

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Agriculture Division

OTTAWA

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

C. R. No. 13

Price: \$2.00 for series of 26 Crop Reports.

1950

CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS, JUNE 30, 1950

Ottawa, July 13, 1950, 3 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues today its report on the condition of field crops in Canada at June 30. The numerical condition is expressed as a percentage of the long-time average yield per acre for each crop respectively in each of the provinces.

The numerical condition at June 30 for all Canada for all major field crops, with the single exception of sugar beets, was above that of last year at the same time. Wheat and rye at 83 per cent and 74 per cent, respectively, are well above the 1949 June 30 condition level of 72 and 54 per cent. Oats (89 per cent), barley (85 per cent) and flaxseed (85 per cent) were 2, 9 and 5 points respectively above the comparable figures for 1949. Mixed grains at 96 per cent, were 20 points higher than at June 30, 1949. It is observed, however, that the June 30 condition of many crops, including wheat and rye, was below 1948 levels although oats and barley were exceptions to this, being 9 and 7 points, respectively, higher than on the same date two years ago.

Almost without exception, crops in the Maritimes\* displayed June 30 condition ratings below those of last year. Hay and clover in particular were low in all three provinces, due in large part to heavy winter-killing. Conditions were almost the reverse in the central provinces where the June 30 condition ratings for nearly every crop were higher than in 1949. In Manitoba, due in part to the lateness of the season, the major grain crop ratings were below the 1949 level. At the same time the June 30 condition figures for hay and clover, alfalfa and pasture were well above those of last year. Without exception, all crops in Saskatchewan had higher June 30 condition ratings than in 1949, and wheat and sugar beets excepted, a similar situation prevailed in Alberta—although the general level of the condition ratings in this province was considerably below that of the other two Prairie Provinces. Crop conditions at June 30 in British Columbia showed relatively little variation from the 1949 situation at the same date.

Condition data for all crops with the exception of spring wheat for the Prairie Provinces are obtained through the medium of reports from hundreds of informed persons who are asked to express their opinion of crop conditions at June 30 as a percentage of the long-time average yield per acre. It should be pointed out that the all-Canada condition figure for each crop is an average of the provincial condition figures weighted by the estimated 1950 acreage devoted to the crop in each province. It is important also to emphasize that condition figures do not necessarily reflect ultimate yields. Any deviations from normal in respect to weather factors, plant diseases or insect infestations between June 30 and harvest time may lead to outturns which will vary considerably from those apparently indicated by the June 30 numerical condition figures.

The spring wheat condition figures, based on weather factors, for Manitoba (69 per cent) and Alberta (59 per cent) were somewhat lower at June 30

\* Data for Newfoundland not yet available.

this year than at the same time a year ago. In these two provinces the wheat condition was 9 and 2 points, respectively, below the condition indicated at June 30 a year ago. The June 30 wheat condition rating in Saskatchewan, however, at 91 per cent, was 21 points above last year's rating for the same date.

#### Numerical Condition of Field Crops, June 30, 1950

For all Canada, the condition of field crops at June 30, 1950, expressed in percentage of the long-time average yield per acre, was reported as follows, with figures for June 30, 1949 within brackets: Fall wheat 90 (83); spring wheat 83 (72); all wheat 83 (72); oats 89 (81); barley 85 (76); fall rye 71 (51); spring rye 81 (64); all rye 74 (54); peas 90 (81); beans 91 (89); buckwheat 97 (86); mixed grains 96 (76); flaxseed 85 (80); corn for husking 92 (90); potatoes 93 (89); turnips, etc. 91 (83); hay and clover 81 (76); alfalfa 82 (68); fodder corn 94 (88); sugar beets 87 (98); pasture 89 (80).

In the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal cereal crops at June 30, 1950, was reported as follows, with the figures for June 30, 1949 within brackets: Manitoba - Wheat 99 (108); oats 86 (95); barley 86 (94); rye 84 (90); flaxseed 86 (91). Saskatchewan - Wheat 91 (70); oats 93 (82); barley 94 (74); rye 72 (45); flaxseed 86 (71). Alberta - Wheat 59 (61); oats 75 (62); barley 76 (61); rye 71 (53); flaxseed 75 (65).

