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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
AGRICULTURE DIVISION

THE WHEAT REVIEW



MARCH, 1957

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THE WHEAT REVIEW

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WORLD WHEAT SITUATION

Current Supplies Latest available estimates indicate that supplies of wheat remaining on or about March 1, 1957 in the four major exporting countries for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to some 2,120.6 million bushels, about 5 per cent less than the 2,220.8 million available at the same time a year ago. Supplies at March 1, 1957 (in millions of bushels) were held as follows, with comparable 1956 figures in brackets: United States, 1,094.8 (1,201.0); Canada, 758.3 (712.7); the Argentine, 151.3 (110.7); and Australia, 116.2 (196.4). 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 equivalent from the four major exporting countries during the first seven months (August-February) of the current Canadian crop year amounted to 588.8 million bushels, 46 per cent greater than the 403.6 million exported during the corresponding period of 1955-56. Shipments from each of the four countries during the period August 1956 - February 1957 and during the same seven months of the preceding six crop years are shown in the table below.

Exports of Wheat and Flour in Terms of Wheat, August 1956 - February 1957
with Comparisons

August-February	United States	Canada	Argentina	Australia	Total
- million bushels -					
1950-51	160.2	119.6	42.6	70.0	392.4
1951-52	280.4	177.6	23.8	56.2	538.0
1952-53	197.7	207.8	3.2	45.9	454.6
1953-54	111.0	152.7	69.2	34.7	367.6
1954-55	154.8	152.3	78.2	53.9	439.2
1955-56 1/	145.2	137.0	72.8	48.6	403.6
1956-57 2/	297.4	160.0	49.5	81.9	588.8

1/ Revised 2/ Preliminary.

FAO Committee Sets up Group on Grains Problems

The Food and Agriculture Organization's Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) has agreed in Rome to set up a special intergovernmental group on wheat and coarse grains to deal with problems in the world grain economy. The 24-nation CCP, which opened its 28th session on March 18, thus endorsed the recommendations of a special intergovernmental meeting which earlier in March discussed the present world grains situation and likely trends, and the need for continued international consultation on grains.

The new group is expected to provide information on the supply and demand position in grains, and probable development; promote improvement of statistical service; collect information and analyze national grain policies and their international effects, including the possibilities of facilitating the adjustment of these to each other; and consider marketing problems, keeping in mind the FAO principles of surplus disposal and the need to avoid duplication of work being carried out in other bodies. It will be concerned with all grains except that, in regard to rice, it will deal only with the relationship between rice problems and those of other grains, as a separate study group on rice already exists.

The recommendations include proposals for close co-operation between the secretariats of FAO and the International Wheat Council.

International Wheat Agreement Sales and Purchases for Crop Year 1956-57

Importing Countries	Guaranteed Quantities	S O U R C E						Total Purchases	Remainder
		Canada	Argentina	Australia	France	Sweden	U.S.A.		
		1/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/		
- thousand bushels -									
Austria	3,674	90	-	-	-	-	-	90	3,584
Belgium	16,535	1,379	-	4	-	-	4,660	6,043	10,492
Bolivia	4,042	-	-	-	-	-	890	890	3,152
Brazil	7,349	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,349
Costa Rica	1,470	329	-	-	-	-	874	1,203	267
Cuba	7,422	218	-	-	-	-	6,038	6,256	1,166
Denmark 4/	1,837	120	-	-	-	169	1,580	1,869	-
Dominican Republic .	1,102	282	-	-	-	-	559	841	261
Ecuador	1,837	347	-	-	-	-	291	638	1,199
Egypt	11,023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,023
El Salvador	919	156	-	-	-	-	540	696	223
Germany	55,116	15,342	-	5,301	-	5,534	22,499	48,676	6,440
Greece	11,023	-	-	-	-	-	8,801	8,801	2,222
Guatemala	1,470	182	-	-	-	-	952	1,134	336
Haiti	2,204	196	-	-	-	-	992	1,188	1,016
Honduras Republic ..	919	20	-	-	-	-	213	233	686
Iceland	73	3	-	-	-	-	24	27	46
India 4/	7,349	-	-	7,177	-	-	173	7,350	-
Indonesia	5,144	-	-	3,524	-	-	518	4,042	1,102
Ireland	5,512	2,221	-	336	-	-	1,098	3,655	1,857
Israel	8,267	1,669	-	-	-	-	3,312	4,981	3,286
Italy	3,674	-	-	-	-	-	363	363	3,311
Japan	36,744	13,590	-	-	-	-	19,790	33,380	3,364
Korea	2,205	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,205
Lebanon	2,756	-	-	-	-	-	254	254	2,502
Liberia	73	6	-	-	-	-	30	36	37
Mexico	3,674	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,674
Netherlands	25,721	1,320	-	41	-	68	14,111	15,540	10,181
New Zealand	5,879	-	-	5,873	-	-	-	5,873	6
Nicaragua	367	109	-	-	-	-	249	358	9
Norway	6,614	3,492	919	-	-	114	1,506	6,031	583
Panama	1,102	120	-	-	-	-	392	512	590
Peru	7,349	1	-	-	-	-	50	51	7,298
Philippines 4/	6,063	2,805	-	282	-	-	3,090	6,177	-
Portugal	5,879	210	-	507	-	-	2,832	3,549	2,330
Saudi Arabia	3,674	-	-	-	-	-	1,333	1,333	2,341
Spain	4,593	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,593
Switzerland	6,981	4,446	-	-	-	-	-	4,446	2,535
Union of S. Africa .	5,512	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,512
Vatican City 4/	551	-	-	-	-	-	551	551	-
Venezuela	6,246	1,831	-	-	-	-	3,661	5,492	754
Yugoslavia	3,674	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,674
Total	293,618	50,484	919	23,045	-	5,885	102,226	182,559	
Guaranteed Quantities (Exporting Countries)		99,739	14,246	29,329	16,027	6,233	128,044	293,618	
Balance		49,255	13,327	6,284	16,027	348	25,818	111,059	

1/ Canadian Sales through March 26th, 1957.

2/ Sales recorded by International Wheat Council through March 22nd, 1957.

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

4/ Quota filled.

CANADIAN SITUATION

Supply Position Total supplies of wheat for the 1956-57 crop year, consisting of the August 1 carryover of 540.6 million bushels and the 1956 production of 537.8 million, amount to some 1,078.3 million bushels, about 8 per cent above the comparable 1955-56 total of 993.9. After deducting 160.0 million bushels for anticipated domestic requirements, some 918.3 million bushels are available for export and for carryover compared with 849.7 million in 1955-56.

Combined exports of wheat as grain and wheat flour in terms of grain equivalent during the August-February period of the 1956-57 crop year amounted to 160.0 million bushels, exceeding by 17 per cent the total of 137.0 million bushels exported during the same months of 1955-56. The balance remaining on March 1, 1957 for export and for carryover was estimated at 758.3 million bushels, about 6 per cent greater than the 712.7 million available at February 1, 1957.

Canadian Wheat Supplies

Item	1955-56 <u>1/</u>	1956-57 <u>2/</u>
	- million bushels -	
Carryover in North America at beginning of crop year (August 1)	499.7	540.6
New crop	494.1	537.8
Imports of wheat, August-January	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>
Total estimated supplies	993.9	1,078.3
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year	<u>144.2</u>	<u>160.0</u>
Available for export and for carryover	849.7	918.3
Deduct:		
Overseas clearances of wheat as grain, August-February	111.5	135.2
Exports of Canadian wheat to U.S., August-February	<u>3.1</u>	<u>2.9</u>
Total exports of wheat	114.6	138.1
Exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat, August-February	22.4 <u>4/</u>	21.8
Total exports of wheat and wheat flour	<u>137.0</u>	<u>160.0</u>
Balance on March 1 for export and for carryover	712.7	758.3

1/ Subject to revision

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Less than 50,000 bushels.

4/ Adjusted for time lag in returns made by Customs

Marketings of wheat by farmers in the three Prairie Provinces up to March 20 of the current crop year amounted to 201.3 million bushels, representing an increase of 43 per cent over the comparable 1955-56 level of 140.3 million. During the five-week period under review (February 14 to March 20) primary deliveries of wheat in the Prairie Provinces amounted to 31.5 million bushels while the volume of wheat entering export and domestic channels (overseas clearances, plus imports into the United States plus Canadian domestic use) amounted to 24.7 million bushels. Reflecting this situation the visible supply of Canadian wheat increased from a level of 358.8 million bushels at February 13 to 365.6 million bushels at March 20. The corresponding 1956 and 1955 totals somewhat lower, at 344.2 million and 333.9 million bushels, respectively.

Wheat held in country elevator positions accounted for the bulk of the current total, amounting to 222.5 million bushels compared with 199.2 million a year ago and 202.2 million two years ago. "In transit rail" in the Western Division accounted for 16.3 million bushels, considerably above both the 1956 figure of 8.8 million and the 1955 total of 6.3 million bushels. The quantity of wheat in this position in the Eastern Division amounted to 3.0 million bushels compared with 5.0 million last year and 3.9 million two years ago. Lakehead stocks, at 46.5 million bushels (including 804 thousand bushels in "Storage Afloat") were below the 1956 total of 51.9 million (including 177 thousand in "Storage Afloat") but above the 1955 total of 40.9 million. The 20.9 million bushels in Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence Ports at March 20 this year exceeded both the 1956 and 1955 comparable totals of 17.3 million and 14.9 million bushels, respectively. Supplies in Lower St. Lawrence and Maritime Ports, at 15.5 million bushels were slightly below both the 16.7 million in this position a year ago and the 18.0 million two years ago. In West Coast Ports (Vancouver - New Westminster, Victoria, Prince Rupert) supplies totalled 11.2 million bushels, above the 1956 total of 10.9 million and the 1955 figure of 8.6 million bushels. "Storage Afloat" in the Eastern Division at March 20, 1957 accounted for some 4.2 million bushels, down sharply from the comparable totals of 10.0 million in 1956 and 14.2 million in 1955.

February Exports of
Wheat and Flour Total
14.8 Million Bushels

Combined exports of wheat and wheat flour in terms of grain equivalent during February 1957 amounted to 14.8 million bushels, representing decreases of 19 per cent from the 18.3 million exported during the preceding month, 28 per cent from the February 1956 total of 20.6 million and 12 per cent lower than the ten-year (1946-1955) February average of 16.9 million bushels. Exports of wheat as grain totalled 12.1 million bushels as against 14.9 million during the preceding month and 17.5 million exported during February 1956. Preliminary Customs returns indicate that the equivalent of 2.8 million bushels of wheat was exported in the form of flour during February 1957 compared with 3.3 million during January and the revised February 1956 figure of 3.1 million bushels.

