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FOURTH ESTIMATE OF THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF FRUITS - 1964

Latest estimates place the 1964 apple crop at 19.2 million bushels, some 1.1 million bushels below the third seasonal estimate released on November 3, 1964. The volume actually picked was below earlier expectations in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia. Accordingly the fourth estimate puts the 1964 crop at a figure 16 per cent below the record crop of 1963 when 23.0 million bushels were picked and also below the 1962 outturn of 20.1 million bushels. The reduction from last year's high level was due to lower production in all apple-producing provinces except Ontario. Changes in crop estimates for other fruits from the levels of the third estimate were generally limited.

Atlantic Provinces - The latest available information places the Nova Scotia apple crop at 2.0 million bushels, compared with 3.2 million in 1963. Yields in New Brunswick were also down with the 1964 crop estimated at 425,000 bushels, 50,000 bushels below that of the previous season. These production estimates are below those prepared earlier in the season. As most of the set was on the outside of the trees, appearances were very deceiving and final outturns disappointing. Unfavourable weather conditions at pollination time were blamed for the reduced yields. Weather during most of the growing season was wet but size and colour of the fruit were average.

Strawberry production in 1964 was higher than that of the previous year in all three of the Maritime provinces. The increased production was the result of a larger area for harvest this year than last in Nova Scotia and little or no frost damage at blossom time, both there and in New Brunswick. Blueberry production, on the other hand, was down in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick but higher in Prince Edward Island. The drop in the volume picked, in Newfoundland was attributed to continuous wet weather during the summer, a heavy drop of fruit in Nova Scotia and insufficient pollination in New Brunswick. The increased production in Prince Edward Island was the result of more blueberry land being cared for this season than last. It is estimated that cranberry production was substantially smaller in 1964 than in 1963 in all three Maritime provinces. Severe losses due to frost were reported this year and during the past two years so that growers are discontinuing the production of this crop.

Quebec - Apple production in Quebec in 1964 is estimated at 3.8 million bushels, about 29 per cent below the 1963 figure. The drop in production this year was the result of killing frosts which hit many of the orchard areas at the middle of May. The blossom had been heavy. The districts most severely affected by the spring frost were the areas to the south of Montreal and in Missisquoi County. Fruit development during the early part of the summer was very slow due to low temperatures. Scab damage was quite light. As a result of the small crop, harvesting was completed earlier than usual this season. The apples were large and showed excellent colour.

Strawberry and raspberry plantings also suffered from the effect of the unfavourable temperatures during May and the volumes picked were much below normal. In the Quebec City area, large quantities of raspberries were lost through insect damage. Blueberry production estimated at 8.8 million pounds was above last year's output of 8.6 million pounds.

Ontario - Ontario growers picked an estimated 6.5 million bushels of apples this year, 20 per cent greater than the 1963 crop of 5.4 million bushels. Larger crops of pears, peaches, sour cherries, strawberries and grapes were also harvested. On the other hand the crops of plums and sweet cherries were lower this year than last. Raspberry production was also slightly reduced. Most fruit plantings escaped serious winter injury and although the snow cover was light, spring rains provided adequate moisture. Blossom was heavy for most crops and the weather was generally suitable for pollination. A period of cool weather in the latter part of May and the first two weeks of June retarded fruit crop development to some extent. Some frost damage was also reported but the overall effect appears to have been limited. Heavy rains in mid-July provided ample moisture. Subsequently the weather was generally hot until the end of July when temperatures became cooler. During the latter part of the season the weather was generally favourable for adequate sizing of fruits and good colouring, particularly of the apple crop.

British Columbia - Apple production, estimated at 6.5 million bushels, is regarded as a near normal crop in contrast to the near maximum production of 8.6 million bushels realized last year. The apple harvest in the Okanagan Valley was carried out under ideal weather conditions in contrast to the spring and summer when the weather was cool and wet. By the end of October water was needed on orchard land. Fruit colour was good although the size was below normal on Delicious and later apples. In some areas water core was reported on some varieties.

