

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA



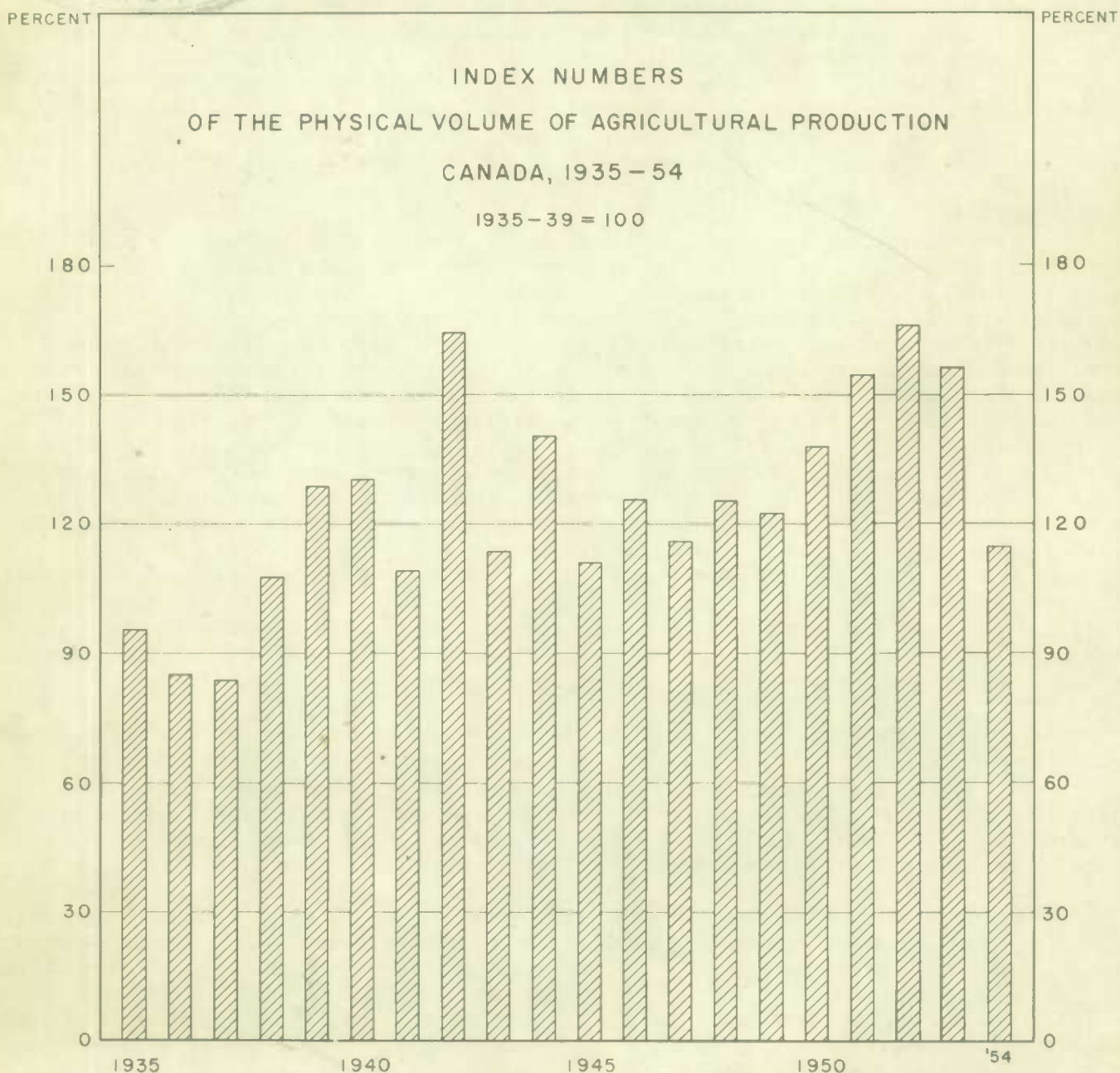
Memorandum

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

Price: 10 cents per copy



INDEX OF FARM PRODUCTION 1954



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 1954 is estimated at 114.3 (1935-39=100). This figure compares with the revised index of 156.2 for 1953 and the all-time high of 166.0 established in 1952.

The drop in the index of approximately 42 points, or about 27 per cent, between 1953 and 1954 was largely attributable to the much smaller western grain crops, particularly wheat. To a lesser degree, a reduced potato crop also contributed to the decline. Offsetting these reductions in output to some extent were gains in production recorded for most of the remaining agricultural products, especially live stock, dairy products, and poultry and eggs.

On a provincial basis, declines occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. The most significant reduction in over-all production occurred in the Prairie Provinces almost entirely as a result of the substantially smaller grain crops in 1954 as compared with 1953. A smaller output of potatoes and grains accounted for lesser declines in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. A reduced potato crop more than offset increased production of other commodities in New Brunswick. On the other hand, the smaller crops of potatoes in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia were more than counterbalanced by increased outputs of live stock, dairy products, and poultry and eggs in the former province and by dairy products, and poultry and eggs in the latter.

In constructing the index, no consideration is normally given to changes occurring in the quality of production from year to year; it is generally assumed that the influence of this factor is negligible. However, when extremely low quality is associated with an item as important to the index as the western wheat crop, it is felt that its effect on the index merits some consideration. Consequently, when adverse weather conditions in 1950, wet weather and frost in 1951, and the worst rust epidemic on record plus unfavourable weather conditions in 1954 significantly reduced the quality of the wheat crop in those years, some attempt was made to measure the extent to which quality considerations would reduce the index. Although available data did not permit a thorough study, there is evidence to indicate that these considerations would reduce the index for Canada in 1950 by about 3 points. Provincially the reductions would be nil for Manitoba, nearly 13 points for Saskatchewan and about 2 points for Alberta. For 1951 the downward adjustments would be of the order of 3.5 points for Canada, 2 for Manitoba, 8.5 for Saskatchewan, and about 8.5 for Alberta. For 1954 the downward adjustments would be approximately 3 points for Canada, about 3 points for Manitoba, 8.5 points for Saskatchewan, and nearly 5 points for Alberta. It should be emphasized that these adjustments have not been made to the published indexes; they are merely presented here as a guide to those who wish to make adjustments for the quality factor.

In construction of the index, provision was made to avoid the 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 live stock 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 1935-1954
(1935-39 = 100)

Alan ...
2-242

1139
1131
1130
1129
1128

	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	108.2	107.9	133.9	110.1	100.9	113.4	109.1
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	146.4	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	148.2	105.2	140.2	136.3	128.1	137.8	168.3	121.8	134.2	137.8 ^{2/} 2.0 134.8
1951	119.5	87.7	110.4	139.0	128.6	146.4	218.1	157.1	126.9	154.7 ^{2/} 2.5 151.7
1952	142.3	80.6	109.4	124.7	119.6	162.5	267.4	174.8	133.3	166.0
1953	142.8	80.6	121.6	132.9	129.5	132.1	230.2	157.5	137.6	156.2
1954	144.6	86.0	114.4	127.9	128.0	101.9	94.7	108.9	137.2	114.3 ^{2/} 2.0 111.3

^{1/} Excludes Newfoundland. ^{2/} See opposite page, paragraph 4.

195

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHEQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010678242