



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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Memorandum

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REPORT ON THE POULTRY SURVEY OF DECEMBER 1, 1956

This memorandum contains preliminary estimates of the number of poultry on farms in Canada ^{1/} at December 1. The estimates are based on farmers' replies in the semi-annual mail survey and were prepared in co-operation with provincial officials. These estimates, as well as the estimates from 1951 to 1956, will be revised following the release of the June 1, 1956 Census data.

These preliminary estimates indicate that there were 48,255,000 birds on farms at December 1, 1956. This was an increase of 6,426,000 or 15 per cent from the total of 41,829,000 on hand at December 1, 1955. The December 1, 1956 total is composed of 44,910,000 hens and chickens, 2,689,000 turkeys, 287,000 geese and 369,000 ducks.

Hens and chickens on farms increased by 6,060,000 or 16 per cent from 38,850,000 the previous December. Increases were common to all provinces except New Brunswick where a reduction of 7 per cent was reported. Hens and pullets 6 months old or older show an increase of 9 per cent up in all provinces except New Brunswick. The Canada total of hens and pullets 6 months old or older increased from 25,040,000 to 27,355,000. All other chickens, which includes pullets under 6 months old, cocks and cockerels, and chicks up to 2 months old, increased by 27 per cent, from 13,810,000 at December 1, 1955 to 17,555,000 at December 1, 1956. When Census data becomes available, it will be possible to separate a revised estimate for this group into the different age and sex categories.

By provinces, the estimates for hens and pullets 6 months old or older which comprise the laying flock except for pullets under 6 months old that have already started to lay were: Prince Edward Island 660,000 (650,000 at December 1, 1955); Nova Scotia 1,045,000 (985,000); New Brunswick 620,000 (690,000); Quebec 3,900,000 (3,295,000); Ontario 10,300,000 (9,500,000); Manitoba 2,700,000 (2,460,000); Saskatchewan 2,750,000 (2,590,000); Alberta 3,500,000 (3,330,000); British Columbia 2,140,000 (1,800,000).

Turkeys estimated at 2,689,000 were 19 per cent greater than at December 1 the previous year. An increase in the number of birds were shown in all provinces except Saskatchewan. Geese and duck numbers at 287,000 and 369,000 were down by 9 and 10 per cent respectively from last year.

^{1/} Current estimates for Newfoundland are not available. The Census of June 1, 1951 reports 76,429 head of poultry on farms. By classes, the number reported was: hens and chickens, 73,714; turkeys 1,553; geese, 548; ducks, 614. Elsewhere than on farms there were 206,167 hens and chickens and 9,074 other poultry.

Prepared in Livestock Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION

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TABLE 1. TOTAL POULTRY ON FARMS IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES, AS AT DECEMBER 1, 1956

Province	Hens and Chickens	Turkeys	Geese	Ducks	Total	Dec. 1, 1956
						as a per cent of Dec. 1, 1955
						%
- thousand birds -						
Prince Edward Island	660	15	22	25	722	103
Nova Scotia	1,450	33	3	2	1,488	112
New Brunswick	890	46	6	5	947	94
Quebec	7,000	440	12	43	7,495	111
Ontario	19,000	870	120	155	20,145	129
Manitoba	3,600	360	40	40	4,040	102
Saskatchewan	4,150	310	30	35	4,525	102
Alberta	5,150	385	45	50	5,630	110
British Columbia	3,010	230	9	14	3,263	110
CANADA	44,910	2,689	287	369	48,255	115

TABLE 2. HENS AND CHICKENS: ON FARMS IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES, AS AT DECEMBER 1, 1956.

Province	Dec. 1, 1956	Dec. 1, 1955	Dec. 1, 1956 as a per cent of Dec. 1, 1955
		- thousand birds -	%
A. <u>Total Hens and Chickens</u>			
Prince Edward Island	660	650	102
Nova Scotia	1,450	1,300	112
New Brunswick	890	960	93
Quebec	7,000	6,280	111
Ontario	19,000	14,750	129
Manitoba	3,600	3,500	103
Saskatchewan	4,150	4,010	103
Alberta	5,150	4,650	111
British Columbia	3,010	2,750	109
CANADA	44,910	38,850	116
B. <u>Hens and Pullets, 6 Months Old or Older</u>			
Prince Edward Island	400	390	103
Nova Scotia	1,045	985	106
New Brunswick	620	690	90
Quebec	3,900	3,295	118
Ontario	10,300	9,500	108
Manitoba	2,700	2,460	110
Saskatchewan	2,750	2,590	106
Alberta	3,500	3,330	105
British Columbia	2,140	1,800	119
CANADA	27,355	25,040	109
C. <u>All Other Chickens</u> ^{1/}			
Prince Edward Island	260	260	100
Nova Scotia	405	315	129
New Brunswick	270	270	100
Quebec	3,100	2,985	104
Ontario	8,700	5,250	166
Manitoba	900	1,040	87
Saskatchewan	1,400	1,420	99
Alberta	1,650	1,320	125
British Columbia	870	950	92
CANADA	17,555	13,810	127

^{1/} Includes chicks, pullets and cockerels under 6 months old and cocks of all ages. Estimates for each of the age and sex categories will be separately reported after 1956 Census data are available as the basis of calculations.

TABLE 3. TURKEYS, GEESE AND DUCKS: ON FARMS IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES, AS AT DECEMBER 1, 1956

Province	Dec. 1, 1956	Dec. 1, 1955	Dec. 1, 1956 as a per cent of Dec. 1, 1955
	- thousand birds -		%
	<u>TURKEYS</u>		
Prince Edward Island	15	12	125
Nova Scotia	33	25	132
New Brunswick	46	32	144
Quebec	440	400	110
Ontario	870	575	151
Manitoba	360	350	103
Saskatchewan	310	330	94
Alberta	385	330	117
British Columbia	230	200	115
CANADA	2,689	2,254	119
	<u>G E E S E</u>		
Prince Edward Island	22	19	116
Nova Scotia	3	4	75
New Brunswick	6	6	100
Quebec	12	12	100
Ontario	120	120	100
Manitoba	40	43	93
Saskatchewan	30	40	75
Alberta	45	60	75
British Columbia	9	12	75
CANADA	287	316	91
	<u>D U C K S</u>		
Prince Edward Island	25	20	125
Nova Scotia	2	3	67
New Brunswick	5	5	100
Quebec	43	40	108
Ontario	155	155	100
Manitoba	40	55	73
Saskatchewan	35	50	70
Alberta	50	65	77
British Columbia	14	16	88
CANADA	369	409	90