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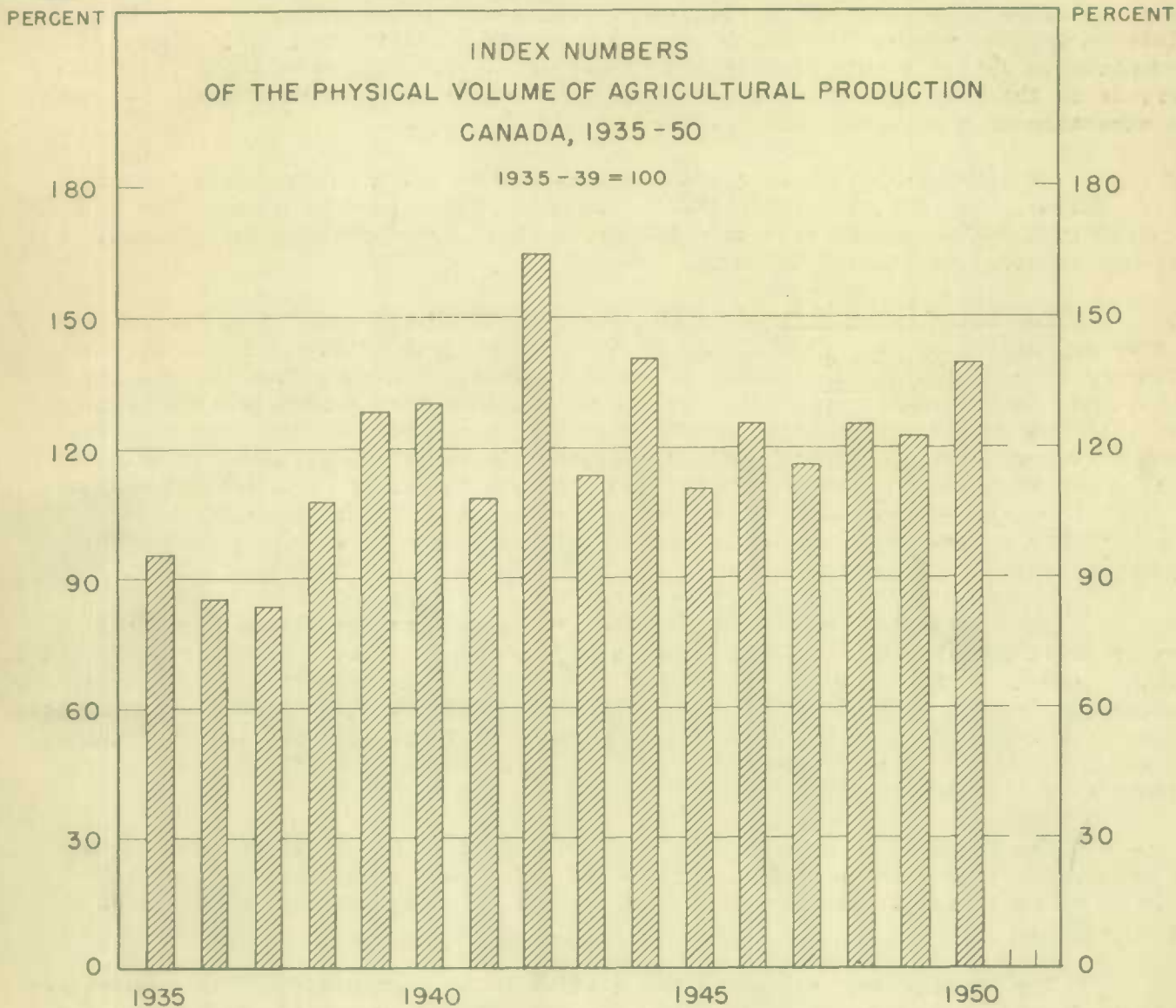
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INDEX OF FARM PRODUCTION 1950



Prepared in Research Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION

INDEX NUMBERS OF PHYSICAL VOLUME OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ^{1/}

The index of physical volume of agricultural production in Canada for 1950 is estimated at 139.8 (1935-39 = 100) as compared with the revised figure of 122.5 for 1949 and the record high of 164.2 for 1942. The gain in the index for 1950 is due entirely to a general increase in field crop production which more than offset declines in the production of livestock and livestock products. Although early frosts and unfavourable harvesting weather in the Prairie Provinces adversely affected outturns of grains, particularly wheat, barley and flax, 1950 production estimates were substantially above the 1949 level. Increased production of vegetables and potatoes resulted from favourable growing conditions which more than compensated for a reduction in acreage. Gains in production were also made for sugar beets and maple products.

Offsetting to some extent the general increase in field crop production was the decline in the output of livestock, livestock products, fruits and tobacco. A late spring and reduced cow numbers contributed to a slight decline in dairy production in 1950. A reduction in the number of hens in 1950 more than offset an increase in the rate of lay (eggs per hen). The output of all fruits was down with the exception of raspberries and grapes.

On a provincial basis increases occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and British Columbia. The increases ranged from 33.7 per cent in Saskatchewan to less than one per cent in Nova Scotia. The greatest decrease occurred in British Columbia.

For the first time since 1935, it was felt that the effect of the quality of crop production on the index should be taken into consideration. Normally, the influence of crop quality is assumed to be negligible. However, with the quality of the 1950 western wheat crop estimated to be the lowest on record for the past 16 years, it was deemed advisable to try and measure the effect of this factor on the index. Although available data do not permit a thorough study, there is evidence to indicate that quality considerations would reduce the index of 139.8 for Canada by about 3 points. Provincially the downward adjustments would be of the order of 10 points for Saskatchewan and about one or two points for Alberta. Adjustments for Manitoba would be insignificant.

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 1935-1950
(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	97.5	102.1	115.0	31.1	61.1	101.1	83.7
1938	102.1	100.5	94.5	97.5	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	151.9	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	247.8	184.2	99.9	164.2
1943	102.7	89.6	133.2	112.3	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	136.4	125.1	140.0	140.4
1945	121.3	80.7	106.7	100.7	107.5	115.8	129.3	97.6	131.1	110.9
1946	123.6	100.3	119.5	112.2	117.6	139.1	138.7	122.7	151.9	125.6
1947	128.9	86.7	119.0	102.5	107.7	122.1	128.2	115.8	146.8	116.0
1948	133.3	91.8	124.3	121.6	119.0	143.8	131.8	118.5	143.7	125.1
1949	158.3	104.8	145.4	127.5	125.5	123.5	126.4	101.0	148.3	122.5
1950	148.5	105.5	136.9	135.5	131.4	138.6 ^{2/}	169.0 ^{2/}	127.4 ^{2/}	133.4	139.8 ^{2/}

^{1/} Excludes Newfoundland.

^{2/} See opposite page, paragraph 4.

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