Cumulative exports of wheat as grain during the first seven months of the current crop year amounted to 138.1 million bushels, exceeding by 21 per cent the comparable 1955-56 total of 114.6 million bushels. The United Kingdom continued as Canada's principal market for wheat as grain with shipments to that country amounting to 51.7 million bushels, or 37 per cent of the August-February total. The corresponding 1955-56 figure was also 51.7 million bushels. Other leading markets for Canadian wheat as grain during the August-February period of the current crop year with figures for the same period of the preceding crop year in brackets, were as follows, in millions of bushels: Federal Republic of Germany, 28.0 (13.2); Japan, 19.2 (14.2); Belgium, 8.4 (6.6); Switzerland,

6.6 (3.2); Netherlands, 5.7 (3.1); Norway, 3.1 (2.1); United States, 2.9 (3.1); Italy, 2.3 (2.2); Ireland, 2.2 (1.8); and Peru, 2.1 (nil).

Cumulative exports of wheat flour during the first seven months of the 1956-57 crop year, based on preliminary Customs returns were the equivalent of 21.8 million bushels of wheat, representing a decrease of about 2 per cent from the adjusted August-February 1955-56 total of 22.4 million bushels. As with wheat as grain, the United Kingdom remained in its position as the leading market for Canadian wheat flour. Shipments to that country amounted to the equivalent of 7.1 million bushels of wheat, accounting for 33 per cent of the seven-month total and exceeding by 4 per cent the August-February 1955-56 figure of 6.8 million. Other major markets for Canadian wheat flour in terms of grain equivalent, with revised data for the August-February period of the preceding crop year in brackets, were as follows, in thousands of bushels: Philippine Islands, 3,431 (3,562); Venezuela, 1,997 (2,089); Trinidad and Tobago, 1,021 (1,310); United States, 947 (451); Jamaica, 863 (823); Leeward and Windward Islands, 567 (589); Gold Coast, 555 (444); Japan, 535 (394).

General Quota Position

By March 22, 1957 out of a total of 2,078 shipping points in the Western Division, the Canadian Wheat Board had been able to place 353 on a quota of 5 bushels per specified acre and 523 on a 4-bushel quota. Of the remaining points, 810 were on a 3-bushel quota, 362 were on a 2-bushel quota and 30 stations were reported as closed.

Summary of Elevator Shipping Points in Each Quota Group
as at March 22, 1957

Province	General Quota in Bushels per Specified Acre				Closed Stations	Total
	Two	Three	Four	Five		
Ontario	-	-	1	-	1	2
Manitoba	44	165	109	57	3	378
Saskatchewan	315	536	186	60	7	1,104
Alberta	3	109	225	234	19	590
British Columbia	-	-	2	2	-	4
All Provinces	362	810	523	353	30	2,078

Area Intended
for Wheat 1957

On the basis of farmers' intentions at March 1, the acreage seeded to all wheat will be 19.9 million acres, a decrease of 1.5 million acres from 1956 seedings and 4.7 million acres or 19 per cent below the 1951-55 average. The major part of the 1957 anticipated decline in all wheat acreage is in the Province of Saskatchewan where a reduction of 8 per cent from 1956 seedings is indicated.

Intended Acreage of Spring Wheat in Canada, as at March 1, 1957
Compared with Acreages in 1956

Province	Acreage Seeded in 1956 1/	Acreage Intended to be Seeded in 1957		
	- acres -	Per Cent of 1956	Area 1957 1/ - acres -	Indicated Change - acres -
Prince Edward Island ..	2,800	104	2,900	+ 100
Nova Scotia	800	100	800	unchanged
New Brunswick	1,800	111	2,000	+ 200
Quebec	12,300	115	14,100	+ 1,800
Ontario	17,700	98	17,300	- 400
Manitoba	2,073,000	99	2,050,000	- 23,000
Saskatchewan	13,423,000	92	12,349,000	- 1,074,000
Alberta	5,134,000	95	4,860,000	- 274,000
British Columbia	55,000	85	47,000	- 8,000
Totals	20,720,400	93	19,343,100	- 1,377,300

1/ For provinces other than Ontario includes relatively small acreages of winter wheat for which annual estimates are not available.

Prospective plantings of spring wheat of 19.3 million acres are 7 per cent below the 1956 acreage and 19 per cent below the recent average. Practically all the decrease is expected in the Prairie Provinces. Durum wheat is included with the spring wheat figures, but in view of the recent interest shown by Prairie farmers in this crop intended acreage was also obtained separately. The results indicate a record of 2.5 million acres may be planted this year, an increase of 50 per cent over last year's record of 1.6 million. The 0.5 million acres seeded to winter wheat last fall in Ontario was the smallest since 1946.

Indicated Acreage Changes from 1956 in the Prairie Provinces

Crop	Manitoba Saskatchewan Alberta Prairie Provinces			
	- acres -			
Wheat	- 23,000	- 1,074,000	- 274,000	- 1,371,000
Oats for grain	- 94,000	+ 60,000	+ 89,000	+ 55,000
Barley	+ 85,000	+ 512,000	+ 401,000	+ 998,000
Rye	+ 500	+ 18,000	+ 14,000	+ 32,500
Flaxseed	Unchanged	+ 450,000	+ 61,000	+ 511,000
Summerfallow	+ 72,000	+ 279,000	- 132,000	+ 219,000

Farmers' Marketings of Wheat in the Prairie Provinces, 1956-57

Week ending		Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Total	Last Year <u>1/</u>
- bushels -						
August	8, 1956 ...	826	70,774	14,549	86,149	-
	15	18,055	742,851	66,158	827,064	184,387
	22	142,030	1,413,145	329,074	1,884,249	2,360,263
	29	459,983	2,813,251	676,293	3,949,527	3,506,512
September	5	279,055	2,240,920	662,721	3,182,696	6,666,139
	12	312,017	2,681,903	745,801	3,739,721	7,118,649
	19	753,369	3,796,364	1,210,781	5,760,514	5,500,102
	26	1,772,551	4,293,970	1,522,428	7,588,949	3,018,220
October	3	1,510,041	4,790,015	2,457,413	8,757,469	3,866,628
	10	701,543	4,546,551	1,909,027	7,157,121	3,219,087
	17	918,095	5,422,458	2,288,436	8,628,989	3,973,996
	24	808,607	4,382,256	1,654,890	6,845,753	4,059,785
	31	1,159,223	5,805,260	2,920,981	9,885,464	4,097,732
November	7	936,430	5,894,263	2,542,238	9,372,931	4,782,434
	14	1,183,105	4,771,580	1,946,311	7,900,996	5,677,437
	21	1,432,780	4,609,244	2,410,512	8,452,536	5,617,423
	28	1,167,345	4,625,076	2,352,640	8,145,061	4,989,243
December	5	1,056,185	5,519,720	1,920,911	8,496,816	5,108,611
	12	485,589	3,904,761	1,102,641	5,492,991	6,497,442
	19	567,595	3,459,072	2,283,976	6,310,643	3,593,376
	26	596,199	3,320,846	1,588,953	5,505,998	2,915,047
January	2, 1957 ...	687,364	4,183,037	2,683,372	7,553,773	3,869,362
	9	535,604	3,198,329	2,266,357	6,000,290	4,770,429
	16	381,414	1,642,591	1,393,851	3,417,856	5,720,894
	23	490,515	3,196,076	2,126,468	5,813,059	4,478,362
	30	336,162	3,341,732	1,043,217	4,721,111	5,621,608
February	6	411,892	4,471,145	2,682,972	7,566,009	4,688,793
	13	585,632	3,078,350	3,066,024	6,730,006	6,197,106
	20	454,761	3,698,074	2,823,268	6,976,103	2,522,791
	27	278,892	1,890,272	1,718,236	3,887,400	2,205,904
March	6	522,505	3,351,221	3,053,176	6,926,902	4,787,779
	13	396,488	2,487,210	3,723,007	6,606,705	3,136,556
	20	432,056	3,231,897	3,426,382	7,090,335	5,580,466
Totals		21,773,908	116,874,214	62,613,064	201,261,186	140,332,563

Average similar period:

1945-46--1954-55 30,811,216 141,902,467 74,755,832 247,469,515

1/ Revised.

Visible Supply of Canadian Wheat, March 20, 1957
Compared with Approximately the Same Date, 1955 and 1956

Position	1955	1956	1957
	- thousand bushels -		
Country elevators - Manitoba	24,316	21,291	24,386
Saskatchewan	112,974	106,360	126,420
Alberta	64,945	71,537	71,650
Totals	202,235	199,187	222,457
Interior private and mill	7,183	6,223	8,335
Interior terminals	15,236	13,789	12,305
Vancouver-New Westminster	7,969	10,200	10,905
Victoria	550	657	269
Prince Rupert	53	37	-
Churchill	2,400	4,206	4,801
Fort William-Port Arthur	40,933	51,745	45,705
Storage Afloat	-	177	804
In transit rail (Western Division)	6,301	8,782	16,279
Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence Ports	14,904	17,330	20,895
Lower St. Lawrence and Maritime Ports	17,980	16,717	15,463
Storage Afloat	14,247	10,050	4,233
In transit rail (Eastern Division)	3,901	5,023	3,047
United States ports	36	123	99
Totals	333,927	344,246	365,598

Grading of Wheat Inspected, August-February, 1956-57 with Comparisons

Grade	Crop Year		August--February			
	Average	1955-56	1955-56		1956-57	
	1950-51- 1954-55		cars	per cent	cars	per cent
	per cent	per cent				
1 Hard	<u>1</u> /	-	-	-	-	-
1 Manitoba Northern ...	4.9	3.3	3,296	3.7	1,702	1.5
2 Manitoba Northern ...	26.8	35.9	31,549	35.3	35,318	31.1
3 Manitoba Northern ...	19.1	22.4	22,346	25.0	28,674	25.3
4 Manitoba Northern ...	9.0	8.5	4,480	5.0	12,762	11.2
5 Wheat	8.7	9.8	6,893	7.7	15,171	13.4
6 Wheat	4.6	3.1	2,914	3.3	3,553	3.1
Feed Wheat	0.9	0.6	500	0.6	215	0.2
Garnet	0.6	0.4	415	0.5	172	0.2
Amber Durum	1.9	4.1	5,472	6.1	6,316	5.6
Alberta Winter	0.2	0.6	368	0.4	1,189	1.0
Toughs 2/ 3/	18.2	6.5	7,156	8.0	4,015	3.5
Damps 2/ 4/	3.6	<u>1</u> /	9	<u>1</u> /	21	<u>1</u> /
Rejected 2/	1.0	4.2	3,376	3.8	3,699	3.3
All others	0.5	0.6	486	0.5	670	0.6
Totals	100.0	100.0	89,260	100.0	113,477	100.0

