



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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REPORT ON THE POULTRY SURVEY OF DECEMBER 1, 1959

Estimates of poultry numbers on farms in Canada ^{1/} are based on semi-annual mailed-questionnaire surveys conducted in co-operation with provincial government departments at June 1 and December 1 and on hatchery statistics compiled by the Canada Department of Agriculture. Estimated numbers at December 1, 1958 and at June 1, 1959 are included in this report for purposes of comparison.

Estimated at almost 51 million birds the total of all poultry on farms at December 1, 1959 was about 9 per cent lower than at December 1, 1958 when the comparable total was approximately 56.0 million birds. Practically all of the decline occurred in the number of hens and chickens which dropped 9 per cent to 47.0 million from 51.8 million birds at December 1 last year. The Canada total for turkeys decreased 6 per cent and totals for geese, and ducks 4 and 2 per cent respectively. Turkeys, however, showed considerable variation from last year by provinces.

The total of all hens and chickens declined in all provinces except Nova Scotia and British Columbia, but only Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta had fewer hens over 6 months old at December 1, 1959 as compared with numbers on hand a year earlier. For Canada as a whole hens and pullets 6 months old and over were about 1 per cent greater than last year but pullets 2 to 6 months old declined 25 per cent; cocks and cockerels were down 34 per cent and chicks 13 per cent. These decreases reflect lower placement of laying type pullets during the summer and early fall months of 1959 than in the corresponding months of 1958 and also a pronounced cut-back in broiler production.

While the number of turkeys on farms at December 1, 1959 was only 6 per cent less than a year earlier, 3.4 million vs. 3.6 million for Canada as a whole, there were very marked decreases in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Manitoba. Changes in numbers on farms at December 1 do not necessarily reflect changes in production. Production was considerably lower than in 1958 in the Maritime provinces but in Quebec and Manitoba the lower numbers on farms at December 1 resulted from the fact that the bulk of the turkey crop was started and marketed earlier than last year. In Ontario, where the estimate shows turkey numbers up 13 per cent from last year mid-summer hatchery output of poults was higher than in 1958.

^{1/} Current estimates for Newfoundland are not available. The Census of June 1, 1956 reports 108,707 head of poultry on farms. By class, the number reported was: hens and chickens, 105,783; turkeys, 2,084; geese, 307; ducks, 533. Elsewhere than on farms there were 180,041 hens and chickens and 2,910 other poultry.

Prepared in Livestock and Animal Products Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION

TABLE 1. TOTAL POULTRY ON FARMS IN CANADA, BY PROVINCE, AS AT DECEMBER 1, 1958 & 59

	1958 Total	1959					Dec. 1, 1959 as a per cent of Dec. 1, 1958
		Hens and Chickens	Turkeys	Geese	Ducks	Total	
- thousand birds -							%
Prince Edward Island	580	515	7	8	8	538	93
Nova Scotia	1,813	1,820	25	2	1	1,848	102
New Brunswick	842	730	33	3	2	768	91
Quebec	9,672	8,460	400	11	50	9,121	94
Ontario	25,325	19,800	1,700	110	150	21,760	86
Manitoba	4,190	3,600	280	30	20	3,930	94
Saskatchewan	4,058	3,575	325	35	30	3,965	98
Alberta	5,730	4,640	400	60	55	5,155	90
British Columbia	3,798	3,835	205	10	25	4,075	107
CANADA	56,008	46,975	3,375	269	341	50,960	91

	Dec. 1, 1958	June 1, 1959	Dec. 1, 1959	Dec. 1, 1959 as a per cent of Dec. 1, 1958
A. Total Hens and Chickens				
Prince Edward Island	550	740	515	94
Nova Scotia	1,760	2,190	1,820	103
New Brunswick	780	1,090	730	94
Quebec	8,930	10,500	8,460	95
Ontario	23,580	29,500	19,800	84
Manitoba	3,700	7,000	3,600	97
Saskatchewan	3,700	8,000	3,575	97
Alberta	5,200	9,690	4,640	89
British Columbia	3,570	4,800	3,835	107
CANADA	51,770	73,510	46,975	91

