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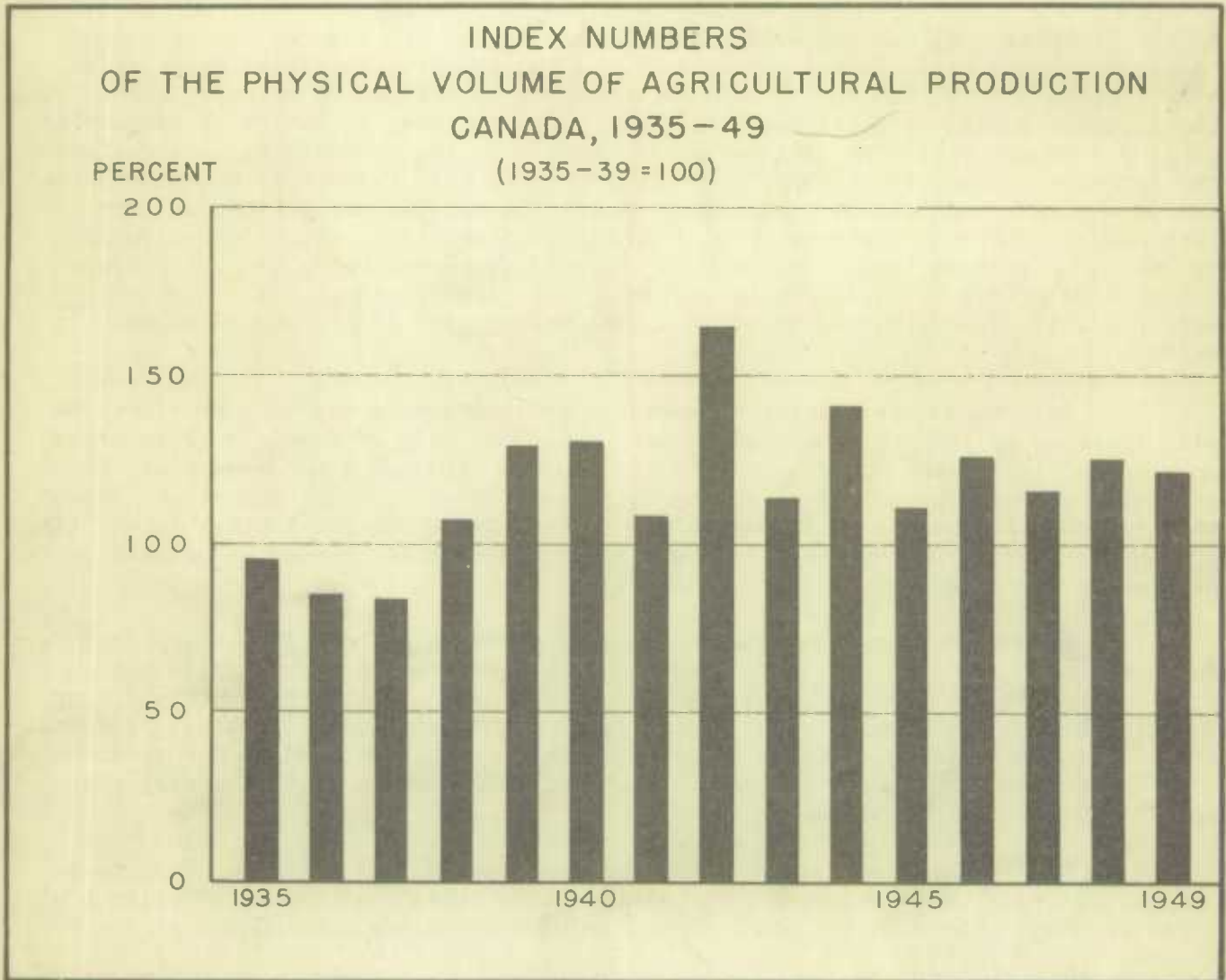
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INDEX OF FARM PRODUCTION, 1949



Prepared in Research Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION

502-15

Index Numbers of Physical Volume of Agriculture Production 1/

The index of physical volume of agricultural production in Canada for 1949 is estimated at 121.8 (1935-39 = 100) as compared with 125.2 for 1948 and the record high of 164.2 for 1942. The smaller agricultural production in 1949 as against 1948 is largely attributable to the prolonged drought which occurred during the early part of the growing season. The most significant reduction in output was recorded for the grain crops. Subsequent general rains did improve growing conditions, but they came too late to promote the recovery of these crops in large areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta. This protracted dry spell also adversely affected the 1949 production of potatoes and vegetables although abundant, timely rains in September resulted in some recovery and final yields of these crops were much better than anticipated earlier. Adding to the decline in production was the smaller outturn of eggs caused by reduced hatchings in 1948 and an output of fewer eggs per hen during the year.

Offsetting but not entirely compensating for the reduced production of the above-mentioned agricultural commodities was the fairly substantial increase in livestock production together with smaller increases in the output of dairy products, fruit, tobacco, sugar beets and maple products. The increase in livestock production resulted almost entirely from a significant increase in hog production, as signified by the increase in numbers on farms as at December 1. More favourable pasture weather in the late summer and fall more than made up for the earlier dry weather and the smaller number of cows on farms at June 1 to give a total milk production slightly above that of a year earlier. In the case of fruits, reduced berry and grape crops were more than offset by an increased outturn of the tree fruits. The increase in tobacco production largely resulted from a much larger crop of flue-cured tobacco in Ontario.

On a provincial basis, the prairie provinces were the only provinces to display declines in their production indexes. With the bulk of Canada's grain crops being produced in western Canada and with grain crops farming a major part of agricultural production in that area, any extremes of weather which affect the output of this commodity are bound to influence significantly the prairie index. In addition, this situation serves to emphasize the far-reaching effect of changes in western grain production on the production index for Canada.

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.

1/ Excludes Newfoundland.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PHYSICAL VOLUME OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION - CANADA ^{1/} BY PROVINCES 1935-1949

(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	165.2	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	122.7	151.9	125.6
1947	128.9	86.7	119.0	102.6	107.7	122.1	128.2	115.8	146.8	116.0
1948	133.0	91.8	124.4	123.2	118.4	143.4	132.3	119.1	142.2	125.2
1949	162.5	110.0	147.8	132.5	126.4	122.1	125.2	101.4	147.9	121.8

^{1/} Excludes Newfoundland.

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