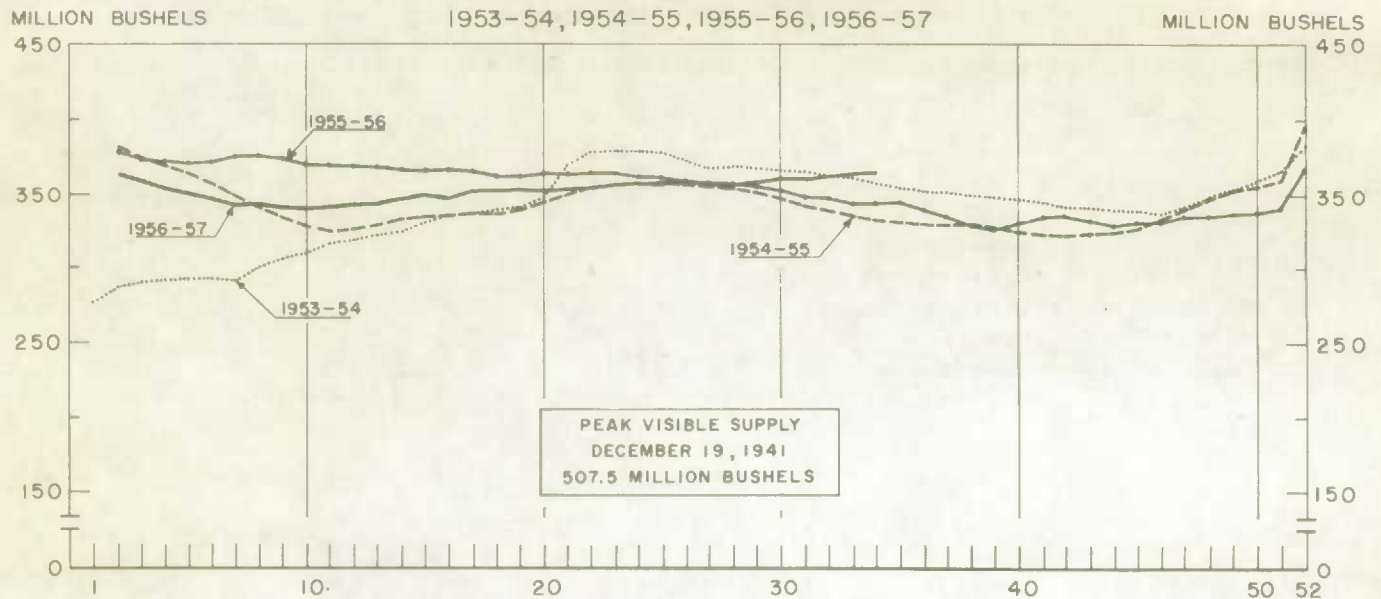
1/ Less than .05 per cent

2/ All varieties and grades.

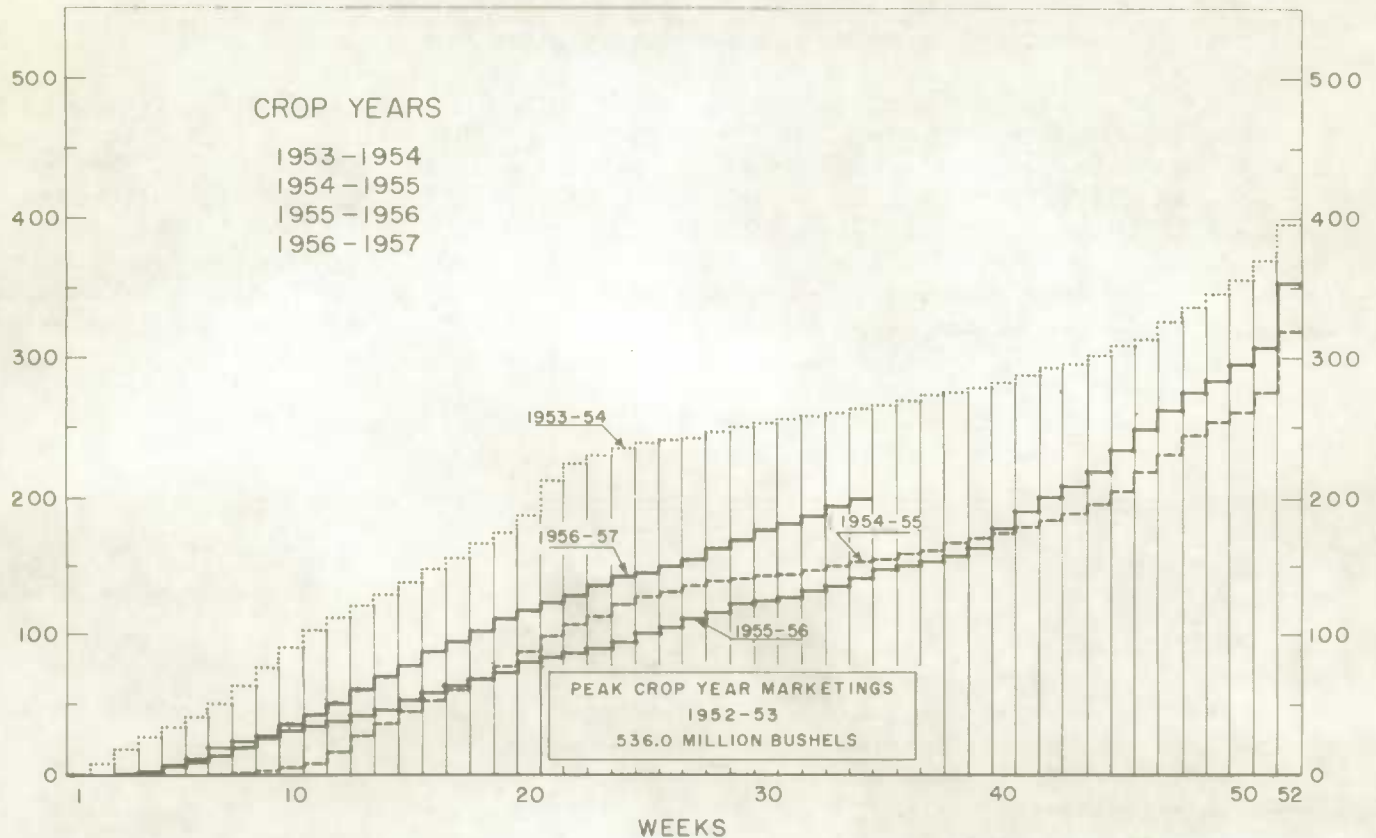
3/ Moisture content 14.9 to 17 per cent for Durum, 14.6 to 17 per cent for all other varieties.

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)

Wheat Shipments* to the United States by Destination
August 1, 1956 - March 20, 1957
Compared with Approximately the Same Period 1954-55 and 1955-56

Destination	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
- bushels -			
<u>By Vessel</u>			
Chicago	-	234,616	89,487
Duluth Superior	-	668,626	1,153,261
Milwaukee	-	52,923	27,745
Huron	40,000	-	-
Buffalo	1,683,591	613,571	834,702
Totals, Vessel	1,723,591	1,569,736	2,105,195
<u>By Rail</u>			
U.S.A. Seaboard Ports	23,126	1,333	-
Other U.S.A. Points	536,587	1,434,405	758,342
Totals, Rail	559,713	1,435,738	758,342
Totals, Shipments	2,283,304	3,005,474	2,863,537

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

Total 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 March 20 amounted to 2.9 million bushels. Shipments during the comparable periods of 1955-56 and 1954-55 amounted to 3.0 million and 2.3 million bushels, respectively. The bulk of the current total, some 2.1 million bushels, was shipped by vessel.

Rail shipments of wheat to Maritime Ports from Bay, Lake and Upper St. Lawrence Ports during the first seven months of the current crop year totalled some 18.0 million bushels, slightly below the comparable 1955-56 figure of 20.2 million.

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

Origin of Shipments	August 1, 1955 to February 29, 1956	August 1, 1956 to February 28, 1957
- bushels -		
Port McNicoll	5,748,712	5,117,597
Midland, Tiffin	7,473,056	8,538,770
Collingwood	1,175,633	649,472
Owen Sound	2,528,041	1,634,593
Goderich	525,289	922,614
Sarnia	2,749,989	831,376
Lakefield	-	287,990
Prescott	-	1,112
Totals	20,200,720	17,983,524

Rail Shipments of Wheat from Fort William-Port Arthur, 1953-54--1956-57

Month	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
- bushels -				
August	191,336	61,070	56,951	100,667
September	236,030	50,633	64,033	70,324
October	173,043	46,053	63,975	120,535
November	138,440	81,253	148,576	240,628
December	347,824	179,272	477,622	613,482
January	510,486	352,109	2,340,921	792,000
February	368,662	318,009	1,735,097	490,778
March	555,518	245,958	1,599,503	
April	378,681	169,137	300,913	
May	253,606	68,878	91,534	
June	37,349	43,600	91,162	
July	74,020	57,619	102,560	
Totals	3,264,995	1,673,591	7,072,847	

Distribution of Rail Shipments of Wheat from Fort William-Port Arthur, February, 1957

Grade	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	U.S.A.
- bushels -						
2 Northern	-	-	-	68,500	-	-
3 Northern	-	-	-	4,000	-	-
4 Northern	-	-	-	3,000	-	-
5 Wheat	-	9,310	4,500	77,583	54,333	-
6 Wheat	-	3,000	12,000	10,500	38,000	105,500
Toughs	3,000	1,500	22,322	11,667	12,682	-
Rejected	-	-	-	23,493	-	-
Amber Durum	-	-	-	4,666	5,000	-
All Others	-	-	-	7,782	8,439	-
Totals	3,000	13,810	38,822	211,191	118,455	105,500