#### Condition of Wheat by Crop Districts in the Prairie Provinces

The two charts on the last page of the report show the condition of the spring wheat crop within crop districts of the Prairie Provinces as it existed at June 30, for 1950 and 1949. For Alberta and Saskatchewan the charts are directly comparable as between the two years. In Manitoba, however, the numerical condition of wheat in 1950 is based on a long-time average yield of 17 bushels per acre whereas in 1949 the basis was 16 bushels per acre. The crop district condition figures are based on the more important weather factors affecting the growth of the wheat plant, including precipitation during the preceding autumn period, and precipitation and temperatures during the months of April, May and June.

The sharp difference in wheat condition between adjacent crop districts as shown on the charts is an inherent characteristic where crop district averages of condition are employed, and the true gradations of condition must be inferred. The condition figures are expressed as percentages of the long-time average yields of wheat for each province, and therefore the condition of wheat as shown in the charts is not directly comparable as between provinces. It should also be noted that while condition in any crop district may be low or high relative to the long-time provincial average, this does not necessarily represent an abnormal situation. A low (or high) condition in any crop district relative to the long-time provincial average may represent a high (or low) condition relative to the long-time crop district average.

The condition of wheat in Manitoba at June 30 was 99. The crop district condition figures were above the provincial normal in all areas except crop districts 3 and 13 which were only slightly below normal and crop districts 1, 2, 6 and 8 which were significantly lower. Seasonal rainfall to June 30 was above average in all crop districts except 13 but temperatures were well below average throughout the province. Compared with last year at this time, the condition figures were the same or lower in every crop district except Nos. 4, 5 and 12.



The Saskatchewan wheat condition at June 30 was 91 per cent of the long-time provincial normal. The condition figures were above the provincial normal in only the eastern and northern crop districts. The low condition in the south-central districts was due primarily to the lack of preseasonal rainfall. Spring temperatures were well below normal during all three months in all crop districts. The usually dry southern districts had above-average rainfall. Wheat crop conditions were good or better than at the same time last year in all districts except Nos. 5 and 8 in the northeast.

The June 30 condition of wheat in Alberta was 59 per cent of the provincial normal, significantly below the condition figures for the other two Prairie Provinces. The numerical condition of wheat as based on the provincial normal, was below 100 in all crop districts. Below normal preseasonal rainfall combined with a very dry spring in practically all districts depressed the condition figures below those of the same time last year in all except the northeastern districts. Crop district 2 in the extreme southwest was the only area south of Edmonton in which the condition of wheat at June 30 approached normal.

#### Weather Summary for the Prairie Provinces

Precipitation and temperature data in the Prairie Provinces are compiled initially on a crop district basis. The averages for these districts are then weighted by wheat acreage of the previous year in the respective districts to obtain provincial acreage-weighted averages of precipitation and temperatures.

Preseasonal rainfall was unfavourable in practically all districts of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Alberta crop district 14 had a preseasonal precipitation 0.1 inches above normal, the other districts were from 0.1 to 3.4 inches below normal, making a provincial average nearly 1.5 inches below normal. Only one crop district in Saskatchewan had above-normal preseasonal precipitation, namely 6A with an excess of 0.2 inches. The province had an average of 3.3 inches or 0.6 inches below normal. Manitoba had a preseasonal precipitation of 11.1 inches, 0.1 inch above normal. Crop districts 2, 8, 10 and 13 were below normal. The range was from 3.7 inches below normal in crop district 8 to 7.4 inches above normal in crop district 12.

With the exception of Manitoba and southern Saskatchewan, current seasonal rainfall in the Prairie Provinces followed in general the pattern of preseasonal rainfall. In Manitoba, May and June rainfall was above normal in all crop districts except No. 13 which had a deficiency of 1.8 inches. Rainfall in the remaining districts ranged from 2.4 to 3.8 inches above normal. Saskatchewan April-May rainfall ranged from normal to 2.3 inches below normal in all districts except 6B and 7A where it was just slightly above. The greatest deficiencies occurred in the southeastern, northwestern and northcentral districts. Alberta suffered from a very low spring rainfall in practically all districts. The Peace River was the only area with above normal rainfall and this excess was less than half an inch. All other districts had a spring rainfall varying from 1 to over 3 inches below normal. The deficiencies did not occur in any one month but were spread over the whole season.

