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STOCKS OF CANADIAN GRAIN AT MARCH 31, 1953

Total stocks of the five major Canadian grains in all North American positions* as at March 31, 1953 were estimated at 1,165.4 million bushels, second only to the record 1,353.4 million bushels on hand at March 31, 1943. This year's March 31 stocks, in millions of bushels, with last year's totals and the 1943-1952 averages, respectively, in brackets, were estimated as follows: wheat, 606.3 (465.9, 380.9); oats, 310.0 (318.8, 223.7); barley, 217.8 (196.3, 104.2); rye, 23.7 (13.8, 9.8); and flaxseed 7.6 (6.0, 7.1). Data for these estimates were obtained from the Bureau's annual March 31 survey of grain held on farms, from mill returns, and from information supplied by the Statistics Branch of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada relative to stocks of grain in commercial positions.** The statistics on total stocks as presented in this report, therefore, differ from the weekly visible supply figures by the inclusion of farm stocks and certain mill stocks.

Wheat and Rye Total stocks of Canadian wheat in all North American positions at March 31, 1953 were estimated at 606.3 million bushels, compared with 465.9 million on the same date last year and the record 762.4 million in 1943. An estimated 329.0 million bushels of this year's March 31 wheat stocks, representing about 54 per cent of the total, were still on farms. Of the 277.3 million bushels of wheat in off-farm positions, some 144.6 million bushels were in country elevators in the Prairie Provinces. Rye stocks, at 23.7 million bushels, established a new record for the end of March, surpassing by 2.2 million the previous high of 21.5 million bushels set in 1943.

Coarse Grains and Flaxseed March-end stocks of oats, estimated at 310.0 million bushels, were down slightly from the previous year's level of 318.8 million and were well below the record 393.5 million on hand in 1943. Barley stocks, at 217.8 million bushels, set a new record for March 31, exceeding the 1952 level of 196.3 million by 21.5 million bushels. Stocks of flaxseed, placed at 7.6 million bushels, are 1.6 million above those of 1952 but are little more than half the record 14.3 million bushels in store on March 31, 1949.

Farm Stocks Farm-held stocks of all grains at March 31, 1953 exceeded by wide margins the ten-year (1943-1952) averages and, with the exception of oats, were also above the 1952 levels. Farm stocks of wheat, estimated at 329.0 million bushels, were slightly higher than the previous record of 327.7 million bushels on farms in 1943 and well above last year's 251.9 million bushels. Barley stocks on farms, estimated at 144.8 million bushels, also set a new record, narrowly above last year's total of 144.4 million. Stocks of the remaining grains on farms, in millions of bushels, with last year's figures in brackets, were as follows: oats, 266.7 (277.3); rye, 10.1 (7.0); and flaxseed, 4.1 (2.6).

With the exception of oats, at least 95 per cent of this year's March 31 farm-held grain stocks were in the Prairie Provinces. Farm stocks in these provinces, in millions of bushels, and as percentages of total Canadian farm stocks, respectively, were: wheat, 321.0 (97.6 p.c.); oats, 220.0 (82.5 p.c.); barley, 139.0 (96.0 p.c.); rye, 9.9 (97.8 p.c.); and flaxseed, 3.9 (95.8 p.c.). Provincial distribution of farm stocks, in millions of bushels, for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, respectively, was estimated as follows: wheat, 22.0, 220.0, and 79.0; oats, 35.0, 105.0, and 80.0; barley, 28.0, 54.0, and 57.0; rye, 0.4, 6.3, and 3.2; and flaxseed, 1.7, 1.6, and 0.6.

*Excluding Newfoundland for which data are not available.

**Data for commercial positions (except mills) as at April 1, 1953.

Stocks of Canadian Grain at March 31, 1953 1/

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Statistics Branch of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada has compiled data showing stocks of Canadian grain in Canada and the United States as of March 31, 1953. Stocks of grain on farms are estimated from reports of the Bureau's crop correspondents. Mill bin stocks are estimated from monthly returns made by mill operators to the Bureau. Stocks in all other positions are those reported to the Board of Grain Commissioners as at the close of business on April 1, 1953.

Position	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flaxseed
- thousand bushels -					
In Canada					
On farms	329,050	266,700	144,780	10,126	4,070
Country elevators	144,638	27,514	41,334	3,798	919
Interior private and mill elevators	6,163	618	2,333	23	50
Interior terminal elevators	14,279	7	559	-	1
Vancouver-New Westminster elevators	6,184	277	746	-	2/
Victoria elevator	148	2/	-	-	-
Prince Rupert elevator	-	-	254	-	-
Churchill elevator	2,048	2/	-	-	-
Fort William-Port Arthur elevators.	33,849	5,749	18,205	7,054	2,026
In transit - lake	6,262	174	449	-	-
In transit - rail	28,997	6,290	6,301	1,285	378
Eastern elevators	29,977	1,504	2,222	519	160
Eastern mills	2,332	287	154	2/	-
Western mills	375	137	58	10	-
Totals in Canada	604,307	309,257	217,395	22,815	7,604
In United States	2,038	697	394	902	-
Totals, Canadian Grain in Canada and United States, March 31, 1953	606,345	309,954	217,789	23,717	7,604
<u>Comparative Stocks, March 31, 1952 3/</u>					
In Canada	460,764	318,351	196,292	13,329	5,963
In United States	5,099	430	-	499	-
Totals in Canada and United States ..	465,863	318,781	196,292	13,828	5,963
1943-1952 average	380,945	223,652	104,165	9,836	7,148

1/ Stocks other than on farms and in mills are compiled by the Board of Grain Commissioners as at April 1.

2/ Less than 500 bushels.

3/ Revised.

