns. Exports for the crop years 1945-46—1954-55 revised to remove effect of time lag in the returns made by Customs.

^{2/} Subject to revision.

^{3/} Revised.

UNITED STATES SITUATION

Supply Position Total estimated domestic supplies of wheat for the 1955-56 crop year consisting of the July 1 carryover of 1,021.6 million bushels and the 1955 crop of 938.2 million, amount to some 1,959.8 million bushels. Imports of wheat from Canada for all purposes during the ten-month (July—April) period of the current United States crop year totalled 4.7 million bushels as against only 1.4 million during the same months of 1954-55. Anticipated domestic disappearance in 1955-56 is placed at some 613.0 million bushels, leaving an estimated 1,351.5 million available for export and for carryover as compared with 1,295.8 million available during 1954-55.

United States Wheat Supplies

Item	1954-55	1955-56 <u>1/</u>
	- million bushels -	
Carryover at beginning of crop year (July 1)	902.4	1,021.6
New Crop	984.8	938.2
Total estimated domestic supplies	1,887.2	1,959.8
Imports of wheat for domestic use, July—April	1.4	4.7
Total estimated supplies <u>2/</u>	1,888.6	1,964.5
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year <u>3/</u> .	592.8	613.0
Available for export and for carryover	1,295.8	1,351.5
Deduct:		
Exports of wheat as grain, July—April	190.0	202.9
Exports of wheat flour and products in terms of wheat, July—April	38.0	39.7
Total exports of wheat, wheat flour and products.	228.1	242.6
Balance on May 1 for export and for carryover	1,067.7	1,108.9

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Excluding imports for May—June period.

3/ Includes allowances for shipments of United States wheat and wheat products to Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, Samoa, Virgin Islands and Wake Island. These shipments are not included in exports as set out in the table.

Exports of wheat, wheat flour and products in terms of grain equivalent during the July--April period of the current crop year amounted to 242.6 million bushels, about 6 per cent above the 228.1 million exported during the corresponding period of 1954-55. The balance remaining at May 1 this year for export and for carryover totalled 1,108.9 million bushels, exceeding by 4 per cent the 1,067.7 at the same date a year ago.

1955-56 Wheat and Flour Exports
to Exceed 1954-55 Level
by Substantial Margin

United States exports of wheat and flour during the current 1955-56 (July—June) marketing season are now expected to exceed 300 million bushels, compared with the 274 million bushels exported in 1954-55, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Official figures show that exports during the first nine months (July—March) of the season amounted to 211 million bushels grain equivalent compared with 209 million bushels during the same period a year ago. Unofficial records show that exports during April and the first three weeks of May have already exceeded 60 million bushels.

Exports have been picking up steadily since last December, and reached 40.4 million bushels in March, the largest quantity moved into export channels in any single month since May 1952. Of the total exported during the first 9 months (July—March) of the season, wheat accounted for 174.9 million bushels compared with 175.8 million a year ago, and flour for 36.0 million bushels (grain equivalent) compared with 32.7 million bushels.

With respect to wheat, exports to Europe show a reduction of more than 30 million bushels compared with the first nine months of 1954-55, largely because of reduced shipments to the United Kingdom, Yugoslavia and West Germany. This reduction, however, was more than offset by increased exports to the Western Hemisphere, Africa and Asia. The large increase in exports to Egypt, Japan and Pakistan is especially noteworthy.

The most notable feature of the country's flour export trade during the 9-month period under review has been the substantial increase in exports to Indo-China (Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia). Substantially increased flour exports are also recorded to Venezuela, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Flour Production The Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, estimates wheat flour production in the United States in March, 1956 at 19,224,000 sacks, an average of 874,000 sacks per working day. This compares with an average output per working day of 851,000 sacks in February and 865,000 sacks in March, 1955. Production of wheat flour in March was at 81.7 per cent of capacity compared with 79.5 per cent and 81.1 per cent, respectively, for the previous month and the same month a year ago.

Flour mills in March ground 44,046,000 bushels of wheat compared with 41,055,000 bushels in February. Wheat offal output in March amounted to 369,252 tons. These figures represent production of all commercial mills in the United States. About 97 per cent of the total is reported by the 375 largest mills and the balance is estimated. The estimated portion is based on a survey of the smaller mills in 1950.

Wheat Exports
Under P.L. 480

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, exports of wheat and flour in terms of grain equivalent, under Title I of Public Law 480 amounted to 60 million bushels during the period July 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956. Recent authorizations under P.L. 480 call for the purchase of wheat and/or flour by the following countries, with quantities in millions of bushels of wheat equivalent: Korea, 4.0; Turkey, 4.0; Chile, 3.7; and Portugal, 0.7.

Winter Wheat Crop
Now Estimated at
681 Million Bushels

In a report released on May 10, the Crop Reporting Board of the United States Department of Agriculture stated that "The winter wheat crop for harvest in 1956 is estimated at 681 million bushels, 35 million bushels less than the April 1 production. A crop this size would be 3 per cent smaller than the 705 million bushels produced last year and 22 per cent less than average production of 873 million bushels.

"The estimated 35.8 million acres of winter wheat remaining for harvest on May 1 represents an increase of 6 per cent over the 1955 harvested acreage but is 25 per cent less than average and the second smallest since 1943. The portion of the seeded acreage that will be harvested for grain is estimated at 79.1 per cent. This compares with 75.9 per cent for the 1955 crop and the average of 86.9 per cent. Based on May 1 conditions, the indicated yield per harvested acre is 19.1 bushels, less than last year's record equalling yield of 20.9 but larger than the average of 18.3 bushels per acre.

"Production prospects declined during April in all regions except the West North Central States. Reductions in Ohio, Colorado, Texas, Idaho, Oklahoma, Montana and Washington more than offset improved prospects in Kansas and Nebraska.

"Rains in late April and early May extending over most of the country came too late for the beneficial effects to be fully reflected in the May 1 condition report. However, rain was entirely lacking or of very insignificant amounts in New Mexico, the extreme western portions of Texas and Oklahoma, southwestern Kansas and southeastern Colorado where the dryness has been most severe. Temperatures during April averaged below normal in all areas and retarded plant development. However, by slowing evaporation and plant demands for moisture, the adverse effects of the continued dry, sunny weather in the moisture-deficient middle and southern Great Plains areas were reduced. Advancement of growth on May 1 was considered to be from a week to 10 days behind normal."