Spring temperatures in Manitoba and Saskatchewan have been, without exception in any district, well below normal. Alberta temperatures were also quite low in April and May, although they were above normal during June for many

central and northern districts. The mean April temperature for Manitoba, crop district 13, in the northwest was 1.6 degrees below normal. The remaining twelve districts ranged from 5.3 to 9.5 degrees below the April normals. Crop district 13 temperature was 0.6 degrees below normal during June, the remaining districts varied from 1.4 to 5.9 degrees below normal. The mean temperature for April and May in the Saskatchewan crop districts varied from above 2 to 7 degrees below normal. The June temperatures varied from about normal to 4.5 degrees below normal, the widest variation being recorded in the southern districts. The April and May mean temperature varied between the Alberta crop districts from normal to over 4 degrees below normal. June temperatures were slightly below normal in the four southern crop districts and in crop district 9, the westcentral district. The other districts varied from approximately normal in the Calgary and east central districts to 3 degrees above normal in some of the northern areas.



# I. CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS AT JUNE 30, 1950 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 30, 1949 AND 1948

Note: 100 = Long-time Average Yield per Acre

| Province<br>and Crop        | June 30 |      |      | Province<br>and Crop | June 30 |      |      |
|-----------------------------|---------|------|------|----------------------|---------|------|------|
|                             | 1950    | 1949 | 1948 |                      | 1950    | 1949 | 1948 |
|                             | p.c.    | p.c. | p.c. |                      | p.c.    | p.c. | p.c. |
| <u>CANADA</u>               |         |      |      | <u>NEW BRUNSWICK</u> |         |      |      |
| Fall wheat                  | 90      | 83   | 97   | Spring wheat         | 92      | 98   | 97   |
| Spring wheat 1/             | 83      | 72   | 95   | Oats                 | 94      | 96   | 93   |
| All wheat 1/                | 83      | 72   | 95   | Barley               | 92      | 98   | 91   |
| Oats                        | 89      | 81   | 80   | Beans                | 87      | 95   | 85   |
| Barley                      | 85      | 76   | 78   | Buckwheat            | 90      | 96   | 93   |
| Fall Rye                    | 71      | 51   | 79   | Mixed Grains         | 91      | 97   | 91   |
| Spring Rye                  | 81      | 64   | 75   | Potatoes             | 93      | 95   | 95   |
| All Rye                     | 74      | 54   | 78   | Turnips, etc.        | 91      | 96   | 86   |
| Peas                        | 90      | 81   | 90   | Hay and Clover       | 71      | 88   | 102  |
| Beans                       | 91      | 89   | 96   | Fodder Corn          | 87      | 100  | 82   |
| Buckwheat                   | 97      | 86   | 96   | Pasture              | 82      | 99   | 100  |
| Mixed Grains                | 96      | 76   | 96   |                      |         |      |      |
| Flaxseed                    | 85      | 80   | 83   | <u>QUEBEC</u>        |         |      |      |
| Corn, Husking               | 92      | 90   | 94   | Spring Wheat         | 95      | 92   | 96   |
| Potatoes                    | 93      | 89   | 95   | Oats                 | 97      | 94   | 96   |
| Turnips, etc.               | 91      | 83   | 93   | Barley               | 96      | 93   | 98   |
| Hay and Clover              | 81      | 76   | 94   | Spring Rye           | 95      | 90   | 95   |
| Alfalfa                     | 82      | 68   | 92   | Peas                 | 94      | 91   | 99   |
| Fodder Corn                 | 94      | 88   | 94   | Beans                | 95      | 93   | 98   |
| Sugar Beets                 | 87      | 98   | 90   | Buckwheat            | 99      | 92   | 98   |
| Pasture                     | 89      | 80   | 97   | Mixed Grains         | 99      | 93   | 101  |
|                             |         |      |      | Potatoes             | 97      | 93   | 102  |
|                             |         |      |      | Turnips, etc.        | 98      | 93   | 96   |
|                             |         |      |      | Hay and Clover       | 85      | 87   | 95   |
| <u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</u> |         |      |      | Alfalfa              | 84      | 85   | 97   |
| Spring Wheat                | 88      | 95   | 94   | Fodder Corn          | 104     | 95   | 95   |
| Oats                        | 87      | 96   | 95   | Sugar Beets          | 102     | 95   | 102  |
| Barley                      | 84      | 94   | 93   | Pasture              | 87      | 91   | 97   |
| Buckwheat                   | 87      | 102  | 98   |                      |         |      |      |
| Mixed Grains                | 84      | 97   | 93   | <u>ONTARIO</u>       |         |      |      |
| Potatoes                    | 91      | 98   | 96   | Fall Wheat           | 90      | 83   | 97   |
| Turnips, etc.               | 74      | 92   | 94   | Spring Wheat         | 91      | 75   | 90   |
| Hay and Clover              | 61      | 97   | 106  | All Wheat            | 90      | 82   | 97   |
| Fodder Corn                 | 89      | 99   | 97   | Oats                 | 96      | 74   | 92   |
| Pasture                     | 69      | 107  | 110  | Barley               | 95      | 73   | 90   |
|                             |         |      |      | Fall Rye             | 94      | 86   | 98   |
|                             |         |      |      | Peas                 | 90      | 76   | 95   |
|                             |         |      |      | Beans                | 91      | 88   | 96   |
| <u>NOVA SCOTIA</u>          |         |      |      | Buckwheat            | 96      | 79   | 95   |
| Spring Wheat                | 81      | 95   | 75   | Mixed Grains         | 97      | 70   | 95   |
| Oats                        | 92      | 94   | 76   | Flaxseed             | 93      | 85   | 88   |
| Barley                      | 87      | 94   | 64   | Corn, Husking        | 93      | 90   | 94   |
| Buckwheat                   | 92      | 100  | 92   | Potatoes             | 94      | 83   | 98   |
| Mixed Grains                | 90      | 96   | 60   | Turnips, etc.        | 92      | 71   | 95   |
| Potatoes                    | 98      | 95   | 78   | Hay and Clover       | 82      | 60   | 91   |
| Turnips, etc.               | 90      | 96   | 81   | Alfalfa              | 82      | 65   | 94   |
| Hay and Clover              | 78      | 90   | 99   | Fodder Corn          | 92      | 86   | 95   |
| Fodder Corn                 | 94      | 100  | 75   | Sugar Beets          | 88      | 95   | 94   |
| Pasture                     | 92      | 96   | 105  | Pasture              | 93      | 64   | 96   |

