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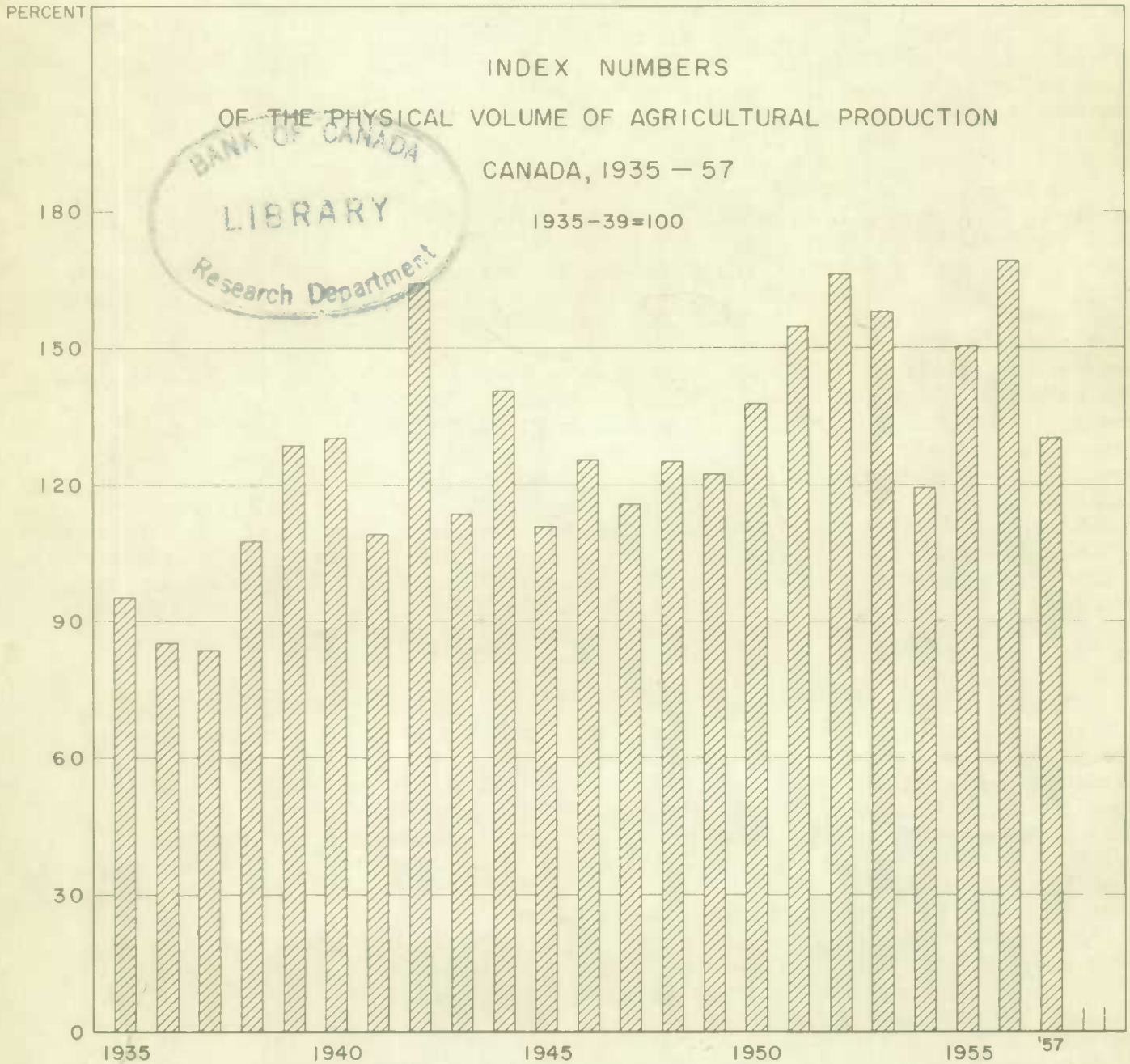
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INDEX OF FARM PRODUCTION 1957



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INDEX NUMBERS OF PHYSICAL VOLUME OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION 1/

A preliminary estimate places the index of physical volume of agricultural production for 1957 at 130.5 (1935-39 = 100), about 23 per cent below the revised and now all-time high estimate of 169.2 for 1956. Since revision, the estimate for 1956 exceeds the previous record high figure of 166.2 established in 1952.

The decline in total agricultural production in 1957 from the high level of 1956 is largely attributable to the substantial reduction in output of grains in western Canada. Somewhat lesser contributions to the decline in total production were smaller outputs of livestock and tobacco. Increased production was recorded for almost all the remaining items considered in the index.

Reduced total agricultural production took place in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. On a percentage basis the reductions ranged all the way from less than three per cent in Nova Scotia to about 44 per cent in Saskatchewan. Percentage increases varied from 11.4 per cent in Prince Edward Island to just over 13 per cent in British Columbia.

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 livestock and appear later as livestock and livestock 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 1935-1957
(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	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/}
1951	119.5	87.7	110.4	139.0	128.6	146.4	218.1	157.1	126.9	154.7 ^{2/}
1952	142.3	80.6	109.4	124.7	119.6	164.6	267.4	174.8	133.3	166.2
1953	142.8	80.6	121.6	132.9	129.5	131.3	237.5	158.6	136.3	157.9
1954	150.3	88.7	114.1	129.8	128.6	102.1	108.8	119.4	131.4	119.5 ^{2/}
1955	150.0	93.3	135.9	143.8	128.6	127.3	210.8	141.2	131.2	150.2
1956	140.1	95.4	127.9	139.0	135.2	172.0	252.1	168.8	127.7	169.2
1957	156.1	93.1	123.3	133.9	131.3	125.4	140.7	118.2	144.5	130.5

^{1/} Excludes Newfoundland.

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

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