Marketing Quotas
Proclaimed for
1957 Wheat Crop

On May 15, 1956, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson proclaimed a national marketing quota for the 1957 crop of wheat, subject to approval by growers voting in a referendum on July 20. He also established the national acreage allotment for the 1957 crop at 55 million acres, the level specified by the law under present conditions of excessive supply. "This marks the fourth successive year that abnormally large wheat supplies have required the proclamation of marketing quotas for the next wheat crop," Secretary Benson commented in making the announcement. "It is the third successive year for which the national acreage allotment has had to be set at 55 million acres, the minimum specified by law.

"All the wheat we are likely to need from 1957 production, determined according to the formula in the legislation, could be produced on an acreage of about 12.4 million acres. If it were not for the legal 'minimum', the national allotment could have dropped to that level.

"The plain fact is that, in spite of valiant attempts to channel more wheat into exports, we will still have enough wheat for the marketing year beginning July 1, 1956, to take care of all our domestic and export needs for more than 2 full years. The carryover, again, will exceed a billion bushels. Production, even though from the minimum legal allotment, is still so large that it practically equals an entire year's wheat disappearance.

"While we are hopeful about holding down the carryover into 1957-58, wheat continues as one of the most serious problems in the whole farm economy. Surpluses accumulated under high price-support programs, at a tremendous cost to the Government, still adversely affect farm prices. As of April 18, the Commodity Credit Corporation had in inventory about 917 million bushels of wheat, costing \$2.5 billion. Wheat storage charges run on, at a cost of around \$180 million a year.

"This situation points up the need for the Soil Bank, which farmers can use to bring about additional adjustments in production without further reducing their incomes."

Marketing Quotas - Current estimates are that the wheat supply for the 1956-57 marketing year which begins July 1, 1956, will total 1,954 million bushels. The "normal supply", determined under legislative provisions, is 1,140 million bushels -- enough to cover a year's domestic and export disappearance plus a 20 per cent allowance for reserves.

The Secretary of Agriculture is directed by legislation to proclaim marketing quotas for the next wheat crop when the available supply is 20 per cent or more above normal. The supply available for 1956-57 is actually 71 per cent above the normal supply.

Marketing Quota Referendum - Growers who would be affected by the marketing quotas -- those in "commercial wheat States" who will have more than 15 acres of wheat for harvest as grain in 1957 -- are eligible to vote in the July 20 referendum. Ballots may be cast at local polling places in the commercial area. Two-thirds of the vote in the referendum must favor marketing quotas before they may be put into effect.

If quotas are approved, producers in commercial wheat States who stay within the acreage allotted for their farms will be eligible for the full level of price support. Producers in commercial States who do not comply with their allotments will not be eligible for price support and will be subject to marketing penalties on their excess wheat, if they have more than 15 acres for harvest.

If quotas are not approved by wheat growers in the July 20 referendum, the law provides for a wheat price-support level at 50 per cent of parity for producers who stay within their acreage allotments. If quotas are voted out, farmers may exceed allotments without being subject to quota penalties, but they will not be eligible to receive any price support.

In the noncommercial States, the wheat price support will be at 75 per cent of the level available in commercial States.

Marketing quotas have been used by farmers for the last 3 wheat crops. In last year's referendum on quotas for the 1956 wheat crop, 77.3 per cent of the 347,652 farmers voting approved the quotas.

Acreage Allotments - Legislation provides for establishing a national wheat acreage allotment each year except in the event of a national emergency or a materially increased export demand for wheat.

The national wheat acreage allotment will be apportioned among all the

States and the commercial State allotments among the counties on the basis of acreage seeded for the production of wheat during the preceding 10 years, with adjustments for abnormal weather and for trends in planting. State allotments will be announced soon, at which time the "noncommercial wheat States" for 1957 -- those with allotments of 25,000 acres or less -- will be designated. Allotments and quotas do not operate in noncommercial wheat States.

County allotments will be apportioned among individual farms according to past acreage of wheat, tillable acres, crop rotation practices, type of soil, slope and lay of the land. Individual farm wheat allotments will be made available to farmers affected by the quotas well in advance of the referendum date.

C.C.C. Extends
Storage Plans

On May 15, the United States Department of Agriculture announced the extension of the farm storage facility and farm storage equipment loan programs for another year through June 30, 1957.

These loans are designed to help farmers throughout the country obtain needed farm storage. Under these programs, farmers and others can borrow a large part of the cost of additional storage space and drying equipment to provide additional farm storage and vital conditioning equipment for grains and seeds.

Any farm owner-operator, share tenant, share landlord, or producer partnership is eligible to participate in the programs. Application for a loan may be made at the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee (ASC) office. The loan may be made either directly through the county office or through a local bank. Loans may be obtained on storage for wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, soybeans, grain sorghums, dry edible beans, rice, peanuts, cottonseed, flaxseed, and winter cover crop seeds.

Farmers in most States can borrow up to 80 per cent of the cost of new storage bins, cribs, or other approved storage structures. The structure must meet requirements for storage under the price support program. The loan can be paid off over a 4-year period which begins on the first anniversary of the loan, when the first installment is payable.

Interest on the loan is at the rate of 4 per cent per year. Since the program started, and through February 29, 1956, about 78,226 loans have been made covering structures with a capacity of approximately 286 million bushels. This is an increase during the last seven months (July 1, 1955--February 29, 1956) of 6,875 loans, covering structures with a capacity of approximately 23 million bushels.

Up to 75 per cent of the delivered and assembled cost, exclusive of labor costs, of storage equipment to keep stored grain in proper condition may be borrowed under the storage equipment programs. The equipment includes mobile mechanical dryers, air circulators, ventilators, tunnels, and fans. The loan is payable in three annual installments. As in the case of storage structure loans, the first installment is payable 12 months after the equipment loan is disbursed and interest is at the rate of 4 per cent per year. Since the equipment loan program started, 1,008 loans totalling approximately \$1,553,795 have been made on grain drying and conditioning equipment.