Overseas Exports of Canadian Grain by Ports of Loading, August 1, 1956-March 20, 1957,
with Comparisons

Ports	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed
- bushels -					
<u>Pacific Seaboard</u>					
Vancouver-New Westminster ..	65,897,584	42,646	15,442,454	-	1,092,142
Victoria	798,336	-	-	-	257,684
Prince Rupert	37,417	-	6,340,319	-	-
<u>Churchill</u>	16,250,320	-	-	-	-
<u>St. Lawrence</u>					
Montreal	31,343,744	157,679	11,743,238	130,012	5,859,877
Sorel	3,565,708	-	3,718,200	-	165,076
Three Rivers	5,352,240	-	470,853	-	-
Quebec	5,138,602	-	-	-	-
<u>Maritime</u>					
Saint John	798,933	-	-	-	35,993
West Saint John	7,251,739	-	784,512	5,946	4,005,424
Halifax	8,418,553	-	-	818,496	2,464,146
<u>U.S. Atlantic Seaboard</u>	480,137	-	-	-	195,983
Totals	145,333,313	200,325	38,499,576	954,454	14,076,325
August 1, 1955-March 21, 1956	123,635,473	1,558,531	15,914,229	2,213,206	8,990,659

Freight Assistance Shipments Claims filed for payment up to February 28, 1957 represent the movement of some 10.5 million bushels of wheat from the Prairie Provinces to Eastern Canada and British Columbia under the freight assistance policy during the August-January period of the current crop year. This preliminary total, subject to upward revision with the filing of additional claims, already exceeds by 23 per cent the revised total of 8.6 million bushels moved during the same period of the 1955-56 crop year. Shipments amounting to 4.6 million bushels to Ontario and 3.7 million to Quebec accounted for 44 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively, of the six-month total.

Provincial Distribution of Wheat Shipments under the Freight Assistance Policy
August-January, 1956-57 and 1955-56

Month	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	B.C.	Total
- thousand bushels -								
August, 1956	7	44	99	52	600	1,109	303	2,214
September	8	26	92	58	742	782	226	1,934
October	14	15	116	60	741	796	247	1,988
November	14	9	90	63	604	787	209	1,776
December	7	31	91	34	523	724	122	1,532
January, 1957	6	14	77	33	454	438	40	1,061
Totals 1/	56	139	564	300	3,664	4,635	1,147	10,505
Same period 1955-56								
Preliminary 2/	46	112	460	303	3,245	2,837	957	7,960
Revised 1/	52	118	487	319	3,328	2,968	1,299	8,571

Preliminary data on millfeed shipments under the freight assistance policy indicate the movement of 249,177 tons during the first six months of the 1956-57 crop year, below both the 1955-56 and 1954-55 comparable totals of 277,371 tons and 254,948 tons, respectively. As with freight-assisted shipments of wheat, the current crop year total is based on claims submitted up to February 28, 1957 and may be subject to considerable upward revision with the filing of additional claims. The bulk of the movement went to destinations in Quebec and Ontario, with these provinces receiving shipments amounting to 123,753 tons and 74,701 tons, respectively, or a combined 80 per cent of the six-month total.

Provincial Distribution of Millfeed Shipments under the Freight Assistance Policy
August-January, 1956-57 and 1955-56

Province	1955-56	1956-57	
	Preliminary 2/	Revised 1/	Preliminary 1/
- tons -			
Newfoundland	1,803	2,089	2,242
Prince Edward Island	3,670	3,918	3,344
Nova Scotia	17,192	18,378	17,343
New Brunswick	15,695	16,591	13,736
Quebec	129,937	136,823	123,753
Ontario	70,330	77,750	74,701
British Columbia	16,321	21,822	14,058
Totals	254,948	277,371	249,177

1/ Based on claims filed up to February 28, 1957.

2/ Based on claims filed up to February 29, 1956.

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>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	17,503
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</u>					
August	19,777	469	3,003	23,250	22,228
September	14,877	292	3,816	18,985	16,718
October	14,075	416	3,091	17,582	19,776
November	16,447	440	3,839	20,726	21,362
December	10,323	429	2,810	13,562	15,953
January	19,053	476	2,742	22,270	20,969
February	16,985	537	3,069	20,592	22,066
March	17,631	130	3,353	21,115	23,027
April	28,974	1,333	3,207	33,514	32,360
May	37,350	1,768	3,846	42,964	39,712
June	42,219	1,246	3,656	47,121	49,735
July	24,233	322	3,565	28,120	29,724
Totals	261,943	7,858	40,000	309,801	313,630
<u>1956-57 4/</u>					
August	26,107	223	3,434	29,764	27,147
September	24,477	146	2,781	27,403	26,467
October	20,683	222	3,359	24,265	27,449
November	20,577	875	3,196	24,648	25,790
December	17,028	834	2,907	20,770	22,936
January	14,431	487	3,343	18,261	22,624
February	11,938	115	2,797	14,850	16,348
Totals	135,243	2,901	21,818	159,962	168,761

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/ In terms of wheat equivalent. Exports for crop years 1954-55 and 1955-56 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 for 1954-55 and 2.3 bushels per cwt. for 1955-56.

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

Exports of Canadian Wheat and Wheat Flour by Destination, 1956-57

Destination	November	February		August-February	
	Wheat Flour 1/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/
			- bushels -		
COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES					
United Kingdom	1,009,138	890,466	5,452,047	7,095,631	51,668,414
Africa					
British East Africa	-	-	-	1,030	-
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland ..	1,288	1,030	-	3,864	128,053
Gambia	-	-	-	9,248	-
Gold Coast	62,024	78,453	-	555,328	-
Nigeria	19,798	27,285	-	157,039	-
Other British West Africa	-	-	-	12,880	-
Sierra Leone	-	9,499	-	102,888	-
Union of South Africa	-	-	-	-	473,872
Asia					
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	371,000
Hong Kong	47,981	44,553	56,000	347,658	220,369
India	-	-	-	173	-
Malaya and Singapore	34,668	66,659	-	259,578	-
Pakistan	-	-	-	46	975,533
Europe					
Gibraltar	21,638	5,152	-	57,328	-
Malta	-	-	-	-	778,400
North America					
Bahamas	12,213	22,584	-	156,060	-
Barbados	18,527	20,254	-	179,230	833
Bermuda	5,945	12,259	-	67,836	-
British Honduras	2,385	-	-	11,774	-
Jamaica	87,870	116,449	-	862,551	4,600
Leeward and Windward Islands	67,450	90,530	-	567,115	-
Trinidad and Tobago	96,876	162,396	-	1,021,154	-
South America					
British Guiana	16,590	7,746	-	238,940	-
Totals, Commonwealth Countries	1,504,391	1,555,315	5,508,047	11,707,351	54,621,074
FOREIGN COUNTRIES					
Africa					
Azores and Madeira	5,170	844	-	17,917	-
Belgian Congo	26,634	5,370	-	264,748	-
Liberia	460	230	-	5,628	-
Morocco	2,530	253	-	10,373	-
Portuguese East Africa	2,286	1,546	-	12,687	142,800
Portuguese West Africa	5,304	4,887	-	23,795	-
Asia					
Arabia	772	2,611	-	29,907	18,660
Iran	-	202	-	202	-
Israel	-	-	-	-	748,534
Japan	5,750	40,169	1,812,433	535,214	19,159,947
Lebanon	6,776	13,639	-	225,929	-
Okinawa	-	-	-	-	110,843
Philippine Islands	491,588	595,125	-	3,430,620	-
Portuguese Asia	3,795	11,960	-	88,255	-
Syria	255	-	-	683	-
Thailand	23,000	20,872	-	271,745	-
Europe					
Austria	-	-	368,293	-	745,360
Belgium	82,276	60,228	1,966,687	342,452	8,449,450
Denmark	-	-	74,592	9,120	326,517

Exports of Canadian Wheat and Wheat Flour by Destination, 1956-57

Destination	November	February		August-February	
	Wheat Flour 1/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/	Wheat Flour 2/	Wheat 3/
- bushels -					
FOREIGN COUNTRIES					
Europe					
France	-	-	-	-	736,740
Germany, Federal Republic	-	-	1,089,452	115	27,975,979
Greece	-	-	-	2,583	-
Iceland	-	-	-	4,743	-
Ireland	-	-	-	-	2,223,014
Italy	-	-	121,333	2,300	2,305,155
Netherlands	644	966	367,733	4,347	5,711,984
Norway	-	-	230,160	-	3,076,214
Portugal	8,464	-	-	35,765	-
Sweden	-	1,518	-	5,320	-
Switzerland	2,535	-	363,253	230	6,576,813
Yugoslavia	230	173	-	2,703	-
North America					
American Virgin Islands	690	805	-	8,199	-
Costa Rica	45,929	36,202	-	274,215	-
Cuba	20,585	19,941	-	219,521	1,000
Dominican Republic	36,570	29,023	-	241,870	-
El Salvador	19,320	17,595	-	148,288	11,023
French West Indies	552	679	-	4,313	-
Guatemala	7,926	7,475	-	87,842	66,520
Haiti	40,036	9,212	-	170,041	-
Honduras	6,900	8,510	-	37,872	-
Netherlands Antilles	9,156	13,317	-	86,298	-
Nicaragua	23,618	25,206	-	151,513	-
Panama	16,020	10,465	-	123,844	-
St. Pierre and Miquelon	1,835	460	-	12,615	-
United States					
Flour in terms of wheat	152,966	173,823	-	947,166	-
For Milling in bond 4/	-	-	-	-	130,461
For Domestic use 4/	-	-	114,812	-	2,770,122
Oceania					
French Oceania	-	-	-	28,228	-
Guam	-	1,840	-	13,570	-
South America					
Chile	115	-	-	115	-
Colombia	14,950	7,820	-	91,554	-
Ecuador	-	-	36,335	-	128,282
Peru	1,610	1,150	-	15,870	2,078,906
Surinam	11,822	10,244	-	123,429	-
Venezuela	336,923	107,240	-	1,997,330	27,759
Totals, Foreign Countries	1,415,992	1,241,600	6,545,083	10,111,074	83,522,083
Totals, All Countries	2,920,383	2,796,915	12,053,130	21,818,425	138,143,157