Sweet cherry production reached 285,000 bushels a record outturn in spite of losses from rains at harvest time. Apricot growers harvested a record crop of 386,000 bushels. Peaches, estimated at 568,000 bushels, were considerably heavier than the 432,000 bushel crop picked in 1963. However, quality suffered from unfavourable weather at harvest time. The pear crop at 885,000 bushels was close to last year's record outturn of 893,000 bushels. Poor weather was blamed for some loss of quality. Pest control had also been difficult. Grape production at 4.8 million pounds was considerably above last year's 4.2 million pounds as a result of new plantings.

In the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island, wet, cool weather reduced crops of strawberries, raspberries and loganberries this year. Production of cranberries was up, however, with new plantings of this crop and blueberries being extensive.

The estimates released in this Memorandum, except where otherwise indicated, are based on reports submitted to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by the Quebec Bureau of Statistics and Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture personnel in the various fruit growing areas. Reports were made as of the middle of November for British Columbia, the middle of October for Ontario and Quebec, except Quebec blueberries which estimates were made as of the middle of November, and early December for all crops in the Atlantic provinces.

TABLE 1. - Fourth Estimate of the Commercial Production of All Fruits in 1964 with Latest Estimates for 1963

Kind of Fruit	Estimated Production				
	Unit	Volumetric Units or Pounds		Tons	
		1963	1964	1963	1964
	'000	'000			
Canada -					
Apples	bu.	23,016	19,228	517,863	432,612
Pears	bu.	1,688	1,948	42,206	48,703
Plums and prunes	bu.	700	654	17,499	16,336
Peaches	bu.	2,373	2,703	59,320	67,575
Apricots	bu.	99	386	2,484	9,662
Cherries, sweet	bu.	406	525	10,145	13,113
Cherries, sour	bu.	346	582	8,648	14,560
Strawberries	qt.	23,176	26,781	15,368	17,586
Raspberries	qt.	11,908	10,378	8,442	7,336
Loganberries	lb.	1,461	1,102	730	551
Grapes	lb.	106,780	112,552	53,390	56,276
Blueberries	lb.	23,955	20,906	11,977	10,453
Cranberries	lb.	1,071	1,015	535	508
Newfoundland -					
Blueberries	lb.	1,401	1,081	700	540
Prince Edward Island -					
Strawberries	qt.	1,550	1,650	969	1,031
Blueberries	lb.	150	200	75	100
Cranberries	lb.	100	15	50	8
Nova Scotia -					
Apples	bu.	3,180	2,000	71,550	45,000
Pears	bu.	64	60	1,612	1,500
Plums and Prunes	bu.	5	6	125	150
Strawberries	qt.	2,000	2,200	1,250	1,375
Raspberries	qt.	25	35	16	22
Blueberries	lb.	7,000	5,100	3,500	2,550
Cranberries	lb.	120	75	60	38

TABLE 1. - Fourth Estimate of the Commercial Production of All Fruits in 1964 with Latest Estimates for 1963

Kind of Fruit	Estimated Production				
	Volumetric Units or Pounds		Tons		
	Unit	1963	1964	1963	1964
	'000	'000			
New Brunswick -					
Apples	bu.	475	425	10,688	9,562
Strawberries	qt.	1,500	2,000	938	1,250
Raspberries	qt.	50	50	31	31
Blueberries	lb.	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,500
Cranberries	lb.	50	25	25	12
Quebec -					
Apples	bu.	5,298	3,765	119,205	84,712
Strawberries	qt.	6,558	5,500	4,098	3,438
Raspberries	qt.	1,383	1,150	864	719
Blueberries	lb.	8,551	8,762	4,276	4,381
Ontario -					
Apples	bu.	5,433	6,505	122,234	146,360
Pears	bu.	731	1,003	18,272	25,070
Plums and prunes	bu.	427	359	10,675	8,968
Peaches	bu.	1,941	2,135	48,522	53,375
Cherries, sweet	bu.	261	240	6,515	5,995
Cherries, sour	bu.	346	582	8,648	14,560
Strawberries	qt.	4,501	8,651	2,813	5,407
Raspberries	qt.	2,450	2,343	1,531	1,464
Grapes	lb.	102,600	107,800	51,300	53,900
Blueberries	lb.	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
British Columbia -					
Apples	bu.	8,630	6,533	194,186	146,982
Pears	bu.	893	885	22,322	22,133
Plums and prunes	bu.	268	289	6,699	7,218
Peaches	bu.	432	568	10,798	14,200
Apricots	bu.	99	386	2,484	9,662
Cherries, sweet	bu.	145	285	3,630	7,118
Strawberries	qt.	7,067	6,780	5,300	5,085
Raspberries	qt.	8,000	6,800	6,000	5,100
Loganberries	lb.	1,461	1,102	730	551
Grapes	lb.	4,180	4,752	2,090	2,376
Blueberries	lb.	2,853	2,763	1,426	1,382
Cranberries	lb.	801	900	400	450

