

19

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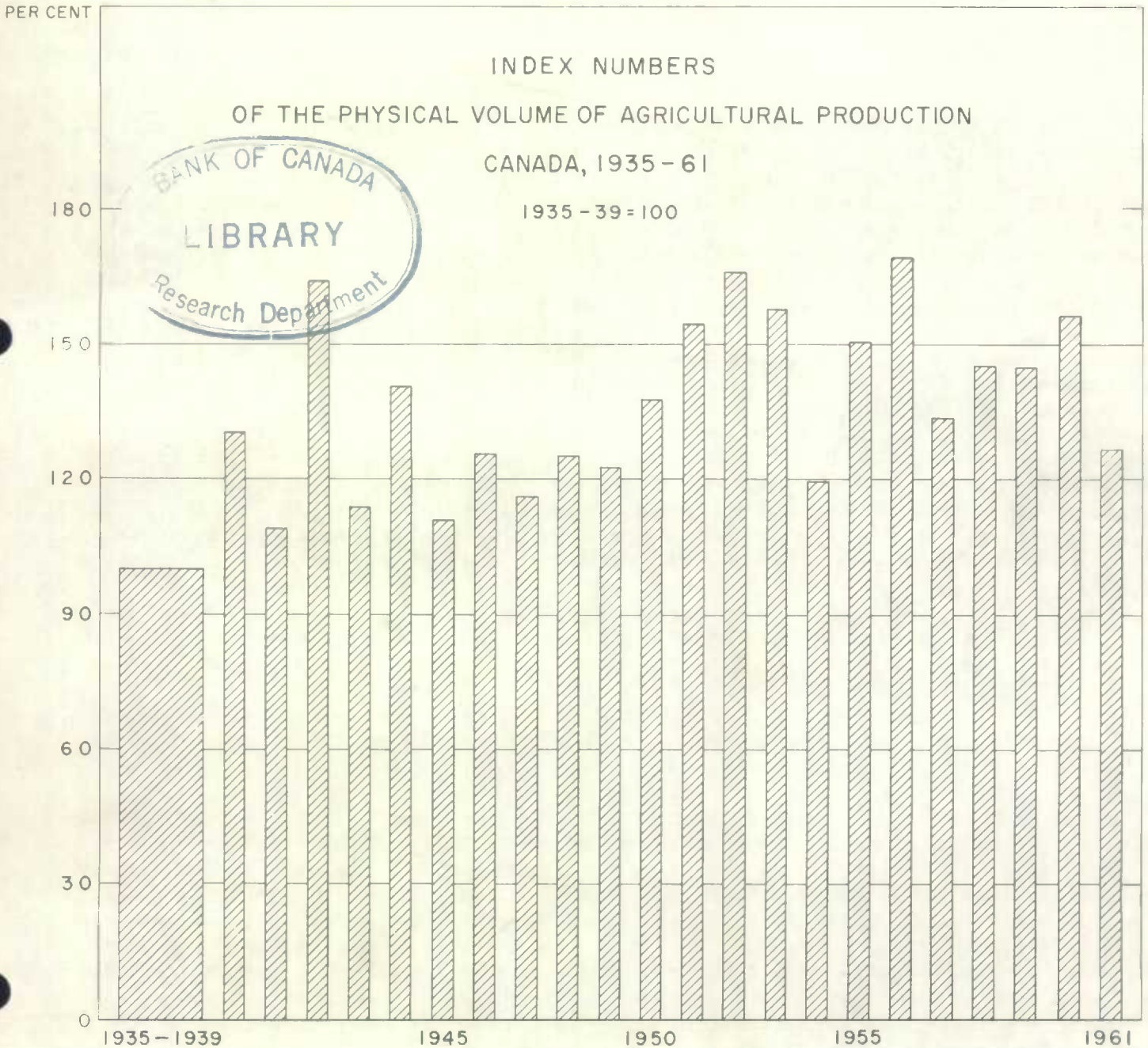
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INDEX OF FARM PRODUCTION 1961



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INDEX NUMBERS OF PHYSICAL VOLUME OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, 1961(1)

The index of physical volume of agricultural production for Canada is estimated at 126.5 for 1961, about 18 per cent below the revised estimate of 154.4 for 1960. This decline was due almost entirely to drought conditions in the Prairie Provinces and the resultant sharp drop in grain production in that area. A less important reduction in production was recorded for tobacco. Little change was noted in the output of eggs, and sugar beets. For the remaining products considered in the index, production in 1961 was above the 1960 level.

On a provincial basis the most important decline in farm output occurred in Saskatchewan where total production in 1961 was more than 60 per cent below that of a year earlier as a result of the significant decline in grain production. The index of farm production was down by about one-third in Manitoba and by about five per cent in Alberta. No significant change was noted for Prince Edward Island. Production in the remaining provinces increased by 2.4 per cent in New Brunswick, 4.5 per cent in British Columbia, 6.5 per cent in Nova Scotia and approximately seven per cent in Quebec and Ontario.

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 three 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 the 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 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. The formula used was the fixed base weighted aggregative. The base period used in the construction of the index is the five-year period 1935 to 1939. This base period was selected at the time when most of the other Bureau indexes were on the same base. Since then, some Bureau indexes have been converted to a more current base period. Conversion of the index of farm production to an interim time base of 1949=100 and a weight base of 1947-51=100 is nearing completion and the results will be published in the near future.

(1) Excludes Newfoundland.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PHYSICAL VOLUME OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION - CANADA(1) BY PROVINCES 1945-1961
(1935-39=100)

	P. E. I.	N. S.	N. B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B. C.	Canada
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	129.1	102.1	108.8	119.4	131.4	119.7(2)
1955	150.0	93.3	135.9	143.8	129.6	127.3	210.8	141.2	131.2	150.4
1956	139.6	94.5	127.5	138.4	137.5	171.5	251.4	168.7	127.8	169.5
1957	161.8	93.6	126.7	132.9	142.7	126.1	141.1	118.8	143.7	133.9
1958	154.7	88.6	118.2	139.0	158.5	159.7	144.5	132.4	145.1	145.3
1959	138.5	94.3	114.4	139.0	145.7	150.3	155.0	141.0	146.9	144.6
1960	142.2	96.2	122.8	142.5	150.3	147.1	200.1	131.8	150.6	154.4
1961	141.2	102.5	125.8	152.7	160.6	92.9	77.1	125.5	157.4	126.5

- 3 -

(1) Excludes Newfoundland.

(2) See opposite page, paragraph 3.

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