- 1/ In terms of wheat equivalent. Adjusted to remove effect of time lag in the returns made by Customs. Conversion rate: 2.3 bushels per cwt.
- 2/ In terms of wheat equivalent. Unadjusted 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-Port Arthur

Class and Grade	Week ending			
	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29

- cents and eighths per bushel -

Initial Payment to Producers

1 Northern	140	140	140	140
2 Northern	136	136	136	136
3 Northern	132	132	132	132
4 Northern	125	125	125	125
5 Wheat	108	108	108	108
6 Wheat	102	102	102	102
Feed Wheat	96	96	96	96
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

International Wheat Agreement

and Domestic Sales

1 Northern	168/3	168/2	168/1	168
2 Northern	165/3	165/2	165/1	165
3 Northern	157/3	157/2	156/2	156
4 Northern	151/3	151/2	150/2	150
5 Wheat	141/3	141	139/2	139
6 Wheat	139/3	139	137/2	137
Feed Wheat	135/3	135	133/2	133
1 C.W. Garnet	154/3	154/2	154/1	154
2 C.W. Garnet	150/3	150/2	150/1	150
3 C.W. Garnet	147/3	147/2	147/1	147
1 Alberta Red Winter	157/3	157/2	157/1	157
2 Alberta Winter	154/3	154/2	154/1	154
3 Alberta Winter	152/3	152/2	152/1	152
1 C.W. Amber Durum	197/3	197/2	197/1	197
2 C.W. Amber Durum	196/3	196/2	196/1	196
3 C.W. Amber Durum	194/3	194/2	194/1	194

Export - Class II

1 Northern	168/3	168/2	168/1	168
2 Northern	165/3	165/2	165/1	165
3 Northern	157/3	157/2	156/2	156
4 Northern	151/3	151/2	150/2	150
5 Wheat	141/3	141	139/2	139
6 Wheat	139/3	139	137/2	137
Feed Wheat	135/3	135	133/2	133
1 C.W. Garnet	154/3	154/2	154/1	154
2 C.W. Garnet	150/3	150/2	150/1	150
3 C.W. Garnet	147/3	147/2	147/1	147
1 C.W. Amber Durum	237/3	237/2	237/1	237
2 C.W. Amber Durum	236/3	236/2	236/1	236
3 C.W. Amber Durum	234/3	234/2	234/1	234

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

Class and Grade	Week ending			
	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
- 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	132	132	132	132
4 Northern	125	125	125	125
5 Wheat	108	108	108	108
6 Wheat	102	102	102	102
Feed Wheat	96	96	96	96
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 and Domestic Sales</u>				
1 Northern	168/3	168/2	168/1	168
2 Northern	165/3	165/2	165/1	165
3 Northern	157/3	157/2	157/1	157
4 Northern	151/3	151/2	151/1	151
5 Wheat	141/3	139/7	140/1	140
6 Wheat	139/3	137/7	138/1	138
Feed Wheat	135/3	133/7	134/1	134
1 C.W. Garnet	154/3	154/2	154/1	154
2 C.W. Garnet	150/3	150/2	150/1	150
3 C.W. Garnet	147/3	147/2	147/1	147
1 Alberta Red Winter	157/3	157/2	157/1	157
2 Alberta Winter	154/3	154/2	154/1	154
3 Alberta Winter	152/3	152/2	152/1	152
<u>Export - Class II</u>				
1 Northern	168/3	168/2	168/1	168
2 Northern	165/3	165/2	165/1	165
3 Northern	157/3	157/2	157/1	157
4 Northern	151/3	151/2	151/1	151
5 Wheat	141/3	139/7	140/1	140
6 Wheat	139/3	137/7	138/1	138
Feed Wheat	135/3	133/7	134/1	134
1 C.W. Garnet	154/3	154/2	154/1	154
2 C.W. Garnet	150/3	150/2	150/1	150
3 C.W. Garnet	147/3	147/2	147/1	147
1 Alberta Red Winter	157/3	157/2	157/1	157
2 Alberta Winter	154/3	154/2	154/1	154
3 Alberta Winter	152/3	152/2	152/1	152

CANADIAN FLOUR MILLING SITUATION

Production Wheat flour production by Canadian mills during February 1957 amounted to 2,992,000 hundredweight, representing decreases of 3 per cent from the January 1957 output of 3,074,000 hundredweight and 4 per cent from the February 1956 total of 3,125,000 hundredweight. The ten-year (1947-1956) average production for the month of February was 3,447,000 hundredweight. Mills reporting operations during February 1957 had a total rated capacity of 178,851 hundredweight per 24-hour day and on the basis of a 24-day working period 69.7 per cent of this rated capacity was effective.

Wheat milled for flour during February amounted to some 6.7 million bushels, compared with 7.0 million bushels milled during the preceding month and 7.2 million bushels milled during February 1956. Of the wheat milled for flour during February some 6,064,000 bushels were Western Canadian spring wheat (other than Durum), while the remainder consisted of Ontario winter wheat (409,000 bushels), Durum wheat (130,000 bushels) and all other (133,000 bushels).

Exports Based on preliminary Customs returns, exports of Canadian wheat flour during February 1957 amounted to 1,216,000 hundredweight (2,797,000 bushels of wheat equivalent) representing a decline of 16 per cent from the January figure of 3,343,000 bushels and 9 per cent below the revised February 1956 total of 3,069,000 bushels. Flour shipments during the month went to 51 countries with exports to the United Kingdom amounting to 890,000 bushels of wheat equivalent or 32 per cent of the February 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, 595,000; United States, 174,000; Trinidad and Tobago, 162,000; Jamaica, 116,000; and Venezuela, 107,000.

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

Crop Year	Wheat Milled for Flour	Wheat Flour	
		Production	Exports 1/
	- bushels -	- cwt. -	
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	28,361,546
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	19,896,137
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	91,755,469	40,142,498	17,391,300
1956-57 2/			
August	7,872,881	3,448,590	1,493,103
September	7,229,802	3,192,582	1,209,186
October	8,038,284	3,540,745	1,460,602
November	8,296,852	3,635,956	1,389,730
December	7,118,382	3,144,057	1,264,042
January	6,952,052	3,074,467	1,453,559
February	6,735,550	2,992,154	1,216,050
Totals	52,243,803	23,028,551	9,486,272
Same period 1955-56 (revised).....	53,470,875	23,350,734	9,726,935

1/ Based on Customs returns. Exports for the crop years 1945-46-1955-56 revised to remove effect of time lag in the returns made by Customs.

2/ Subject to revision.

UNITED STATES SITUATION

Supply Position Total estimated supplies of wheat for the 1956-57 (July-June) crop year, amount to 2,031.1 million bushels, consisting of the July 1, 1956 carryover of 1,033.9 million and the 1956 crop of 997.2 million. Imports of wheat from Canada for all purposes during the first eight months of the current United States crop year amounted to 3.1 million bushels compared with 3.4 million during the July-February period of 1955-56. Total estimated supplies, at 2,034.2 million bushels were about 3 per cent greater than the 1955-56 figure of 1,974.3 million. After making an allowance of 598.0 million bushels for anticipated domestic requirements, some 1,436.2 million remain available for export and for carry-over during 1956-57, compared with 1,373.3 million in 1955-56.

United States Wheat Supplies

Item	1955-56	1956-57 <u>1/</u>
	- million bushels -	
Carryover at beginning of crop year (July 1)	1,036.2	1,033.9
New crop	934.7	997.2
Total estimated domestic supplies	1,970.9	2,031.1
Imports of wheat for domestic use, July - February	3.4	3.1
Total estimated supplies <u>2/</u>	1,974.3	2,034.2
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year <u>3/</u> ..	601.0	598.0
Available for export and for carryover	1,373.3	1,436.2
Deduct:		
Exports of wheat as grain, July - February	140.6	300.7
Exports of wheat flour and products in terms of wheat, July - February	31.7	40.7
Total exports of wheat, wheat flour and products ..	172.3	341.4
Balance on March 1 for export and for carryover	1,201.0	1,094.8

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Excluding imports for February-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 as grain and wheat flour and products in terms of grain equivalent during the July-February period of the current crop year amounted to 341.4 million bushels, virtually double the 172.3 million exported during the same months of 1955-56. The balance remaining on March 1, 1957 for export and for carryover was estimated at 1,094.8 million bushels, representing a decline of about 9 per cent from the 1,201.0 million at March 1, 1956.

Prospective
Plantings of
Spring Wheat

The following report on prospective plantings of spring wheat in the United States was taken from the March 18 report of the Crop Reporting Board, United States Department of Agriculture.

Acreage of all spring wheat planted in 1957 will be nearly 3.5 million acres less than in 1956, if growers carry out their planting intentions as of March 1. Intentions point to a seeding of 12.8 million acres this year, 21 per cent less than last year and the smallest acreage of record. The 10-year average is 19.7 million acres seeded to all spring wheat. Reduced seedings reflect grower participation in the acreage reserve program with 2.3 million acres of spring wheat land enrolled in the Soil Bank up to March 8 and an additional half million acres offered for participation.

As of March 1, durum whe at producers did not have a liberalized durum program as in 1956 and generally reported seedings with the intention of being in compliance with their wheat allotments.

A total of 49.6 million acres of all wheat is indicated by combining the intended seeded acreage of spring wheat with the acreage of winter wheat planted as estimated last December. This is a decrease of nearly 11.2 million acres from the 60.7 million acres planted for the 1956 wheat crop.

Intended plantings of durum wheat amount to 1.7 million acres, a third less than last year and average. The prospective acreage may be materially changed if the durum allotment program is altered to provide more liberal provisions than were apparent at the time farmers returned their intentions reports. Farmers' reports were generally based on seeding within their announced wheat allotments. North Dakota and Montana farmers, who produce the bulk of the crop, planned reductions of 22 and 40 per cent, respectively. Growers in Minnesota and South Dakota also expect to reduce seedings from last year.

The acreage of other spring wheat that farmers intend to plant is indicated at 11.1 million acres, the smallest of record. This would be a fifth less than the acreage planted in 1956 and 6 million acres or 35 per cent below average. North Dakota accounts for nearly half of the total indicated acreage with Montana and South Dakota accounting for a fifth and a sixth of the total, respectively. The intended acreage in these three States accounts for 84 per cent of the total other spring acreage.