Cash Wheat Prices on the Kansas City and Minneapolis Markets

No. 2 Hard Winter, Kansas City			No. 1 Northern Spring, Minneapolis		
Date	Price		Date	Price	
	cents per bushel			cents per bushel	
May 1, 1956	224 1/2	- 228	May 1, 1956	234 1/4	- 237 1/4
2	221 3/4	- 243 1/2	2	232 3/4	- 235 3/4
3	229 1/2	- 242 1/4	3	233 3/8	- 236 3/8
4	220	- 241 3/4	4	234 3/4	- 237 3/4
7	224	- 225 1/4	7	235	- 238
8	219 1/2	- 240	8	233 3/8	- 235 3/8
9	220	- 241 1/2	9	232 1/4	- 234 1/4
10	224	- 243 1/2	10	231 1/2	- 233 1/2
11	228		11	232	- 234
14	229 1/4		14	231 3/8	- 233 3/8
15	227 1/4	- 245 3/4	15	231 3/4	- 233 3/4
16	229	- 233	16	232 5/8	- 234 5/8
17	232		17	232 7/8	- 234 7/8
18	228	- 232	18	232	- 234
21	233		21	231 3/8	- 233 3/8
22	227	- 245 3/4	22	229 1/4	- 231 1/4
23	222	- 242 1/4	23	228 1/8	- 230 1/8
24	216 1/2	- 242	24	228	- 230
25	214 1/2	- 241	25	227	- 229
28	213 1/4	- 214 1/4	28	225 5/8	- 227 5/8

Chicago Wheat Futures, High Points of Closing

Date	May	July	September	December	March
	- cents and eighths per bushel -				
May 1, 1956	231/6	211/3	213/2	216/2	218
2	228	209/2	211/3	215	215
3	227	208/7	210/6	214	215/2
4	229/3	209/4	211/4	214/6	215/7
7	226/2	206/4	208/2	211/4	212/4
8	224/1	204/6	206/2	209/4	210/4
9	226	205/1	206/6	209/7	211/1
10	227/4	205/3	207/1	210/3	211/4
11	231/7	207/6	209	212/2	213/2
14	226/5	206/6	208/1	211/3	212
15	227	207	208/4	211/4	212
16	229/4	208/7	210/1	213/2	213/6
17	228/4	208/4	210/2	213/2	212/4
18	226/2	207/6	209/2	212/1	212/2
21	221/4	208/2	209/7	212/5	213
22		206/4	207/7	210/6	211
23		205/5	207/1	209/6	210
24		204/7	206/2	209	209/2
25		201/6	203/4	206/5	207/1
28		201/2	203/2	206/1	206/4
29		202/4	204/3	207/4	207/7
30			Memorial Day		
31		208/2	205	208/5	209/1

ARGENTINE SITUATION

Supply Position Total supplies of wheat in the Argentine for the 1955-56 crop year, consisting of the December 1 carryover of 83.2 million and the 1955 crop officially estimated at 177.1 million, amount to 260.3 million bushels about one quarter smaller than the comparable 1954-55 total of 342.9 million. After making an allowance of 136.0 million bushels for anticipated domestic requirements, some 124.3 million are available for export and for carryover during 1955-56 as against 210.6 million in the preceding crop year. Combined exports of wheat as grain and wheat flour in terms of grain equivalent during the five months, December, 1955 to April, 1956 amounted to 46.9 million bushels compared with 57.4 million exported during the same period of 1954-55. The balance remaining on May 1, 1956 for export and for carryover totalled 77.4 million bushels, approximately half the 153.2 million remaining on May 1 a year ago.

Argentine Wheat Supplies

Item	1954-55	1955-56 <u>1/</u>
	- million bushels -	
Carryover at beginning of crop year (December 1) <u>2/</u> ...	60.3	83.2
New crop	282.6 <u>3/</u>	177.1 <u>3/</u>
Total estimated domestic supplies	342.9	260.3
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year	132.3	136.0
Available for export and for carryover	210.6	124.3
Deduct:		
Exports of wheat as grain, December—April	56.9	45.6
Exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat, Dec.—April.	0.4	1.3
Total exports of wheat and wheat flour	57.4	46.9
Balance on May 1 for export and for carryover	153.2	77.4

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes allowances for farm stocks. 3/ Official estimate.

The following account of the Argentine situation has been extracted from a report from Mr. W. F. Hillhouse, Agricultural Secretary, Canadian Embassy, Buenos Aires, under date of May 18, 1956, and is reproduced with the permission of the Trade Commissioner Service, Department of Trade and Commerce. Where possible, conversions from Argentine to Canadian measures have been made for the convenience of our readers. Currency conversions have been made at the rate of 18.00 pesos to the United States dollar.

Weather and Crops The weather during the past month has been cool and relatively clear except for a few well spaced timely rains in the last half of April. In most sections of the grain zone these rains have at least maintained the good to excellent moisture supply and have permitted the work of land

preparation and sowing of winter crops to continue unabated. However, in some areas an excess of water is making transportation and land preparation difficult and/or is slowing down the germination or early growth of the crops. Although some fields of ripe sunflower and corn are suffering from excessive moisture, in general harvesting of these crops has been progressing satisfactorily. Several light frosts have been experienced in recent weeks but they apparently have done little damage to the growing crops and undoubtedly aided the drying of the corn.

Wheat - 1955-56 Crop On April 24 the National Grain Institute published certain statistical information relative to their position in the various grains and oilseeds. With respect to wheat they stated that purchases from the 1955-56 crop had amounted to 4,623,508 tons (169.9 million bushels). Since a minimum of 600,000 tons (22,046,000 bushels) will be held by the farmers as seed for the coming crop, this strongly suggests that the actual outturn of the last crop was at least 5.2 million tons (191.1 million bushels) rather than the 4,820,000 (177.1 million) which has been officially estimated. They also announced that they had unshipped sales at that date amounting to 895,324 tons (32,898,000 bushels) and that there were 1,169,000 tons (42,953,000 bushels) available for export sale. It will be noted that these last two figures plus exports during the first three and a half weeks of April plus a minimum working carryover for pipeline stocks of several hundred thousand tons approximate the estimated availability of export and carryover on April 1 if that figure is adjusted by the difference between the official production estimate and the apparent production as indicated above. With regard to the 1,169,000 tons (42,953,000 bushels) reportedly available for export sale it should be remembered that Argentina has trade agreements with Brazil and Italy to name only two which call for annual wheat exports of 1.2 million tons (44,092,000 bushels) and 500,000 tons (18,372,000 bushels), respectively. Although it has been announced in connection with the Brazilian agreement that it is intended that the full quantity should be shipped, limitations of time and shipping space alone render this more improbable with each passing week. However, substantial reductions could be made in trade agreement figures without any of the 1,169,000 tons (42,953,000 bushels) reportedly available for export sale actually becoming available to other countries. Hence, it may still be presumed that the most probable destination for that wheat will be Brazil, Italy and such historical Latin American customers as Chile, Paraguay and Bolivia. The final destinations are unlikely to be known until at least after negotiations with Brazil have been completed and these in turn may hinge upon Argentina's multilateral trade talks which are taking place in Europe. Recent wheat sales amounting to about 70,000 tons (2,572,000 bushels) have been mostly off grade wheat plus one large cargo each of durum and southern wheats.