1/ Includes condition figures for Prairie Provinces based on weather factors.

I. CONDITION OF FIELD CROPS AT JUNE 30, 1950 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 30, 1949 AND 1948  
(concluded)

| Province<br>and Crop | June 30 |      |      | Province<br>and Crop    | June 30 |      |      |
|----------------------|---------|------|------|-------------------------|---------|------|------|
|                      | 1950    | 1949 | 1948 |                         | 1950    | 1949 | 1948 |
|                      | p.c.    | p.c. | p.c. |                         | p.c.    | p.c. | p.c. |
| <u>MANITOBA</u>      |         |      |      | <u>ALBERTA</u>          |         |      |      |
| Spring Wheat 2/      | 99      | 108  | 113  | Spring Wheat 2/         | 59      | 61   | 74   |
| Oats                 | 86      | 95   | 88   | Oats                    | 75      | 62   | 76   |
| Barley               | 86      | 94   | 87   | Barley                  | 76      | 61   | 76   |
| Fall Rye             | 82      | 90   | 93   | Fall Rye                | 68      | 53   | 71   |
| Spring Rye           | 91      | 90   | 89   | Spring Rye              | 74      | 54   | 76   |
| All Rye              | 84      | 90   | 92   | All Rye                 | 71      | 53   | 85   |
| Peas                 | 92      | 89   | 84   | Peas                    | 74      | 71   | 85   |
| Buckwheat            | 91      | 87   | 91   | Mixed Grains            | 74      | 61   | 70   |
| Mixed Grains         | 88      | 91   | 91   | Flaxseed                | 75      | 65   | 82   |
| Corn, Husking        | 88      | 90   | 86   | Potatoes                | 76      | 68   | 83   |
| Flaxseed             | 86      | 91   | 90   | Hay and Clover          | 64      | 46   | 88   |
| Potatoes             | 88      | 93   | 89   | Alfalfa                 | 65      | 51   | 89   |
| Hay and Clover       | 97      | 86   | 92   | Fodder Corn             | 90      | 59   | 73   |
| Alfalfa              | 94      | 88   | 90   | Sugar Beets             | 82      | 100  | 88   |
| Fodder Corn          | 83      | 90   | 88   | Pasture                 | 63      | 46   | 94   |
| Sugar Beets          | 88      | 100  | 84   |                         |         |      |      |
| Pasture              | 105     | 89   | 90   |                         |         |      |      |
| <u>SASKATCHEWAN</u>  |         |      |      | <u>BRITISH COLUMBIA</u> |         |      |      |
| Spring Wheat 2/      | 91      | 70   | 93   | Spring Wheat            | 83      | 85   | 85   |
| Oats                 | 93      | 82   | 68   | Oats                    | 85      | 83   | 88   |
| Barley               | 94      | 74   | 72   | Barley                  | 85      | 80   | 81   |
| Fall Rye             | 67      | 37   | 73   | Spring Rye              | 90      | 91   | 98   |
| Spring Rye           | 87      | 68   | 71   | Peas                    | 88      | 90   | 90   |
| All Rye              | 72      | 45   | 73   | Beans                   | 90      | 92   | 93   |
| Peas                 | 87      | 74   | 76   | Mixed Grains            | 87      | 87   | 88   |
| Mixed Grains         | 88      | 78   | 71   | Flaxseed                | 84      | 85   | 80   |
| Flaxseed             | 86      | 71   | 75   | Potatoes                | 90      | 87   | 92   |
| Potatoes             | 89      | 82   | 84   | Turnips, etc.           | 88      | 86   | 89   |
| Hay and Clover       | 91      | 67   | 78   | Hay and Clover          | 88      | 85   | 101  |
| Alfalfa              | 94      | 75   | 79   | Alfalfa                 | 92      | 87   | 103  |
| Fodder Corn          | 90      | 82   | 78   | Fodder Corn             | 90      | 91   | 95   |
| Pasture              | 94      | 66   | 80   | Pasture                 | 85      | 87   | 105  |