If yields per planted acre this year equal the 1951-1955 average, by States, and acreage planted equals that indicated by farmers as of March 1, an all spring wheat crop of 175 million bushels would be produced. This compares with a production of 262 million bushels in 1956. Based on conditions as of December 1, 1956, a winter wheat crop of 625 million bushels was indicated for 1957. These add to a possible all wheat total of 800 million bushels, compared with the all wheat production of 997 million bushels in 1956.

Crop and Weather
Conditions

The following extract has been taken from the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin published by the United States Department of Commerce, for the week ending March 18, 1957. "From the south-eastern Great Plains to the Atlantic coast, unseasonably mild temperatures and sufficient rainfall to maintain ample soil moisture favored the continued good growth of small grains. Growth is beginning as far north as southern Illinois and Maryland. Oat seeding made good progress in the Great Plains, but in most of the main Corn Belt this operation was limited by rains and wet soil.

In the southwestern Great Plains wind erosion early in the week caused widespread light to moderate to locally heavy damage to grains. Benefits of weekend showers in this area were limited to a few sections and even where dry-land grains have made some growth more moisture is needed for continued development.

More precipitation in the Pacific States favored growth of grains in California, but in Oregon winter grains need sunshine and warmer weather. Sowing spring grains began in southeastern Washington.

Reports from main winter wheat states in the Great Plains are as follows:

Nebraska - Drought continues in west, but moderate to locally heavy rain and snow latter part of week very beneficial in south-central and east. Much wheat damaged by blowing soil early in week. Soil moisture in south-central and east generally sufficient to start grass and spring crops, but subsoil still very dry. Too dry for germination or growth of crops in west.

Colorado - Abnormally mild in southeast. Precipitation normal or above in west, spotty in northeast, below normal in southeast with trace to 0.05 inch. High winds and duststorm in southeast on 13th caused considerable damage locally to unprotected fields.

Kansas - Warm, windy week, with much blowing, ended with good rains in northeast and north-central and much cooler. Wind erosion damage to wheat severe in local areas and light to moderate elsewhere in western half of State, with heaviest damage from southwest to north-central. Wheat making good progress in east. Subsoil moisture very short in all areas. Oat seeding nearing completion in south and progressing well in north.

Oklahoma - Temperatures averaged above normal. Good rains fell in southeastern third of State on 17th. Strong winds depleted surface moisture and caused some wind erosion in west-central and northwest areas. Surface moisture ranges from good to excellent elsewhere, with good moisture and warm weather favoring development of grains. Wheat growing rapidly, but will need more moisture to support vigorous growth. Grain prospects improved in northwest from weekend moisture which will aid in preventing wind erosion.

Texas - Showers early in week in central and southeast and weekend rains over eastern half with torrential downpours on upper coast. More moisture needed in western Plateau, trans-Pecos, and High Plains where drying winds and duststorms. High Plains wheat just up and making good growth. Low Rolling Plains eastward grains are rank. Some lodging - although heads still in the boot - reported in scattered Blackland counties."

Flour Production

The Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, estimated wheat flour production in the United States in January 1957 at 22,162,000 sacks, an average of 1,007,000 sacks per working day. This compared with an average output per working day of 964,000 sacks in December and 928,000 sacks in January 1956. Production of wheat flour in January was at 93.6 per cent of capacity compared with 89.6 per cent and 87.1 per cent, respectively, for the previous month and the same month a year ago. Flour mills in January ground 50,711,000 bushels of wheat compared with 45,159,000 bushels in December. Wheat offal output in January amounted to 419,916 tons.

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
March 1, 1957	234 1/2 - 235 1/2	March 1, 1957	233 5/8 - 234 5/8
4	233 1/2 - 236 1/4	4	231 5/8 - 232 5/8
5	233 1/2 - 241 1/2	5	232 1/4 - 233 1/4
6	234 1/2	6	231 7/8 - 232 7/8
7	234 - 235 3/4	7	231 3/4 - 232 3/4
8	233 1/2 - 234	8	231 1/4 - 232 1/4
11	232 1/2 - 236	11	231 1/4 - 232 1/4
12	233 1/4 - 236	12	231 5/8 - 232 5/8
13	236 - 238 1/2	13	231 7/8 - 232 7/8
14	232	14	231 1/2 - 232 1/2
15	231 - 233 1/4	15	229 3/8 - 230 3/8
18	232 1/4 - 232 3/4	18	228 7/8 - 229 7/8
19	230 1/2 - 237	19	228 7/8 - 229 7/8
20	230 1/2	20	229 1/2 - 230 1/2
21	230 1/2 - 234	21	229 - 230
22	228 1/2 - 223 1/2	22	229 - 230 3/8
25	232 - 233 1/2	25	229 1/8 - 230 1/8
26	228 1/8 - 238	26	229 1/4 - 230 1/4
27	231	27	229 1/2 - 230 1/2
28	228 1/2 - 238 1/2	28	229 3/8 - 230 3/8
29	231	29	229 3/4 - 230 3/4

Chicago Wheat Futures, High Points of Closing

Date	March	May	July	September	December
- cents and eighths per bushel -					
March 1, 1957	231/4	232	225/4	227/3	230/6
4	231/6	231/3	223/5	223/5	229
5	233/7	233/6	225/2	227/1	230/3
6	233/3	232/7	223/6	225/5	229
7	232/3	231/7	223/6	225/6	229
8	232/1	231/6	224/2	226/2	229/5
11	231/6	231/4	224/7	226/7	230/2
12	231/5	231/5	224/2	226/2	229/6
13	231	230/6	223/7	225/6	229/2
14	229/6	228/7	222/2	224	227/1
15	227/5	226/2	220	222	225/2
18	223/6	223/7	218/6	220/4	224
19	220/4	222/3	218/6	220/3	224/1
20	222/2	223/3	219/3	221/2	224/4
21		221/7	217/3	219/2	222/5
22		221/5	216/7	218/6	222/3
25		221	216	218	221/6
26		221/4	216/7	218/6	222/3
27		223/6	217/6	219/6	223/5
28		222/7	216/2	218/4	222/2
29		224/3	216/2	218/2	221/7

ARGENTINE SITUATION

Supply Position Total estimated supplies of wheat in the Argentine for the crop year 1956-57, consisting of the December 1, 1956 carryover of 44.5 million bushels and new crop placed at 262.0 million bushels amount to an estimated 306.5 million bushels. Supplies of this size would exceed by about 11 per cent the 1955-56 total of 276.1 million. After making an allowance of 136.0 million bushels for anticipated domestic requirements, some 170.5 million are available for export and for carryover as against 140.1 million in 1955-56. Exports of wheat and wheat flour in terms of grain equivalent during the December-February period of the 1956-57 Argentine crop year have amounted to 19.2 million bushels, 35 per cent below the 29.4 million exported during the same month of the preceding crop year. The balance remaining on March 1, 1957 for export and for carryover was estimated at 151.3 million bushels as against 110.7 million at the same date in 1956.

Argentine Wheat Supplies

Item	1955-56	1956-57 <u>1/</u>
	- million bushels -	
Carryover at beginning of crop year (December 1) <u>2/</u>	83.2	44.5
New crop <u>3/</u>	192.9	262.0
Total estimated domestic supplies	276.1	306.5
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year	136.0	136.0
Available for export and for carryover	140.1	170.5
Deduct:		
Exports of wheat as grain, December-February	28.3	19.0
Exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat, Dec.-Feb. ...	1.2	0.2
Total exports of wheat and wheat flour	29.4	19.2
Balance on March 1 for export and for carryover	110.7	151.3

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 March 18, 1957, 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 pesos to the United States dollar.

Weather and Crops

In the latest official report of crop conditions the Ministry of Agriculture states "Weather conditions during the month of February in almost the whole cereal zone may be considered generally favourable.

The rainfalls were highly beneficial for the growing crops and in providing convenient moisture to the land permitting the good execution of fall ploughing." The first two weeks of March, although without significant rainfall, have been bright and not too hot. Harvesting of early corn continues with unsatisfactory yields. Pastures have improved.

Wheat

Wheat sales lagged during the second half of February but picked up again during the second week of March when approximately 330,000 tons (12.1 million bushels) were sold for 954 pesos and 1,008 pesos per ton (\$1.44 and

\$1.52 per bushel) for "river" and "southern" wheat respectively for multilateral and South American destinations and one per cent higher for Western Germany. These sales included 80,000 tons (2.9 million bushels) to Paraguay, who also purchased 1,000 tons of flour at 1,539 pesos (\$85.50) per ton. On March 14 the Grain Board went out of the market for deliveries earlier than May-June and increased prices by one dollar per ton. As of March 10 the Grain Board announced that sales commitments were 303,309 tons (11.1 million bushels), availabilities for export sales were 123,895 tons (4.6 million bushels) and port stocks were 394,743 tons (14.5 million bushels). Shipments during February were down to 140,955 tons (5.2 million bushels) with Brazil still the main destination. Exports during the first quarter of this crop year at 517,670 tons (19.0 million bushels) are very noticeably lower than any of the previous three years.

Corn
1956-57
Crop

The second official estimate of the area seeded to corn has been set at 2,700,000 hectares (6,669 thousand acres), down more than 10 per cent from the first estimate and the lowest since 1951-52.

Persistent drought and hot weather were credited with preventing farmers from fulfilling their seeding intentions. The protracted dry, very hot weather in December and January was particularly hard on the early sown grain. Widespread rains and cooler weather in February benefitted the later sown lots but there is much pessimism in trade circles that the crop will be between 2,500,000 and 3,000,000 tons (98.4 million and 118.1 million bushels) permitting an export surplus of possibly up to 500,000 tons (19.7 million bushels). Early yields from the north have been very disappointing but they should improve when harvesting of the later sown lots begins. As of March 10 the Grain Board stated that they had no old crop corn available for sale although some relatively small lots may still be in the interior.

Grain Sales

Heavy wheat sales during the second week of March accounted for a high percentage of the total of 407,897 tons of major grains being sold during the past month. However, the increase in wheat sales did not compensate for reductions in rye, barley and oats and total sales were almost 50,000 tons lower than the previous month.

