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~~Mr. Dick~~
~~Mr. Norton~~

D.B.S. MEMORANDUM

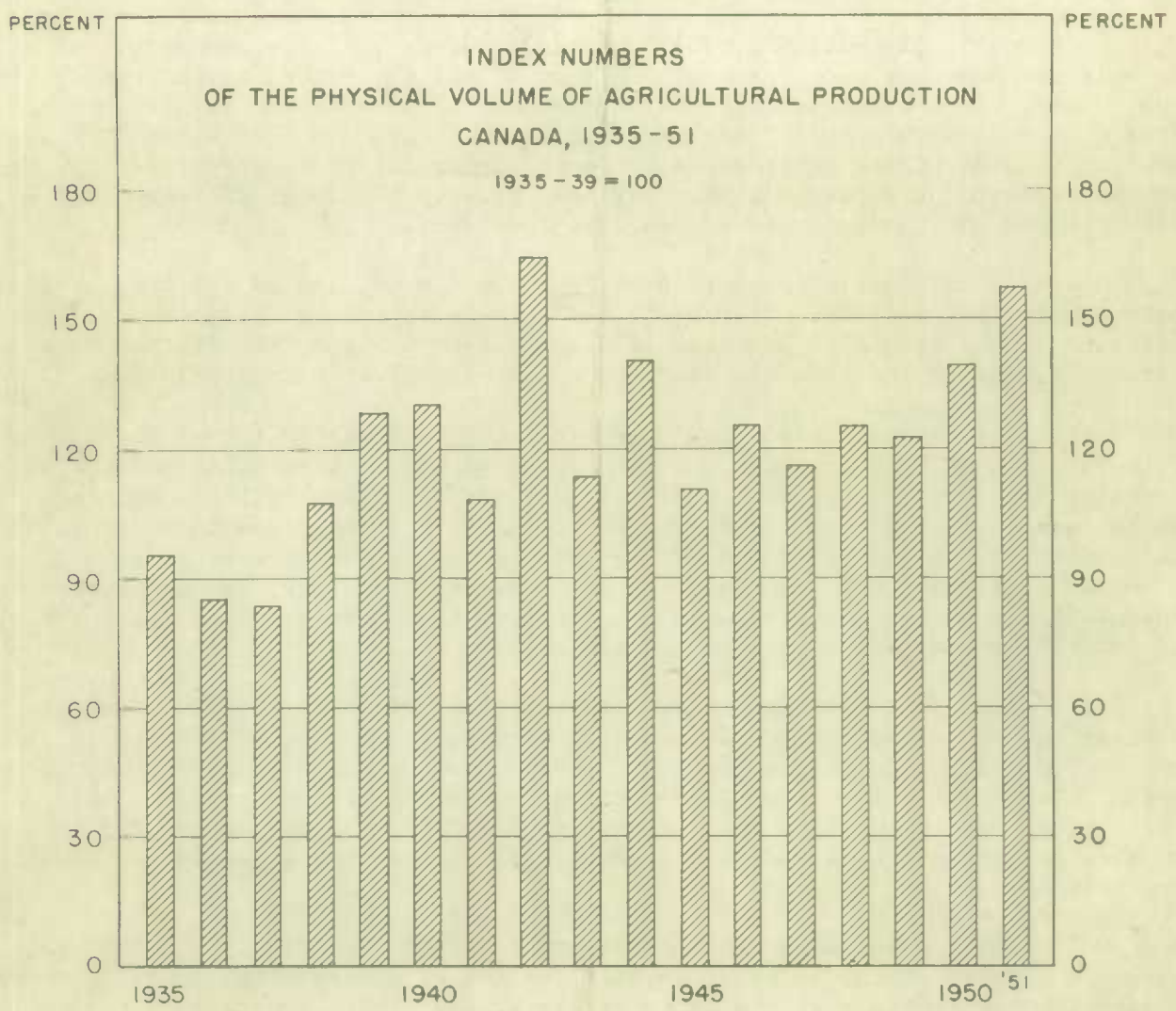
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INDEX OF FARM PRODUCTION 1951



Prepared in Research Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION



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MULTIPLY BY 100

INDEX NUMBERS OF PHYSICAL VOLUME OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION 1/

The index of physical volume of agricultural production in Canada for 1951 is estimated at 157.1 (1935-39 = 100). This figure, the second highest on record, compares with the revised figure of 130.5 for 1950 and the record high of 164.2 set in 1942. The bumper grain crops of the Prairie Provinces together with increased production of live stock, tobacco, vegetables, poultry and eggs more than offset declines in the production of dairy products, potatoes, sugar beets, fruits and maple products. Although unfavourable harvesting conditions in the Prairie Provinces for the second consecutive year adversely affected grain yields, total production estimates were well above the 1950 levels and, in the case of wheat and barley, not far short of the record high marks.

Increased live-stock production resulted from an increased output of hogs for sale and home use and a general build-up of all live-stock inventories. In 1951, flue-cured tobacco acreage controls were removed with the result that the acreage increased by about 20 per cent and estimated production reached the highest level on record. Chick hatches, 24 per cent higher during January-June 1951 than for the corresponding period a year earlier, contributed to an increase in the production of poultry and eggs of nearly 15 per cent.

The index of farm production was up in all provinces except the Maritimes where substantial declines occurred in the acreage and yields of potatoes. The increases ranged from 27.8 per cent in Saskatchewan to less than one per cent in British Columbia. The greatest decrease occurred in Prince Edward Island.

For the second consecutive year 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 this factor is assumed to be negligible. Although available data do not permit a thorough study, there is evidence to indicate that quality considerations would reduce the index of 157.1 for Canada by about 3 points, an amount equal to the adjustment made in 1950. By provinces, the downward adjustments would be of the order of about one or two points for Manitoba, seven points for Saskatchewan and eight points for Alberta.

In construction of the index, provision was made for avoiding double-counting of farm production. Within a province, such double-counting could occur when feed grains, credited to field crop production, are fed to live stock and appear later as live stock and live-stock products. Interprovincially, this duplication could occur 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 1935-1951
(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	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	196.4	125.1	140.0	140.4
1945	121.3	80.7	106.7	100.7	107.6	116.8	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	133.3	91.8	124.3	121.6	119.0	143.8	131.8	118.5	143.7	125.1
1949	158.8	105.1	145.8	126.4	124.9	125.7	128.1	98.1	148.7	122.3
1950	147.5	105.0	137.0	135.5	131.6	138.4	168.1	126.5	134.4	139.5 ^{2/}
1951	123.6	94.5	115.1	144.9	133.2	142.9	214.9	161.4	134.5	157.1 ^{2/}

^{1/} Excludes Newfoundland.

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

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