B. Hens and Pullets, 6 Months and Over

Prince Edward Island	320	370	350	109
Nova Scotia	1,150	1,150	1,160	101
New Brunswick	490	435	520	106
Quebec	3,500	3,670	3,800	109
Ontario	11,600	9,700	11,500	99
Manitoba	2,650	2,480	2,700	102
Saskatchewan	2,650	2,560	2,560	97
Alberta	3,210	2,925	3,170	99
British Columbia	2,000	1,850	2,125	106
CANADA	27,570	25,140	27,885	101

TABLE 2. (CONCL'D) HENS AND CHICKENS: NUMBERS ON FARMS, BY PROVINCE, AS AT DECEMBER 1, 1958 & 59

	Dec. 1, 1958	June 1, 1959	Dec. 1, 1959	Dec. 1, 1959 as a per cent of Dec. 1, 1958
	- thousand birds -			%
C. <u>Pullets, 2 Months to 6 Months Old</u>				
Prince Edward Island	150	105	115	77
Nova Scotia	160	350	150	94
New Brunswick	74	240	60	81
Quebec	1,200	1,465	700	58
Ontario	2,400	5,425	1,600	67
Manitoba	460	650	430	93
Saskatchewan	700	480	695	99
Alberta	920	1,245	680	74
British Columbia	470	710	500	106
CANADA	6,534	10,670	4,930	75
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D. <u>Cocks and Cockerels Over 2 Months Old</u>				
Prince Edward Island	68	25	43	63
Nova Scotia	70	40	90	129
New Brunswick	61	55	50	82
Quebec	1,330	1,065	900	68
Ontario	2,800	1,875	1,800	64
Manitoba	240	370	160	67
Saskatchewan	342	560	288	84
Alberta	550	850	260	47
British Columbia	150	240	110	73
CANADA	5,611	5,080	3,701	66
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E. <u>Chicks Up to 2 Months Old</u>				
Prince Edward Island	12	240	7	58
Nova Scotia	380	650	420	111
New Brunswick	155	360	100	65
Quebec	2,900	4,300	3,060	106
Ontario	6,780	12,500	4,900	72
Manitoba	350	3,500	310	89
Saskatchewan	8	4,400	32	400
Alberta	520	4,670	530	102
British Columbia	950	2,000	1,100	116
CANADA	12,055	32,620	10,459	87



TABLE 3. TURKEYS, GEESE AND DUCKS: NUMBERS ON FARMS, BY PROVINCE, AS AT DECEMBER 1, 1958 & 59

	Dec. 1, 1958	June 1, 1959	Dec. 1, 1959	Dec. 1, 1959 as a per cent of Dec. 1, 1958
	- thousand birds -			%
<u>TURKEYS</u>				
Prince Edward Island	13	15	7	54
Nova Scotia	50	32	25	50
New Brunswick	56	35	33	59
Quebec	670	750	400	60
Ontario	1,500	2,660	1,700	113
Manitoba	430	1,250	280	65
Saskatchewan	280	1,320	325	116
Alberta	410	1,050	400	98
British Columbia	200	450	205	102
CANADA	3,609	7,562	3,375	94
<u>G E E S E</u>				
Prince Edward Island	9	9	8	89
Nova Scotia	2	2	2	100
New Brunswick	4	4	3	75
Quebec	12	10	11	92
Ontario	105	110	110	105
Manitoba	35	45	30	86
Saskatchewan	38	35	35	92
Alberta	65	75	60	92
British Columbia	10	11	10	100
CANADA	280	308	269	96
<u>D U C K S</u>				
Prince Edward Island	8	7	8	100
Nova Scotia	1	1	1	100
New Brunswick	2	2	2	100
Quebec	60	53	50	83
Ontario	140	130	150	107
Manitoba	25	36	20	80
Saskatchewan	40	60	30	75
Alberta	55	85	55	100
British Columbia	18	31	25	139
CANADA	349	405	341	98