Wheat. The sale of 80,000 tons (2,939,000 bushels) of "southern" wheat and 10,000 tons of flour to the Paraguayan government was reported at prices of 954 pesos (\$1.44 per bushel) and 1,539 pesos (\$85.50) per ton respectively. Sales for multilateral currencies accounted for 148,050 tons (5,440,000 bushels) of "river" wheat and 83,625 tons (3,073,000 bushels) of "southern" wheat at 954 and 1,008 pesos per ton (\$1.44 and \$1.52 per bushel). Sales to Western Germany amounted to 43,200 tons (1,587,000 bushels) of "river" wheat and 19,900 tons (731,000 bushels) of "southern" at prices 1 per cent higher. The sale of 7,250 tons (266,000 bushels) of Durum type wheat brought the total for the month to 382,205 tons (14.0 million bushels). Oats sales of about 12,000 tons (778,000 bushels) almost entirely for Western Germany and rye sales of 6,425 tons (253,000 bushels), about 60 per cent for Western Germany were followed by about 5,500 tons (217,000 bushels) of corn and 1,700 tons of barley (78,000 bushels).

Grain Shipments

Argentine grain shipments declined during February to only 329,472 metric tons; approximately 32 per cent below the previous month, and also down from the same period last year. Wheat shipments totalled only 140,955 tons (5.2 million bushels), about 50,000 tons (1,837,000 bushels) less than January last, and again Brazil was the major destination with 41,105 tons (1,510,000 bushels), followed by Italy with 19,472 tons (715,000 bushels); the Netherlands 15,976 tons (587,000 bushels); United Kingdom, 13,897 tons (511,000 bushels); Belgium, 13,303 tons (489,000 bushels); and France, 11,511 tons (423,000 bushels). Germany and Peru each received about 7,200 tons (265,000 bushels). Other smaller shipments went to Finland, 4,400 tons (162,000

bushels); Denmark, 2,650 tons (97,000 bushels); and Norway, 2,200 tons (81,000 bushels).

Corn shipments, at 35,047 metric tons (1,380,000 bushels) were half those of the previous month and the Netherlands was the main receiver with 13,975 tons (550,000 bushels), followed by France, 5,700 tons (224,000 bushels); Western Germany, 4,387 tons (173,000 bushels); Belgium, 4,185 tons, (165,000 bushels); and Italy, 3,400 tons (134,000 bushels); while the remainder went to the United Kingdom and Finland. Oats exports, at 30,771 tons (1,995,000 bushels) were also down from last month's and Denmark was this time the major destination, with 9,654 tons (626,000 bushels); then came the Netherlands with 7,036 tons (456,000 bushels); Belgium with 6,251 tons (405,000 bushels); and finally Italy and West Germany, each receiving about 4,000 tons (259,000 bushels). Rye shipments were slightly below those of January and totalled 26,980 tons (1,062,000 bushels) with Denmark and the Netherlands at the top with 5,400 tons (213,000 bushels) each, followed closely by Italy with 5,160 tons (203,000 bushels) while other lots went to Western Germany, Belgium and Norway. Barley shipments showed the only increase from the previous month, reaching 95,719 metric tons (4,396,000 bushels) with the Netherlands leading with 28,655 tons (1,316,000 bushels) followed by Western Germany and Belgium, 21,800 tons (1,001,000 bushels) each, Italy, 17,774 tons (816,000 bushels) and 5,524 tons (254,000 bushels) to the United Kingdom.

Argentine Wheat Exports, December, 1956-February, 1957 with Comparisons

Destination	Wheat	Destination	Wheat
	- thousand bushels -		- thousand bushels -
Austria	57	Netherlands	1,196
Belgium	1,225	Norway	81
Brazil	6,493	Paraguay	209
Chile	1,085	Peru	990
Denmark	97	United Kingdom	2,281
Finland	162	Yugoslavia	17
France	469		
Germany	1,016		
Italy	3,644	Total	19,021

Same Period:

1955-56	28,253
1954-55	32,375
1953-54	25,566
1952-53	3,167
1951-52	3,529

AUSTRALIAN SITUATION

Supply Position

Estimated supplies of wheat in Australia for the 1956-57 crop year, consisting of the December carryover of 83.9 million bushels and the new crop now placed at 135.0 million, amount to some 218.9 million bushels, about 24 per cent below the 1955-56 total of 287.0 million. After deducting 73.3 million bushels for anticipated domestic requirements, an estimated 145.6 million are available for export and for carryover during 1956-57 as against 215.3 million in 1955-56.

Combined exports of wheat as grain and wheat flour in terms of grain equivalent up to February 23 of the current Australian crop year, at 29.4 million bushels, were considerably greater than the 18.9 million exported during the corresponding period of the preceding crop year. The balance remaining on February 24, 1957 for export and for carryover was estimated at 116.2 million bushels, representing a decline of 41 per cent from the 196.4 million available at the same date a year ago.

Australian Wheat Supplies

Item	1955-56	1956-57 <u>1/</u>
	- million bushels -	
Carryover, including flour as wheat, at beginning of crop year (December 1)	91.6	83.9
New crop	195.4	135.0 <u>2/</u>
Total estimated supplies	287.0	218.9
Less estimated domestic requirements for crop year	71.7 <u>2/</u>	73.3 <u>2/</u>
Available for export and for carryover	215.3	145.6
Deduct:		
Exports of wheat as grain, December 1 - February 23 ...	12.8	21.2
Exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat, December 1 - February 23	6.1	8.2
Total exports of wheat and wheat flour	18.9	29.4
Balance on February 24 for export and for carryover	196.4	116.2

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Revised.

The following information relative to the Australian situation has been extracted from a report from Mr. T. G. Major, Commercial Counsellor for Canada, Melbourne, under date of March 13, 1957 and is reproduced with the permission of the Trade Commissioner Service, Department of Trade and Commerce.

Wheat Crop Estimate

The Australian wheat harvest has proved to be somewhat larger than was anticipated. As of March 13, 1957 the Australian Wheat Board unofficially estimated that the crop would amount to about 135 million bushels, as compared with the estimate last month of 133 million bushels. Broken down by States, the figures are as follows:-

<u>State</u>	<u>Production</u> Million Bushels
New South Wales	28.5
Victoria	35
South Australia	32.5
Western Australia	33
Queensland	6
Total	135

The marketable harvest is expected to be about 120 million bushels.

Wheat Sowings
for 1957-58 Crop

In New South Wales, present indications point to an appreciable increase over last year's wheat sowings, dependent upon satisfactory land preparation and seeding conditions carrying through until the end of the sowing season. If such did happen, wheat sowings could reach a total of 3 million acres. This compares with an estimated total sowing in 1956-57 of approximately 1.75 million acres. Indications also point to a marked increase in the acreage of northwestern wheat lands which will be sown to winter wheats mainly for grazing purposes. A promising new variety of winter wheat possessing good grain quality is expected to be available for northwestern farmers within a year or two.

Sales

During the month of February, sales of Australian wheat included a cargo to Eire, one to the Middle East and two to Pakistan. Germany bought 600,000 bushels, Britain 112,000 bushels and Japan 60,000 bushels, in addition to substantial purchases by New Zealand. Export flour sales accounted for about half a million bushels. As a result of the decline in the demand for grain, there has been a drop in freights.

Australian Wheat
For Japan

Trade negotiations with Japan are reported to revolve about the purchase of Australian wheat. The leader of a Japanese parliamentary goodwill mission stated that arrangements had been made to import some 2,000 to 3,000 tons (74.6 million to 112.0 million bushels) of soft wheat in order to test its suitability for the Japanese market. Until now Japan has purchased such wheat mainly from the United States, but recently the government decided to reduce imports of American surplus farm products during the present year.

F.A.Q. Standards
1956-57

The f.a.q. standard for Victorian wheat was declared to be 65½ lb. per bushel. This compares with 63 3/4 lb. for the 1955-56 season, sets a new record for the State, and equals that declared last month for South Australia. The declared f.a.q. standards for the four principal wheat growing States for 1956-57 are as follows:-

New South Wales	64 ½ lb. per bushel
Victoria	65 ½
South Australia	65 ½
Western Australia	64

New Wheat
Variety

The Victorian Minister for Agriculture has announced that the latest wheat variety to be released by the State department has established a record yield of 70.2 bushels an acre on plots in the Mallee district. The variety also has proven suitable for other wheat growing parts of the State, and it is expected that ultimately it would raise both the yield and baking quality of Victorian wheat. It is expected that 1,000 growers would be supplied with seed this year.

Flour Subsidy

The chairman of Allied Mills Ltd. has expressed concern over the partial loss of Australian flour markets. In Indonesia, heavily subsidised flour from the United States has overcome the natural advantages arising from the shorter shipping distances from Australia. Similarly, French flour is cutting into the established Australian trade in Ceylon. He believes that other eastern markets will be lost unless the Commonwealth government puts an export subsidy into effect.

Support for Wheat
Research

At the request of the Australian Wheat Growers' Federation, and after discussions with the State authorities, the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry has announced proposals for increased wheat research and extension activities. The government has agreed to introduce legislation authorising the collection of a statutory levy of one farthing per bushel annually from the industry. It also has undertaken to contribute towards the costs incurred under approved programmes. The contributions will be determined annually

within a maximum of £ for £ against funds raised by way of the levy. Some of the problems to be tackled include the development of better strains for specific areas, economic ways of replacing lost soil fertility and improved methods of cleaning wheat.

Exports of Australian Wheat and Wheat Flour in Terms of Wheat, December 1
to February 23, 1956-57 and Corresponding Period 1955-56

Destination	Wheat		Wheat Flour	
	1955-56	1956-57	1955-56	1956-57
	- thousand bushels -			
Aden and Aden I/T	4	-	174	276
Belgian Congo	-	-	-	1
British North Borneo	-	-	34	73
British West Indies	-	-	13	189
Brunei	-	-	4	9
Burma	20	-	16	59
Ceylon	-	4	1,239	1,672
Cocos Islands	-	-	<u>1/</u>	-
Cyprus	-	-	<u>1/</u>	-
Czechoslovakia	-	315	-	-
Dutch New Guinea	-	-	14	21
Egypt (a/c War Office)	-	-	5	-
Germany, West	863	2,075	-	-
Hong Kong	147	443	-	-
Hong Kong (General)	-	-	56	72
Hong Kong (a/c War Office)	-	-	11	12
India	-	4,414	-	-
Indonesia	-	-	2,115	1,632
Iran	-	329	-	-
Iraq	728	696	-	-
Italy	-	-	4	-
Japan	3,653	56	-	-
Kure (a/c War Office)	-	-	7	-
Macao	-	-	-	4
Malaya	57	181	-	-
Malaya (General)	-	-	1,183	1,462
Malaya (a/c War Office)	-	-	11	32
Malta	193	-	-	-
Mauritius	-	-	4	296
New Zealand	2,071	2,437	-	1
Nigeria	-	-	-	<u>1/</u>
Nyasaland	-	-	4	28
Pacific Islands	6	5	426	401
Pakistan	-	1,417	-	-
Persian Gulf	44	20	34	293
Philippine Islands	-	-	33	111
Poland	1,047	-	-	-
Port Said (a/c S/S)	-	-	16	-
Portuguese East Africa	-	175	-	-
Portuguese India (Goa)	-	79	-	24
Rhodesia	111	522	-	-
Sarawak	-	-	27	43
Saudi Arabia	37	2	-	-
Seychelles Islands	-	-	3	7
Somaliland, British	-	-	1	-

Exports of Australian Wheat and Wheat Flour in Terms of Wheat, December 1
to February 23, 1956-57 and Corresponding Period 1955-56

Destination	Wheat		Wheat Flour	
	1955-56	1956-57	1955-56	1956-57
- thousand bushels -				
Somaliland, French	-	-	11	-
Sudan	-	-	56	513
Syria	338	-	-	-
Tahiti	-	-	36	-
Thailand (Siam)	1	2	133	179
Timor	-	-	-	4
United Kingdom	3,649	8,034	285	636
Zanzibar	40	2	-	109
Royal Navy	-	17	6	5
Ships' Stores	-	-	37	- 35
Totals	12,800	21,200	6,100	8,200

1/ Less than 500 bushels.

