

21-203

c-3

J. B. ...
...

1949

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
AGRICULTURE DIVISION
OTTAWA, CANADA



INDEX OF FARM PRODUCTION

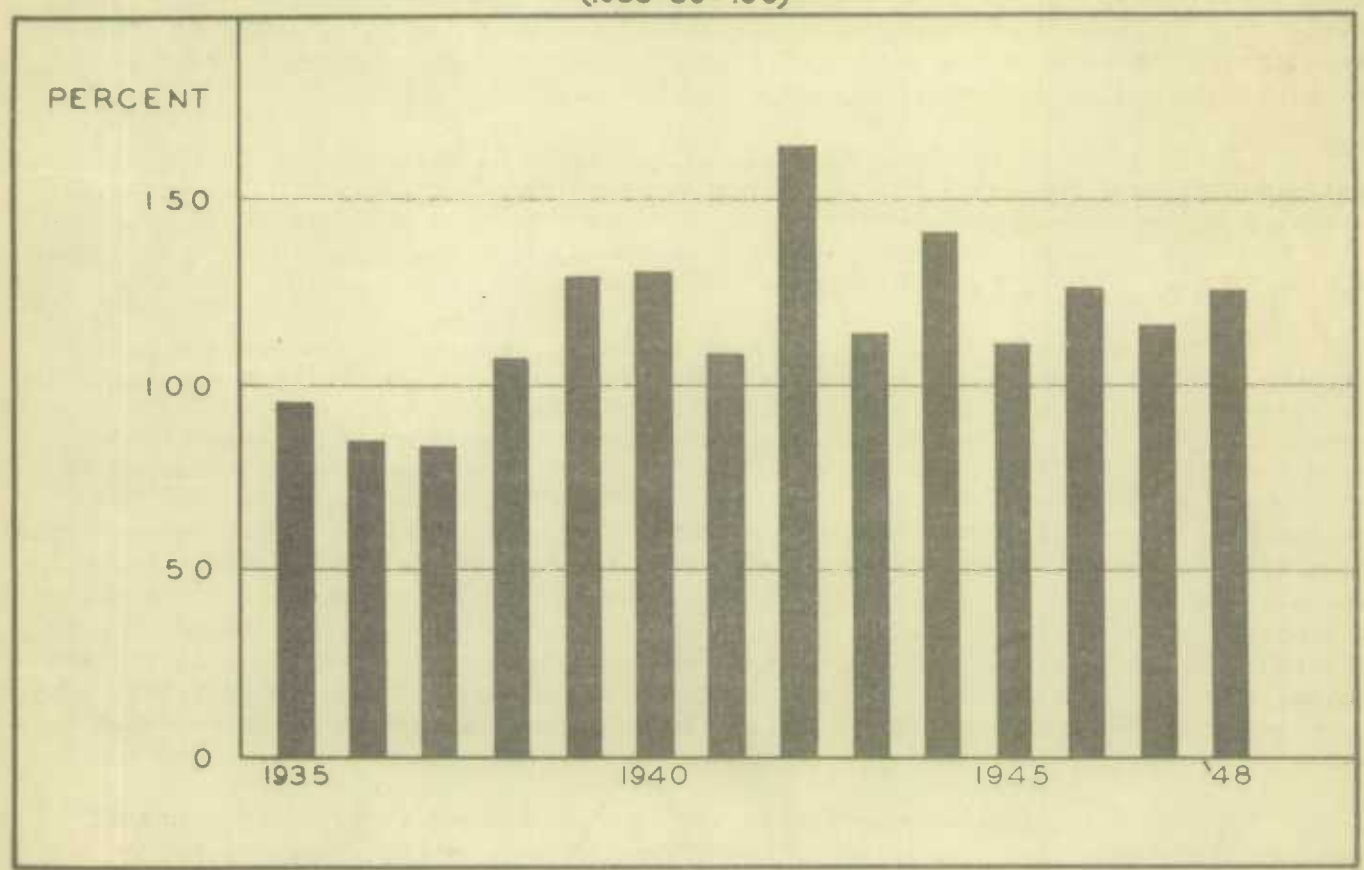
1948

AUGUST 1949



10 cents per copy

INDEX NUMBER OF THE PHYSICAL VOLUME OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
CANADA, 1935-48
(1935-39=100)



Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe,
Minister of Trade and Commerce

855-15

Index Numbers of Physical Volume of Agriculture Production 1/

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues for the first time the Index Numbers of the Physical Volume of Agricultural Production. The construction of this index was undertaken in 1948 in order to fulfil the long-felt need for some means of measuring annual changes in the physical output of Canadian agriculture. It is required as a means of comparing changes in agricultural production with changes occurring in the physical outputs of other sectors of the economy and as one of the components of an index covering the physical production of the Canadian economy as a whole. In future this index will be published annually.