(1) Not available.

For all Provinces other than British Columbia the original estimates secured by the Bureau were stated in measures of volume (except grapes, blueberries and cranberries). These were converted to tons at the following rates: 1 quart of strawberries or raspberries = 1.25 pounds; 1 bushel of apples = 45 pounds; 1 bushel of all other tree fruits = 50 pounds (net weight). In the case of British Columbia, the volumetric estimates were calculated as follows: 1 bushel of apples = 45 pounds; 1 bushel of all other tree fruits = 50 pounds (net weight); 1 quart of berries = 1.5 pounds.

TABLE 2. - Estimate of Commercial Production of Apples, Pears, Peaches, Apricots, Sweet and Sour Cherries, Strawberries and Grapes in United States 1963 and 1964

Kind of Fruit	Estimated Production				
	Volumetric Units or Pounds Unit	1963		1964	
		'000	'000	Tons	Tons
United States -					
Apples(1).....	bu.	125,505	138,175		
Pears(1)	bu.	19,378	30,193	476,825	738,116
Peaches(2)	bu.	73,789	74,093	1,770,936	1,778,232
Apricots(2)	bu.	8,346	9,167	200,300	220,000
Cherries, sweet(2)	bu.	2,504	4,061	70,100	113,700
Cherries, sour(2)	bu.	2,897	8,598	81,110	240,750
Strawberries(2)	qt.	340,593	357,699	255,444	268,274
Grapes(1)	lb.	7,586,820	6,958,900	3,793,410	3,479,450

(1) Source: Crop Production as of November 10, 1964. - United States Department of Agriculture.

(2) Source: Fruit Situation October, 1964 - United States Department of Agriculture

The United States Department of Agriculture published the original estimates of apples, pears and peaches in bushels; apricots, cherries, sweet and sour, and grapes in tons; strawberries in pounds. Conversion rates used to express pears and peaches in tons were: 1 bu. of pears = 50 lb. (except California where 1 bu. = 48 lb); 1 bu. of peaches = 48 lb. Conversion rates used to express apricots and cherries in bushels were: 1 bu. of apricots = 48 lb; 1 bu. of cherries = 56 lb. Strawberries were converted at the rate of 1 qt. = 1.5 lb. (Conversion Factors and Weights and Measures for Agricultural Commodities and Their Products - United States Department of Agriculture, May, 1952.)

TABLE 3. - Estimated Apple Production in England & Wales - 1964 with Latest 1963 Figures(1)

	Estimated Production			
	1963	1964	1963	1964
	'000 bushels		'000 tons	
Dessert Apples	14,779	17,522	333	394
Cooking Apples	11,399	14,535	256	327
Total	26,178	32,057	589	721

(1) Source: Commonwealth Economic Committee (November 15)

TABLE 4.- Estimated Apple Production in France, 1964(1), with comparable 1963 Figures

	Estimated Production			
	1963	1964	1963	1964
	'000 bushels		'000 tons	
Table Apples	48,369	46,301	1,088	1,042

(1) Source: Commonwealth Economic Committee (November 1)

TABLE 5.- Estimated Apple Production in Western Germany, 1964(1) with Final 1963 Figures(2)

	Estimated Production(3)			
	1963	1964	1963	1964
	'000 bushels		'000 tons	
	96,096	59,573	2,162	1,340

(1) Mid-October Estimate.