Wheat - 1956-57 Crop At this stage all that can be said relative to the coming crop is that moisture conditions have been such as to facilitate the preparation of the land for sowing, including the ploughing up of old pastures. Sowing of double purpose wheat (pasture and grain) is proceeding in full swing and some early grain wheat has also been planted. It is much too early to hazard a guess as to the area to be seeded but some substantial increase over last year is expected and so far weather conditions have been favourable. The National Grain Institute (I.N.G.E.) has announced that for the coming crop season they will offer a bonus of 15 pesos per 100 kilograms (23 cents per bushel) basis on wagons in ports for durum type wheats above their buying price for bread wheat. No actual price has yet been established for the new crop for either type.

However, as the present government has stated that beginning in

1956-57 export sales will be in the hands of the private traders and as recent premiums for durum wheat in the international market have been several times the equivalent of 15 pesos per 100 kilograms (23 cents per bushel), this regulation will probably have little effect although it may focus the attention of some Argentine producers on the strong demand for durum wheat.

River Dredging to
Facilitate Grain Exports

Several months ago the government ordered the return of dredging equipment to the Parana River in order to facilitate the rehabilitation of the up-river ports.

There was some discussion that a rock bar was the limiting factor rather than dredgeable mud. The following reassuring report has now been published by a reputable local shipping firm:

"The river bottom at Martin Garcia Bar does not, as had been erroneously supposed, consist of rock, but of clay. Dredgers owned by the Ministry of Public Works are at present engaged in deepening the channel there, using a cutting machine and suckers, and it is estimated that by the end of the year the depth will have been increased from 22 feet to 26 feet at Zero; according to the authorities that will mean that ships will normally be able to count on a depth of 28 feet for passing that bar.....There is no doubt that the dredging operations at Martin Garcia will have the desired effect of enabling much fuller use to be made of the grain loading facilities in the River Parana ports, allowing many ships to sail straight out to sea, and relieve the port of Buenos Aires of much of its completion work."

Sales Grain sales during the past month were spotlighted by the sale by closed bids from April 30 to May 16 of slightly more than 200,000 tons of corn (7,874,000 bushels). Prices reached a peak of 1,188.54 pesos per ton (\$1.68 per bushel) for payment in sterling and similar currencies on May 4 following which they declined to a low of 1,097.46 (\$1.55) on May 11. Sales of corn were stopped until May 16 when 3,000 tons were sold for 1,106.20 (\$1.56) to the basic group currencies (sterling, etc.). These sales brought the total for the new crop to about 280,000 (11,023,000 bushels). Wheat sales totalled about 70,000 tons (2,572,000 bushels) mostly off grade wheats except for 10,000 tons (367,000 bushels) of durum type at 2,004.84 pesos per ton (\$3.03 per bushel) and 10,000 tons of southern wheat at 1,158.30 pesos per ton (\$1.75 per bushel) both in basic currencies. After no activity for several months 7,000 tons of rye were sold to Austria at 1,072.80 pesos per ton (\$1.51 per bushel), well above February sales for basic currencies at less than 920 pesos (\$1.30 per bushel). Rice sales have also been a feature of the market during the past month with a total of over 28,000 tons (1,372,000 bushels) being sold for a great many destinations including Canada. Prices ranged between approximately 80 and 90 dollars per ton (\$1.63 and \$1.84 per bushel). Two other minor grains, birdseed and millet, also were actively traded during the month with almost 27,000 tons of birdseed going to Brazil at 300 Aforo dollars (declared minimum export price) per ton which compared with 205 dollars to the U.S. and 207 dollars to Japan. Sales of millet were slightly more than 10,000 tons.

Shipments Grain exports during April at almost 428,000 were the highest in several months thanks to a notable jump in oats exports and increased shipments of all the other major crops except rye. Wheat exports at 263,695 tons (9,689,000 bushels) were well distributed with Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Japan and Italy being the heaviest buyers in that order. Once more all of the barley - 89,605 tons (4,115,000 bushels) - went to Germany. More than 52,000 tons (3,372,000 bushels)

of oats were exported to eight destinations principally Italy 21,659 tons (1,404,000 bushels) and Netherlands 11,166 tons (724,000 bushels). Rye shipments of almost 10,000 tons (394,000 bushels) went mainly to Austria and Belgium and the first corn shipments from the new crop totalling 12,317 tons (485,000 bushels) went to United Kingdom and Belgium. Wheat shipments for April and for the first five months of the crop year are given below with comparable totals for recent years.

Argentine Wheat Exports, April, 1956 and December, 1955--April, 1956
with Comparisons

Destination	April	Dec.-April	Destination	April	Dec.-April
	- thousand bushels -			- thousand bushels -	
Austria	354	1,294	Japan	860	1,534
Belgium	29	1,000	Netherlands	1,534	4,782
Brazil	-	4,687	Norway	-	795
Chile	-	1,116	Paraguay	45	272
Czechoslovakia ...	-	1,273	Peru	576	2,187
Denmark	52	1,213	Poland	-	13
Finland	191	581	Switzerland	-	23
France	593	593	United Kingdom ...	1,917	9,657
Germany	2,741	10,878			
Italy	797	3,689	Totals	9,689	45,587
Same period:					
1954-55					56,943
1953-54					42,636
1952-53					10,635
1951-52					3,668
1950-51					47,330

AUSTRALIAN SITUATION

Supply Position Total estimated supplies of wheat in Australia for the 1955-56 crop year, consisting of the December 1, 1955 carryover of 91.6 million bushels and the 1955 crop placed at 195.6 million, amount to an estimated 287.2 million bushels, compared with 260.2 million in 1954-55. After deducting domestic requirements of some 70.4 million bushels, a total of 216.8 million remain available for export and for carryover during 1955-56 as against 188.8 million in the preceding crop year.

Combined exports of wheat as grain and wheat flour in terms of grain equivalent up to May 5 of the current Australian crop year amounted to 42.7 million bushels, some 11 per cent below the 47.8 million exported during the same period of the preceding year. The balance of 174.1 million bushels at May 6, 1956, for export and for carryover, exceeded by 23 per cent the 141.0 million remaining at approximately the same date a year ago.

Australian Wheat Supplies

Item	1954-55	1955-56 <u>1/</u>
- million bushels -		
Carryover, including flour as wheat, at beginning of crop year (December 1)	93.6	91.6
New crop	166.6	195.6
Total estimated supplies	260.2	287.2
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year	71.4	70.4 <u>2/</u>
Available for export and for carryover	188.8	216.8 <u>2/</u>
Deduct:		
Exports of wheat as grain, December 1—May 5	30.4	29.1
Exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat, December 1—May 5	17.4	13.6
Total exports of wheat and wheat flour	47.8	42.7
Balance on May 6 for export and for carryover	141.0	174.1

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Adjusted figure.