FRENCH SITUATION

Supply Position Total estimated commercial domestic supplies of wheat in France for the crop year (August-July) 1956-57, consisting of the August 1 carryover of 31.4 million bushels and anticipated marketings of some 147.0 million amount to 178.4 million bushels, about 43 per cent below the comparable 1955-56 figure of 311.6 million bushels. Imports during August-January of the current crop year have amounted to some 27.7 million bushels, bringing total commercial supplies for 1956-57 to 206.1 million bushels. After deducting 183.7 million bushels for anticipated domestic requirements, a total of 22.4 million bushels are available for export and for carryover as against 127.9 million in 1955-56.

French Supplies of Soft Wheat

Item	1955-56	1956-57 1/
- million bushels -		
Commercial carryover, August 1.....	51.7	31.4
Anticipated Deliveries to Grain Board	259.9	147.0
Total Estimated Commercial Domestic Supplies	311.6	178.4
Imports of wheat for Domestic use, August-January	2/	27.7
Total Commercial Supplies 3/	311.6	206.1
Less domestic requirements for crop year	183.7	183.7
Available for export and carryover	127.9	22.4
Deduct exports of wheat and flour in wheat equivalent August-January	54.8 4/	5.7 5/
Balance February 1 for export and for carryover	73.1	16.7

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than 50,000 bushels. 3/ Excluding imports February-July period.

4/ Comprising 49.9 million bushels exported to Foreign Countries and 4.9 million bushels to French Union. 5/ Comprising 1.9 million bushels exported to Foreign countries and 3.8 million bushels to French Union.

Combined exports of wheat and wheat flour in terms of grain equivalent during the first six months of the 1956-57 crop year amounted to 5.7 million bushels in contrast to 54.8 million exported during the August-January period of 1955-56. The balance of commercial supplies remaining on February 1, 1957, at 16.7 million bushels, represented only 23 per cent of the February 1, 1956 total of 73.1 million.

Monthly Wheat and Flour Exports, August, 1956 - January, 1957
and the Corresponding Months in 1955 - 56

Month	Foreign Countries		French Union		Total	
	1955-56	1956-57	1955-56	1956-57	1955-56	1956-57
- thousand bushels -						
August 1956	5,277	439	610	497	5,887	936
September	3,104	162	667	642	3,771	804
October	7,750	119	884	545	8,635	664
November	9,281	235	588	604	9,869	839
December	8,409	226	1,209	745	9,618	971
January 1957	16,086	721	943	737	17,029	1,458
Totals	49,907	1,902	4,901	3,770	54,809	5,672

The following account of the current crop situation in France has been extracted from a report provided by Miss V. J. Wightman, Commercial Secretariat, Canadian Embassy, Paris, under date of March 19, 1957, 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. Currency conversions have been made at the rate of one franc equals .002857 Canadian dollars.

Weather and Crops

The winter of 1956-57 has been very favorable to the development of fall-sown grains and offers a marked contrast to the disastrous frosts last year. February, in particular, was unusually warm this year, and spring weather arrived well ahead of normal. Rainfall has been heavy, leading to flooding in some districts and holding back spring sowings.

Grain fields, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, are in very good conditions, with rare exceptions of low-lying land covered with water, or the results of poor seed. The development of fall-sown wheat is described as "excellent". Mild weather has also aided weed growth.

As will be seen in the accompanying table, the area seeded to wheat at March 1st is ahead of the level in 1955, - statistics for last year not being comparable because of the frost kill in February. However, the level is still below that prior to the frost damage, when 4,442,200 hectares (10,972,000 acres) were sown to wheat.

The area seeded to feed grains was, at March 1st, below recent years, but the bulk of the crop is sown in the spring and it is thus too early to judge the eventual level. There is a tendency to sow barley in place of oats.

The area seeded to grains at March 1st was as follows. It will be noted that no comparison with last year is possible because of the frost destruction at that time; the comparison is therefore made with the last "normal" year, 1955.

The March 1 estimate of grain sowings is as follows:

Grain	1955	1957	Difference
			March 1 1957 and 1955
	- thousand acres -		- per cent -
Wheat	10,670	10,810	+ 1.3
Wheat and Rye ..	61	48	-21.3
Rye	1,003	914	- 8.9
Barley	997	910	- 8.7
Oats	1,453	1,200	-17.4
Mixed Grains ...	76	76	-
Totals	14,260	13,958	- 2.1

Loans for Seeding

As in other years, the government bank for rural credit is extending loans to cover seeding expenses; the rates are as follows: 20,000 francs per hectare (\$23.13 per acre) for wheat and barley, 25,000 francs (\$28.92 per acre) for corn and 50,000 francs (\$57.84 per acre) for sugarbeet. This year for the first time the loan available for wheat seeding has been extended to barley, and it is reported that there is no ceiling on the loans, which was previously set at 5 million francs, (\$14,286).

Campaign in favor of Barley

In view of the extensive sowings to wheat which have already taken place, the Ministry of Agriculture is trying to persuade farmers to devote a large share of their spring sowings to barley. With present prospects, the Ministry expects a wheat crop of around 10 million tons, (36.7 million bushels) or the level attained in 1954 and 1955. In a recent statement addressed to farmers, the Ministry concludes that wheat and oats have reached saturation point, whereas "a switch to barley and corn would be profitable both to the farmer and the economy of the country."

In recent parliamentary debate the Secretary for Agriculture pointed out: "France has maintained its grain exports during the current season despite the frost damage in February 1956. This has been difficult for wheat, but we have been able to export 1.3 million tons (59.7 million bushels) of barley which is considerable in terms of the world market for this grain." Furthermore, the subsidy required for barley exports has been only a third that needed to move wheat last year.

In the minimum grain prices announced last month, it is noteworthy that the price for barley remains at last year's enhanced rate of 2,500 francs per quintal (\$1.56 per bushel) whereas that for wheat is set at 3,200 francs per quintal, (\$2.49 per bushel) as compared with the 1956 basic price of 3,450 (\$2.68 per bushel) plus special distress premiums of 310 or 242 francs (24 cents or 19 cents) depending on the size of deliveries. The wheat price is tied to the indices for retail prices and for farm requisites, and may be revised later in the year in this connection.

It is understood that legislation will shortly be introduced to place barley marketing permanently with the French Grain Board, as was done on an emergency basis last year. This would make the Board responsible for wheat, barley, corn and rice, whereas for other feed grains there is a type of price support whereby the Board takes over unsold stocks offered to it at the end of a crop year.

Factors Governing
Wheat Price

In connection with the basic price for wheat, the government announced last fall that only 6.8 million tons (250 million bushels) would be taken over at that guaranteed price, the remainder to be paid at the price obtained on export. This means that the guarantee price applies to domestic requirements of around 5 million tons, (184 million bushels) and to 1.8 million tons (66 million bushels) for export. However, the export subsidy for the latter will be covered partly by the levy on farmers marketings which is progressive in accordance with the size of deliveries. The terms of this levy are at present under study, but should not be substantially different from those in force for the 1955 crop. Thus, the actual prices paid for wheat will range considerably, even apart from modifications for quality.

French Grain
Market

By the beginning of February, 3.3 million tons (121 million bushels) of wheat had been delivered to the Grain Board, which confirms earlier estimates that total deliveries would not exceed 4 million tons (147 million bushels). With prospects of an early crop this year, there may be a spurt in deliveries in the late spring in order to take advantage of the higher prices pertaining to the 1956 crop.

The Grain Board, for the moment, estimates total import requirements at 1.3 million tons (48 million bushels), of which 1.2 million (44 million bushels) have now been bought. As a result, market operations have been limited to small purchases, of either Argentine or Italian wheat, against the export of barley on a three to one basis (3 tons of barley exported to one ton of wheat imported). In addition, feed wheat is moving to Germany under the terms of the Franco-German agreement.

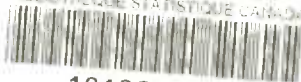
Conditions in North Africa

Reports from North Africa indicate that prospects are a good deal less favorable than last year. This is because of persistent drought, and the insecure living conditions which have led farmers to abandon or reduce their grain acreages. Both the fall and winter were abnormally dry, and much will depend on the extent of spring rain. This may prove of significance to the French supply position on durum wheat, since 75 - 85 per cent of their supplies come from North Africa.

CALENDAR OF WHEAT EVENTS

- March 13 The Australian Wheat Board unofficially estimated the current crop at about 135 million bushels.
- 18 Prospective plantings of all spring wheat in the United States for 1957 are expected to total 12.8 million acres.
- 20 Based on farmers' intentions at March 1, the acreage seeded to all wheat in Canada in 1957 will be 19.9 million acres.
- April 1 The United States Senate voted to permit barter of surplus farm commodities to Communist countries. A bill was also passed making an additional \$1,000 million available for surplus disposal abroad, bringing the total authorization for such transactions to \$4,000 million. The Bill also raises from \$500 million to \$800 million the limitations on a program of gifts of surplus farm products to needy nations.
- 4 Navigation opened at the Port of Montreal.

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