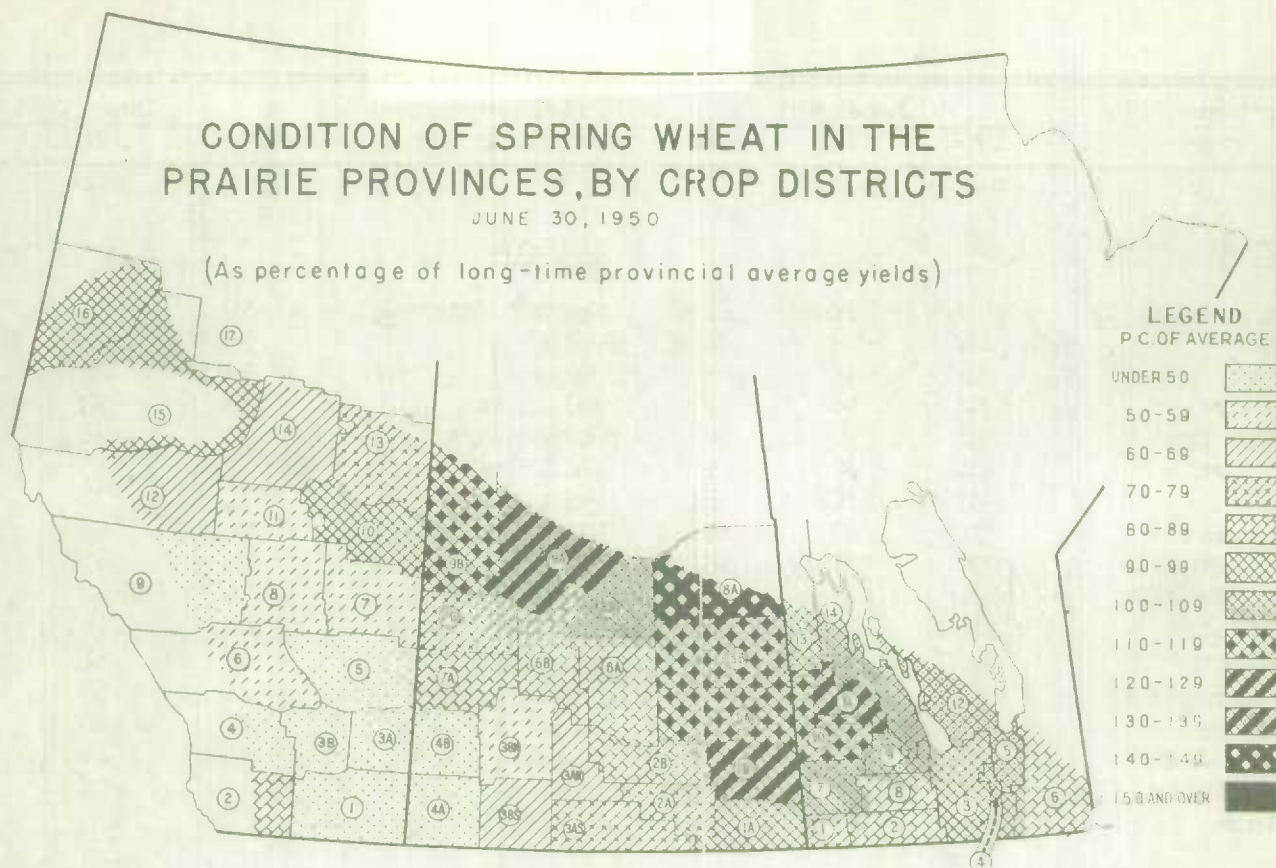
2/ Condition figures based on weather factors.



# CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, BY CROP DISTRICTS

JUNE 30, 1950

(As percentage of long-time provincial average yields)

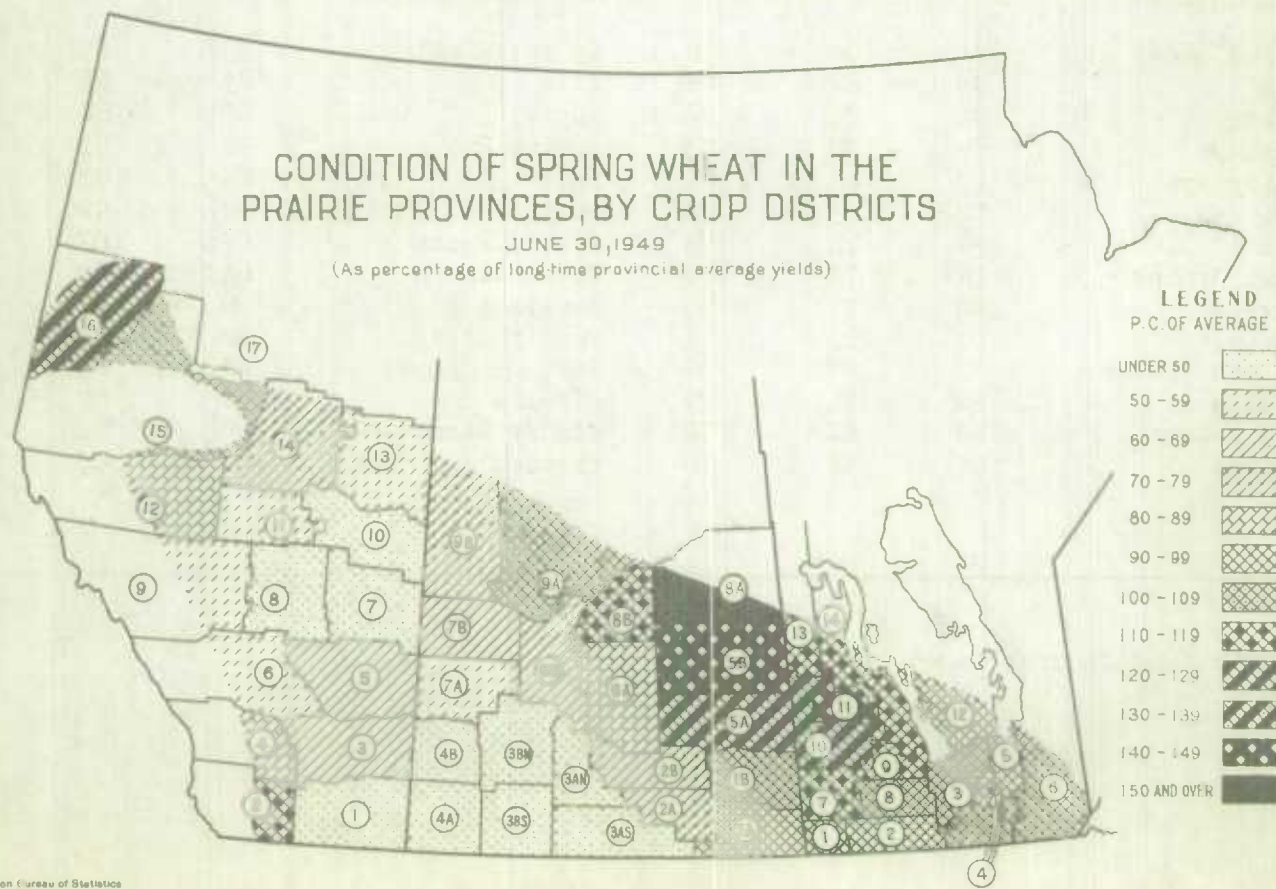


Domestic Bureau of Statistics

# CONDITION OF SPRING WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, BY CROP DISTRICTS

JUNE 30, 1949

(As percentage of long-time provincial average yields)



Domestic Bureau of Statistics

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010525739