The following information relative to the Australian situation has been extracted from a report from Mr. R. W. Blake, Commercial Secretary for Canada, Melbourne, under date of May 11, 1956 and is reproduced with the permission of the Trade Commissioner Service, Department of Trade and Commerce. Currency conversions have been made at the rate of £1 equals \$2.2320 (Canadian), the quotation in effect on April 26, 1956.

Australia has indicated that she will sign the new International Wheat Agreement. The Minister for Trade said the draft agreement will be presented to Parliament at the appropriate time. Under the new agreement Australia's quota would be reduced from 45 million bushels to about 30 million bushels. The Minister said that while it might be argued that this quantity was not a decisive factor in disposing of Australia's export surplus of approximately 100 million bushels, the Government saw positive advantages in an agreement of this type and considered it should be supported. The new prices of \$1.50 to \$2.00 on the basis of Canadian No.1 Northern Fort William, are equal to a range of 13/5d. to 17/10d. in Australian currency.

Sales and Exports Nearly all of the several million bushels of low grade wheat harvested in New South Wales and Victoria this season has been sold, mainly to Germany, with some going to Japan. Britain is reported to have been buying Australian f.a.q. wheat, and is eager to take whatever can be offered at competitive prices before her new wheat is available in volume later in the year. High freight rates and a shortage of ships are working against more wheat being sold to the United Kingdom in the next three months. Odd sales could also be made to

other countries if shipping were available. Australia exported about 5 million bushels of wheat and about 70,000 long tons of flour (3,600,000 bushels of wheat equivalent) during the four weeks ended May 5. The main shipments of wheat during this period went to India, the United Kingdom, Germany, New Zealand and Japan. Large shipments of flour went to Indonesia and Malaya, with good sized quantities going to the United Kingdom and Ceylon.

Quality in Wheat With overseas markets becoming more and more competitive, the question of marketing Australian wheat on an F.A.Q. (fair average quality) basis continues to be a topic for discussion at wheatgrowers' conferences. The Farmers' Union of Western Australia has appointed a committee to investigate ways and means of raising the quality of wheat in that State.

A Wheat, Flour and Bread Convention held in New South Wales early in May had as its main theme "Australian strong wheats in Relation to World Marketing", and recommended that the Australian Agricultural Council be asked to restrict wheat varieties to those producing the highest protein content. The convention decided that the F.A.Q. system was out-dated and should be replaced by a grading system. The Secretary of the Department of Trade stated at the convention that there was mounting evidence that the F.A.Q. system would have to be reviewed, and he advised segregation of the stronger wheats. Dr. Pugsley, Director of a Wheat Research Institute in New South Wales told the convention that 25 per cent of Australian wheats were strong or medium strong, and that the problem of increasing protein content was largely related to that of soil fertility.

Under the present marketing conditions in Australia, farmers growing low quality wheats received the same price as those producing high quality wheats, except for the portion on which millers paid a premium. A good deal more thought is being given to this problem than ever before, and it seems reasonable to suppose that some method of segregating and shipping the different classes of wheat will eventually be found and adopted. Millers in Australia already buy wheat at a premium from certain districts noted for strong wheats, and it has been suggested that this method could be expanded to exports with economic advantage to the industry.

Seasonal Conditions Wheat sowing has commenced in Victoria, with soil conditions said to be perfect. Farmers are working round the clock to take advantage of the favourable conditions. Most farmers intend sowing their average acreage again this year.

Rainfall has been excessive in all sections of the New South Wales wheat belt, and a good spell of fine weather is urgently needed to enable sowing to proceed under suitable conditions. It now appears that the area sown to wheat will show an appreciable reduction on that of last year, due to the continued rains, weed growth and the delayed sowing. Prospects are good for mid-season and late wheat sowings, insofar as soil moisture conditions are concerned. The main threat to ultimate grain prospects, even at this early stage, is the possibility of a stem rust epidemic later in the year.

As a result of widespread lodging of crops last season, and consequent loss of grain, thousands of acres of last year's stubble have produced self-sown wheat crops, and many of these reached the heading stage in April, because wet soil conditions and excessive growth made it impossible to permit grazing. A recent check reveals that stem rust is present on much of this self-sown wheat. Farmers

are showing a great interest in rust resistant varieties for sowing. Queensland has also received heavy rains, and land preparation and early sowings for cereal crops have been delayed. It has been dry in Western Australia, but if rains come soon, seeding could start with favourable soil conditions. Conditions are good in South Australia for this time of the year.

Coarse Grains A slight increase in the area sown to barley is expected in New South Wales, but the total area in oats is likely to be lower, due to the presence of large areas of self-sown oats, and the wet conditions making early sowing difficult.

Sowing of barley and oats is proceeding in Victoria and South Australia, but no indication of farmers' acreage intentions has been given as yet.

Maize Overall prospects for this season's maize harvest in New South Wales are good, despite damage done by heavy rains. The acreage harvested is expected to be about the same as last year - 70,000 acres.

Production of maize from the 1955-56 Queensland crop is expected to be at least 2.75 million bushels from approximately 100,000 acres.

Barley and Oat Sales Japanese buyers have indicated that they were very satisfied with the quality of Queensland barley purchased last year, and they will require at least 50,000 tons (2,334,000 bushels) of two-row malting barley in the coming season.

Tests made by the Department of Agriculture and Stock on 15,000 tons (700,000 bushels) of Queensland two-row malting barley showed it to be 99.23 per cent sound with a bushel weight of 56.25 pound, a moisture content of 13 per cent, and malt extract up to 93 per cent.

Sales of oats and barley from Western Australia since November have totalled £2.5 million (\$5.6 million). Germany bought most of the oats. England took most of the barley, and the remainder of the oats. Sales of barley were also made to Holland and Ireland, and negotiations for further sales are taking place.

Feed Barley Prices It was announced by the Australian Barley Board that feed barley prices will in future be estimated on a truck's terminal port basis. The new prices will be - two-row 10/- (\$1.12) a bushel; six-row 9/6d. (\$1.06) a bushel.

The board handles barley grown in the two main barley growing States of Victoria and South Australia.

West Australian barley growers have delivered 670,000 bushels of two-row malting barley and all but 25,000 bushels have been sold. It is the first time that Western Australia has grown enough malting barley for local requirements.

Nearly 2.5 million bushels of six-row barley have been received by the W.A. Pool, and almost all of it has been sold.

Final Payment on West Australian Oats A final payment of 4/7½d. (52 cents) a bushel on oats of the 1954-55 season has been sent out to West Australian farmers, making the total payment 9/4½d. (\$1.05) a bushel.