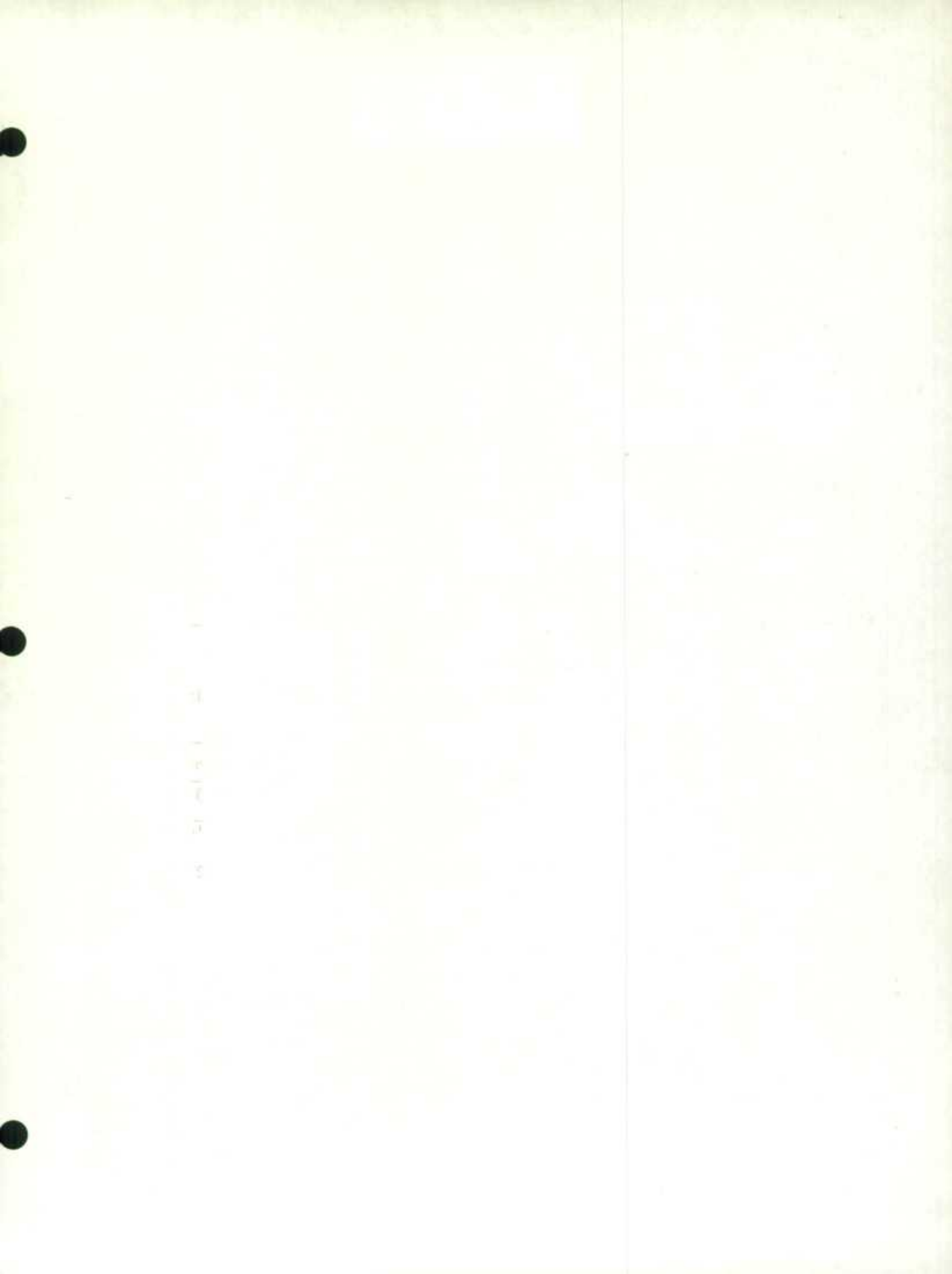
(2) Source: Commonwealth Economic Committee.

(3) It is estimated that one-half of the crop is cider fruit.

TABLE 6.- Estimate of Apple Production in Italy, 1964 with Comparable 1963 Figures(1)

	1963	1964	1963	1964
	'000 bushels		'000 tons	
		114,463	115,619	2,575

(1) Source: Commonwealth Economic Committee: (December 1 estimates 1964 crop).



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