In constructing the index an attempt was made to have it measure "net farm production," that is, production after adjustments have been made for duplication. Within a province, this duplication occurs when feed grains, credited to field crop production, are fed to livestock and appear later as livestock and livestock products. Interprovincially, this duplication occurs when feed grains produced in one province are fed in another and when feeder cattle raised in one section of the country are shipped to another for finishing.

The base period used was the five year period 1935 to 1939. This base was chosen in order that the index of physical volume of agricultural production would be directly comparable with the other Bureau indexes which are constructed on the same base.

The formula used was the fixed base weighted aggregative. The commodities included in the index are the major items of agricultural production which are sold through commercial channels (ex. interfarm transfers) and/or consumed in farm homes. Omitted for the most part, are commodities which are used almost entirely as feed for livestock and those relatively insignificant products for which there is little reliable information regarding production and prices.

The high point of the index was reached in 1942, when it rose to 164.2. This high point was due in large part to extremely large crops of grain and the war-time expansion of the livestock industry which, by this time, was well underway. The low point occurred in 1937, when the index dropped to 83.7, largely as a result of extremely small grain crops, particularly in Saskatchewan.

With the bulk of Canada's grain crops being produced in the prairie provinces, any extremely favourable or unfavourable weather conditions in that area exercise considerable control over the total production of Canadian grain crops and as a result, markedly affect the index of farm production. Hot, dry weather in western Canada during 1937 resulted in yields per acre of grain at or near the lowest levels on record. Cool wet weather which characterized the entire western season in 1942 had precisely the opposite effect with records and near records being set for per-acre-yields and total production. While extremes of weather in western Canada do affect the all-Canada index of agricultural production, they have a more pronounced effect upon the provincial indexes for the prairies which depend upon grain crops for the major part of total farm production. Because of this emphasis upon grain production in western Canada, the indexes for this area display greater changes from year to year than they do in eastern Canada and British Columbia where production appears to be somewhat more stable as a result of diversification of farm enterprises.

The index of farm production in 1948 was calculated at 125.2 as compared with 115.8 in 1947. This increase in 1948 over 1947 can be accounted for by the increased production of grains, potatoes, tobacco and vegetables which more than offset declines registered by the other commodities.

1/ Excludes Newfoundland.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PHYSICAL VOLUME OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION - CANADA ^{1/} BY PROVINCES 1935-1948

(1935-39 = 100)

	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	CANADA
1935	90.5	99.2	93.7	93.6	98.7	77.2	106.9	87.3	91.2	95.2
1936	102.2	98.2	105.1	99.3	90.2	66.8	83.9	71.0	94.8	85.1
1937	99.6	104.4	105.5	97.6	102.1	115.0	31.1	81.1	101.1	83.7
1938	102.1	100.5	94.5	97.6	101.1	113.8	103.1	129.1	102.5	107.4
1939	105.6	97.7	101.1	111.9	108.0	127.2	175.0	131.5	110.4	128.7
1940	103.9	90.2	108.2	111.8	103.8	134.9	165.1	152.0	115.5	130.1
1941	90.6	91.3	101.9	106.2	107.4	133.9	110.1	100.9	113.4	108.7
1942	121.9	88.5	104.0	121.7	125.0	174.2	247.9	184.2	99.9	164.2
1943	102.7	89.6	133.2	112.4	89.4	152.2	138.1	104.6	114.7	113.7
1944	119.2	107.3	136.8	131.1	114.0	145.1	196.4	125.2	140.0	140.4
1945	121.3	80.7	106.7	100.7	107.6	116.9	129.3	97.6	131.1	110.9
1946	123.6	100.3	119.6	112.2	117.6	139.1	138.7	123.6	151.9	125.8
1947	129.1	87.3	119.2	102.5	107.0	121.5	128.3	116.1	145.6	115.8
1948	134.7	87.8	124.4	122.6	117.8	144.1	132.2	120.0	144.1	125.2

^{1/} Excludes Newfoundland.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHEQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010678236