Sorghum The 1956 grain sorghum crop in Queensland is expected to yield about 4.5 million bushels, the same as last year. About 180,000 acres were planted, but flooding and other causes have reduced the crop harvested to 165,000 acres. The yield this year is expected to be above average.

Linseed Greater production of linseed is expected to follow restrictions on the importation of linseed oil. It is estimated that this season's crop in Queensland may exceed 20,000 tons (800,000 bushels) compared with 12,000 tons (480,000 bushels) last year.

The Australian Linseed Crushers' Association has indicated there will be a firm market for good linseed at £70 per ton (\$3.91 per bushel) delivered f.o.r. Melbourne. The bulk of Australian linseed crushing capacity is in the Southern capitals, and there is need for a reasonable balance between northern and southern production.

Exports of Australian Wheat and Wheat Flour in Terms of Wheat, December 1 to May 5, 1955-56 and Corresponding Period 1954-55

Destination	Wheat		Wheat Flour	
	1954-55	1955-56	1954-55	1955-56
	- thousand bushels -			
Aden and Aden I/T	6	7	896	384
Belgian Congo	-	-	1	-
Borneo	-	-	3	-
British North Borneo	-	-	90	108
British Somaliland	-	-	-	3
British West Indies	2	-	81	54
Brunei	-	-	12	15
Burma	38	36	515	218
Ceylon	8	2	3,794	2,146
Cocos Islands	-	-	-	1/
Cyprus	-	-	-	1/
Dutch New Guinea	-	-	22	33
Egypt (a/c War Office)	-	-	34	5
Eire	1,323	312	-	-
French Somaliland	-	-	4	22
Germany	806	2,249	-	-
Hadhranaut	-	-	5	-
Hong Kong	358	450	-	-
Hong Kong (General)	-	-	139	162
Hong Kong (a/c War Office)	-	-	36	17
India	10,595	3,597	-	-
Indonesia	-	-	2,456	4,715
Iran	-	359	-	-
Iraq	-	1,203	-	-
Italy	-	-	9	12
Japan	359	5,786	-	-
Jordan	346	-	245	-

Exports of Australian Wheat and Wheat Flour in Terms of Wheat, December 1 to May 5, 1955-56 and Corresponding Period 1954-55 (concluded)

Destination	Wheat		Wheat Flour	
	1954-55	1955-56	1954-55	1955-56
- thousand bushels -				
Kure (a/c War Office)	-	-	3	18
Lebanon	359	-	70	-
Libya	-	-	47	-
Macao	-	-	-	4
Malaya	303	206	-	-
Malaya (General)	-	-	3,612	2,854
Malaya (a/c War Office)	-	-	76	56
Malta	281	193	-	-
Mauritius	1	-	622	105
Netherlands	388	-	-	-
New Zealand	3,612	3,650	-	<u>1/</u>
Nyasaland	-	-	22	4
Pacific Islands	12	11	1,036	815
Palestine	-	-	6	-
Persian Gulf	44	60	128	62
Philippine Islands	-	-	47	111
Poland	-	1,862	-	-
Pondicherry	-	-	2	-
Port Said (a/c S/S)	-	-	26	25
Portuguese East Africa	302	56	<u>1/</u>	-
Portuguese India (Goa)	27	10	41	30
Rhodesia	1,025	659	-	-
Roumania	283	-	-	-
Sarawak	-	-	85	99
Saudi Arabia	59	37	76	-
Seychelles Islands	-	-	21	12
Sudan	-	-	558	92
Syria	-	338	-	-
Tahiti	-	-	87	88
Thailand (Siam)	3	3	297	304
Timor	-	-	14	5
United Kingdom	9,880	7,980	1,958	945
Yemen	-	-	5	-
Yugoslavia	-	-	<u>1/</u>	-
Zanzibar	2	40	155	-
Royal Navy	8	8	8	7
Ships' Stores	-	-	58	72
Totals	30,430	29,114	17,400	13,600

1/ Less than 500 bushels.

FRENCH SITUATION

The following account of the current crop situation in France has been extracted from a report provided by Miss V. F. Wightman, Commercial Secretariat, Canadian Embassy, Paris, under date of May 17, 1956, and is reproduced with the permission of the Trade Commissioner Service, Department of Trade and Commerce. Where possible, conversions from French to Canadian measures have been made and rounded for the convenience of our readers.

The figures for French wheat losses due to frost shown in our last report have now been substantiated by the French Ministry of Agriculture. That is, of the 4.5 million hectares (11.1 million acres) sown to wheat last Winter, 2 million hectares (4.9 million acres) are considered completely destroyed and another million (2.5 million acres) partly destroyed. Percentage of losses varies from 15 per cent to 30 per cent in the South and North West to 80 per cent in the North.

Another indirect result of the losses due to frost is that reduced farm incomes will mean a slowing down of the mechanization - and hence productive capacity - of French farms. This indirect result should be borne in mind when considering the French wheat growing potential next year. Actually mechanization increased substantially during 1955: 68,000 tractors, including 9,000 imported machines, were sold to French farmers. This compares favourably with the 43,400 tractors, of which 7,000 were imported, which were sold during 1954.

Since the beginning of the 1955-56 crop year, there have been several interesting trends in French wheat exports. These are indicated as follows:

(a) Malaya - After negligible shipments from France during August to November, exports to this country suddenly jumped to over 2,000 tons (73,000 bushels) during December and January, and over 5,000 tons (184,000 bushels) monthly during February and March. The total exports to Malaya to date amount to 17,647 tons (648,000 bushels).

(b) Czechoslovakia - With no exports recorded from August to January, French shipments to this country were 2,710 tons (100,000 bushels) in February and 14,603 tons (537,000 bushels) in March for a total this year of 17,313 tons (636,000 bushels).

(c) Hungary - Shipments to Hungary were spotty and up to February of this year only amounted to a total of 16,558 tons (608,000 bushels). In February, however, France shipped 19,157 tons (704,000 bushels) to Hungary and followed this up with shipments of 46,649 tons (1,714,000 bushels) during March for a crop year total to date of 82,364 tons (3,026,000 bushels).

When the announcements were made of the new International Wheat Agreement export quotas, there were some critical reports in the French press about France's export quota being raised from 10,000 tons to 450,000 (344,000 to 16,535,000 bushels) at a time when she has not an exportable surplus and will have to import foreign wheat in order to meet her export commitments. As one paper said, France has now taken its place among the great exporters but for this year she will be exporting "wheat she does not have" owing to the cold weather losses.

French Supplies of Soft Wheat

Item	1954-55	1955-56 <u>1/</u>
	- million bushels -	
Commercial carryover, August 1	30.4	51.7
Anticipated Deliveries to Grain Board	272.4	275.6 <u>2/</u>
Total Commercial Supplies	302.8	327.3
Less domestic requirements for crop year	183.7	183.7
Available for export and carryover	119.1	143.6
Deduct exports of wheat and flour in wheat equivalent August--March	65.4	75.8 <u>3/</u>
Balance April 1 for export and carryover	53.6	67.7

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Official estimate of Central Council of the Grain Board.

3/ Comprising 69.3 million bushels for Foreign countries and 6.6 million bushels for French Union - including exports of flour in wheat equivalent of 14.3 million bushels.

Principal Markets

The following countries have been the chief markets for French wheat and flour during the 1955-56 crop year to date.

Principal Markets for Wheat and Flour, August 1, 1955--March 31, 1956

Countries	Wheat and Flour	Countries	Wheat and Flour
	- thousand bushels -		- thousand bushels -
Ceylon	1,665	Poland	11,797
Denmark	2,831	Portugal	1,443
Germany	13,179	Sweden	1,709
Hungary	3,026	Switzerland	3,069
Netherlands	4,948	United Kingdom	16,541

Monthly Wheat and Flour Exports, August 1--March 31, 1955-56
and the Corresponding Period in 1954-55

Month	Foreign Countries		French Union		Total	
	1954-55	1955-56	1954-55	1955-56	1954-55	1955-56
- thousand bushels -						
August	2,171	5,277	1,078	610	3,249	5,887
September	3,108	3,104	1,066	667	4,174	3,771
October	4,882	7,750	1,152	884	6,034	8,635
November	5,163	9,281	978	588	6,142	9,869
December	8,095	8,409	921	1,209	9,016	9,618
January	15,194	16,086	739	943	15,933	17,029
February	12,603	11,229	701	803	13,304	12,032
March	6,898	8,129	684	854	7,581	8,983
Totals	58,114	69,265	7,319	6,559	65,433	75,824

WHEAT PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The following account of wheat production in the United Kingdom was recently received from Mr. D. A. Bruce Marshall, Commercial Secretary (Agriculture), London and is reproduced with the permission of the Trade Commissioner Service, Department of Trade and Commerce.

During the past twenty years wheat production in the United Kingdom has increased from 55,250,000 bushels to 99,450,000 with a high of 128,680,000 in 1943. This has been due not only to wartime expediency but also to the extent to which wheat has shared in the increase in the application of agricultural production incentives which have led to the increase of over 50 per cent in British agricultural production as a whole.

In the three years prior to the war the acreage sown to wheat was 1,805,000 in 1936, 1,836,000 in 1937 and 1,928,000 in 1938. This reflected the influence of the floor prices established under the Wheat Act 1932, whereby the producers were guaranteed a minimum "standard price". At first the maximum quantity on which deficiency payments could be made in any one year was 50.4 million bushels but this was increased by the Agricultural Act 1937 to 67.2 million. To prevent expansion at the expense of coarse grain acreage wheat was segregated and was not eligible for deficiency payment in any particular year if grown on a farm on which a subsidy claim was made in respect of barley or oats. This differentiation was abolished in 1942. No deficiency payments for wheat were made after 1941 as, under wartime legislation, the price of millable wheat was fixed higher than the standard price.

Following the outbreak of war, the production, harvesting, marketing, distribution and the utilization of cereals were brought under the control of the Ministry of Food. To increase production, special incentives were devised; ploughing up grants for grassland, crop acreage payments, restrictions on sowing of

mixed crops. Prices were fixed on a seasonal scale by the Ministry, who undertook to find a market for all millable wheat. The British farmer could only sell his product to a buyer licensed by the Ministry, while all grains were consigned to a National Pool of food and feeding stuffs. The producer was permitted, however, to retain wheat for seeding his own land and wheat certified as being non-millable for stock feeding.

Between 1939 and 1943 the wheat acreage was increased from 1,766,000 to 3,464,000. Due to increased yields the total production during the period was more than doubled. During the following years the wheat acreage, with minor fluctuations, fell to below two million in 1950.

The Agriculture Act 1947, while laying down a "charter" for agriculture, stipulated that the prices of farm productions should be reviewed annually in the light of the economic position of the industry, and their levels fixed accordingly to enable the producer to plan ahead. The Act also mentioned the desirability of a stable and efficient agricultural industry capable of producing "such part of the nation's food and other agricultural produce as in the national interest it is desirable to produce in the United Kingdom". With the overall object of contributing to a solvent position in the U.K. balance of trade, the Government announced at one of the first Annual Reviews that it was desired to raise the level of agricultural output to at least 60 per cent above prewar, a target of an additional one million acres of tillage being set for 1956. Towards this end a Government grant of £5 per acre (\$13.95) was made from February 1952 for grassland ploughed and sowed with approved crops (wheat, rye, barley and oats). In the 1952-53 season the restriction on crops was lifted so that farmers could grow crops best suited to them, while the grant was doubled for especially difficult land which had been under grass since 1939. The subsidy was continued until the 1955-56 season and was then increased to £7 per acre (\$19.53), and to £12 per acre (\$33.48) for difficult land.

To encourage greater use of lime, the subsidy which covered one half of the cost of acquiring, transporting and spreading was raised in April 1955 to 60 per cent of the delivered cost and 60 per cent of the spreading cost. (The subsidy on the delivered cost was raised to 70 per cent for the period June—September 1955). The subsidies on nitrogenous and phosphate fertilizers were also increased from July 1, 1955.

Cereals were decontrolled in Britain in July 1953, and for a year afterwards the Ministry of Food continued to buy wheat from home producers at guaranteed prices. With the 1953 harvest a deficiency payments scheme came into effect designed to mitigate for the producer the fluctuations of free marketing. The scheme was operated along the lines of the prewar system, but with no quantitative limitation on the wheat qualifying for subsidy. The scheme is financed from the subsidy account, as the flour levy was discontinued at the outbreak of war.

If the average price of wheat fell below a "standard" price, the difference was made up to the producer on the basis of tonnage of millable product sold by him. As under the wartime system when the Ministry bought all grain at fixed prices, the standard price was varied seasonally to avoid too much grain being marketed too soon after the harvest. The seasonal prices in the 1954-55 season were:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Standard Price</u>	
	<u>Per 112 lb.</u>	<u>Per bushel</u>
July—September 1954	28/10d.	\$2.15
October—November 1954	30/4d.	\$2.27
December 1954—February 1955	31/10d.	\$2.37
March—April 1955	33/1d.	\$2.46
May—June 1955	33/10d.	\$2.52

£1 = \$2.79

At the end of the first year's working of the deficiency payments scheme, it was revealed that out of total payments for all grains of £33.1 million, home produced wheat accounted for £24.2 million. The subsidy was paid on 89.4 million bushels during the marketing year from July 1, 1954—June 30, 1955, showing the wide margin of 91 cents per bushel between the guaranteed price and the realized price.

During the 1955-56 crop year the standard prices for the five periods are:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Per 112 lb.</u>	<u>Per bushel</u>
July—September	27/11d.	\$2.08
October—November	29/5d.	\$2.19
December—February	30/11d.	\$2.31
March—April	32/2d.	\$2.40
May—June	32/11d.	\$2.53

As a further measure of security for British producers, an arrangement exists with the milling industry, whereby the millers agree to take up certain minimum quantities of wheat from the home crop. In the cereal year 1955-56 representatives of the millers agree to use not less than 1 1/4 million tons out of the home crop of 2.6 million tons. Before the war the millers bought an average of 728,000 tons annually, out of an average crop of 1.7 million tons.

Results of Incentives After decontrol of cereals in July 1953 the feeling was prevalent that home farmers were inclined to rely upon cheaper imported wheat and feeding stuffs, to such a degree that the Government reminded producers at the Annual Price Review 1955 of the heavy volume of grains being imported to the detriment of the balance of payments position; greater economy and increased home production was called for. "There is clearly scope for making greater use of our own resources for the maintenance of livestock production. The Government consider that the best use will be made of our land in the present circumstances if the output and use of homegrown feedingstuffs is increased", it was stated.

The acreage of wheat given by the agricultural census taken in June each year went up from 2,217,000 in 1953 to 2,457,000 in 1954; in 1955 it had dropped to 1,966,000, due to the extremely severe winter and poor spring of 1955. The following summer being exceptionally good, however, resulted in a high level of production notwithstanding the low acreage. Most of the additional wheat acreage above the prewar figure appears to have come from grassland; arable land in 1939 totalled 12.9 million acres, and in 1954 it was 17.9 million. In the same period the grassland acreage dropped from 18.8 to 13.2 million.

The percentage of wheat to all tillage rose from 16.5 in 1952 to 20.0 in 1954, but the adverse season of 1954-55 brought the percentage down to 17.3 in 1955. Because of "dis-incentives" it seems doubtful if this drop will be fully recovered.

The 1956 Annual Farm Price Review cut the wheat floor price by 11 1/2 cents per bushel, but added to the price of barley and oats by 3 and 6 cents per bushel, respectively.

Under the present conditions it appears that an annual U.K. production of wheat in the region of 100 million bushels is normal, but that the limit of the wheat acreage has been reached while the subsidy incentives continue at the current level. Accentuation of home production of feedingstuffs at the expense of millable wheat may even lead to a decline in production of the latter in the next few years.

NOTES ON DENMARK AND THE NETHERLANDS

The following notes on crops and agricultural trade have been received from the offices of the commercial secretaries in Copenhagen and The Hague.

Denmark Winter wheat and fall rye did not suffer any damage from the winter and early spring weather this year.

The wheat strains used by the farmers are mostly of Swedish origin. Of the French strains only one is used: "the Capella Desprez", which is rust-resistant, but not winter-proof. The yield of the French strains used to be higher than those of the other strains but new Danish (Øtofte 56), Swedish (Banco) and German (Heine's VII) strains, winter-proof, rust-resistant and high-yielding are developed and will be available for the farmers very soon.

Of these strains "Øtofte 56" is considered the best.

The Netherlands Dutch agricultural trade will be affected by the frost damage incurred in this country and elsewhere in Europe last February. The grain trade anticipate increased imports of wheat, offering Canadian exporters the possibility of additional sales to this market. Dutch export crops were less seriously affected, although some export losses will likely be sustained in certain fruit products and nursery stocks. Additionally, because of the high current demand in Europe for table potatoes the Netherlands government have placed an export ban on this item and Dutch potato exporters appear seriously interested in buying Canadian potatoes for re-export.

Official estimates indicate that about 20,000 hectares (49,000 acres) or 40 per cent of the winter wheat crop was destroyed by frost, reducing total yield by some 80,000 metric tons (2,939,000 bushels). It is expected that about half of this quantity will be made up by an increase of 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres) in the spring wheat acreage, the balance of 40,000 metric tons (1,470,000 bushels) coming from increased imports in the next (1956-57) crop year. Meanwhile, however, further imports of 30,000 metric tons (1,102,000 bushels) of milling wheat are required to cover the recent diversion of local milling stocks into extra seeding requirements both inside and outside the Netherlands.

The rye crop sustained only negligible frost damage but barley seedings showed a loss of 18 per cent. However, considerably larger acreage was seeded to both rye and barley last fall and it is reported that additional import requirements are not foreseen as a result of these losses.

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Among the non-signing nations are Ceylon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Venezuela. In London, wheat sources said no reason was known for their abstention. They can accede to the agreement later if certain conditions are fulfilled.

The next - and final - hurdle comes July 16. This is the deadline for ratifying the agreement after study by Parliaments in signatory countries.

CALENDAR OF WHEAT EVENTS

- May 10 According to a report published by the Crop Reporting Board of the United States Department of Agriculture, the winter wheat crop for harvest in 1956, based on conditions as at May 1, is forecast at 681 million bushels, 35 million less than at April 1.
- 15 The United States Department of Agriculture announced the extension of the farm storage facility and farm storage equipment loan programs to June 30, 1957.

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson proclaimed a national wheat marketing quota for the 1957 crop, subject to approval by growers voting in a referendum on July 20.

- 18 The Right Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced in the House of Commons that, after providing for the P.F.A.A. Levy on the interim and final payments and after allowing for final payment expenses, the average final payment on the 1954-55 Wheat Pool was 12.461 cents per bushel on producers deliveries of 318 million bushels.

Settlement of a wage-labour dispute between the Seafarers International Union and the Association of Lake Carriers brought to an end an eight-day seaman's strike which had tied up more than 100 of the 280 ships in the Canadian Great Lakes fleet.

- 28 President Eisenhower signed into law a farm bill which had been approved by Congress on May 22.
- 30 In its telegraphic crop report, the Bureau of Statistics reported that above-normal temperatures and relatively light rainfall had permitted rapid progress towards completion of seeding in the Prairie Provinces. With minor exceptions wheat seeding was from 85 to 100 per cent completed and a larger proportion of the coarse grains and flax had also been sown.

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