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## Crop Reporting Series - No. 8

### TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the fourth of the 1961 series of thirteen telegraphic reports, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, covering crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, private crop observers and grain men supply the information on which these reports are based. The weather data included in this release are furnished by the Meteorological Division, Department of Transport.

### S U M M A R Y

With the advent of warm, dry weather in the past week, rapid advances were made with seeding in the Prairie Provinces. Progress has been particularly fast in most districts of Alberta and Saskatchewan where wheat seeding is nearing completion. Seeding of other crops is well underway. In Manitoba and northeast Saskatchewan many farmers have delayed seeding to obtain cultural control of wild oats. Early-seeded grains are showing green and germinating evenly. Reports indicate that there is sufficient moisture to germinate crops, but more rain will be needed soon in most areas to support growth. Pastures and meadows have improved considerably.

Warmer weather has speeded up seeding of cereals in Manitoba and operations are now well advanced throughout the province. Special crops seeding in southern Manitoba is also going ahead well. Early-seeded grain is showing above ground and germination appears to be satisfactory. So far soil moisture has proved to be adequate, but early rains would materially help all crops and pastures. Pasture growth to date has been slow.

Rapid progress was made with seeding in Saskatchewan during the past week and it is estimated that some 75 per cent of the wheat is now seeded in southern districts. In central districts upwards of 65 per cent of the wheat is in the ground, while 50 per cent is seeded in the northwest and 25 per cent in the north-east part of the province. For the province as a whole some 70 per cent has been seeded. Coarse grain seeding is also making good progress, with about 40 per cent in the ground. Higher temperatures now prevailing are promoting rapid growth, and early-sown fields are now showing green. The appearance of hay lands is good but rains are needed to ensure adequate production.

Hot, dry weather during the past week has permitted farmers to make rapid progress with seeding. Many correspondents report most of the wheat in the ground and sowing of coarse grains and flax well underway. With continued favourable weather, seeding will be completed in the very near future. Early-seeded crops are germinating evenly and some good stands are in evidence. Hay and pastures are now making excellent growth in most areas. Moisture supplies are generally sufficient to assure germination and early growth, but concern still exists relative to the low level of moisture reserves in a number of districts.

### MANITOBA

Seeding is approximately 60 per cent completed at Vita in southeastern Manitoba. Germination of grains has been good. The weather has been hot and dry, but moisture supplies are still adequate. At Altona excessive temperatures have speeded up crop emergence and approximately 50 per cent is now showing above ground. The percentage of all crops seeded, including special crops, is now 80 per cent. Some seeding is being delayed for wild oat control. Rain and cooler temperatures are now needed to prevent damage by heat canker which is beginning to be noticed. Warmer weather has also advanced seeding at Morden, with sowing of wheat and coarse grains approximately 60 per cent completed and early flax and special crops 50 per cent in the ground. Seeding of corn, however, has not started to any extent. Cultural control of wild oats has commenced. The moisture supply is now being rapidly depleted.

In the southwest corner of the province at Melita no rain was received last week and the land surface is dry. There is sufficient moisture, however, to start the crop. About half the wheat is seeded and 40 per cent of the coarse grains and flax. Wild oats are numerous throughout the district. The outlook for the rye crop is fair and pastures are now being grazed.

Some early-seeded wheat has emerged at Beauséjour east of Winnipeg. Wheat seeding is now 90 per cent completed, oats 75, and barley 30. Pasture and hay growth has been slow, but is now coming along better as a result of the warmer weather. Moisture supplies are adequate. At Portage la Prairie early-seeded grain is also above ground. Seeding is about 30 per cent completed in the district. Waiting for wild oats to grow has caused some delay in seeding. Surface moisture is poor but subsoil reserves are fair to good. Germination of forage crops, rapeseed and yellow mustard will be poor unless rains come soon. Pastures are fair and cattle are in good condition.

The Experimental Farm at Brandon reports that the weather for the past several days has been warm and dry making conditions ideal for cultural control of wild oats. Seeding has been delayed but should be general this week. Present moisture conditions are adequate for seeding but more rain will be needed soon if high temperatures continue. There is now good growth on pastures and haylands.

In the Interlake area at Teulon seeding is now progressing very well. The weather remains dry and pasture growth has come along fine. Home gardens are now being planted.

Dry, warm weather during the past week at Minnedosa has permitted farmers to start seeding. However, seeding is not general because of the slow growth of wild oats.



The Entomological Laboratory at Winnipeg reports that grasshopper eggs are now beginning to hatch.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 2 per cent above normal as compared with 26 per cent above normal a week ago, 38 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 12 per cent below normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 22 was 2.7 degrees above normal in contrast to 6.1 degrees below normal a week ago, 2.5 degrees below normal two weeks ago and compared with 3.4 degrees above normal for the week ending May 23, 1960.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

In the southwest part of the province at Willmar the weather has been sunny and dry with very little precipitation. Seeding is 75 per cent completed. Pastures are very poor. Rainfall since April 1 has totalled 1.49 inches. At Fillmore, recent warm weather has greatly improved growing conditions and early-seeded crops are now emerging. It is estimated 75 per cent of the wheat, 50 per cent of the coarse grains and some flax have been seeded. A heavy growth of wild oats is noticeable on unworked summerfallows. Hay fields are growing well but lack reserve moisture. Native pastures are doing poorly, but fall rye is showing good growth.

There has been no rainfall in the Indian Head district during the past week and the hot dry weather has enabled farmers to make excellent progress with seeding. Wheat is 85 per cent seeded, oats and barley 75 per cent, but no flax has been sown yet. The hot weather has promoted rapid weed growth and early-seeded grain fields are germinating well. High winds and temperatures over the weekend made evaporation losses high and on May 22 evaporation was over one-quarter of an inch from an open tank on the Experimental Farm. Prospects for hay and pasture are poor and rainfall is urgently required.

The Experimental Farm at Swift Current in the southwest part of the province reports that the weather has been clear and warm, and growth has been good. Some 80 per cent of the seeding has been completed and early-sown fields are becoming quite green. Weeds are numerous. Good progress is being made with first operations on fallow fields. Pastures are good but will require rain soon to maintain growth. There have been no reports on grasshoppers hatching to date. At Big Beaver in the south-central part of the province seeding is completed and the grain is germinating quickly. About the same acreage as was sown last year was seeded this year. Rainfall since April 1 has totalled  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Summerfallowing has just started and pasture lands are showing green.

At Val Marie in the southwest part of the province, rainfall during the past week totalled 0.25 inches over part of the district. The weather has been warm and crops are growing nicely. Grass growth has improved. Rain is needed within ten days or drought damage will result. At Eastend, scattered showers have improved moisture conditions. Some 90 per cent of the wheat and 80 per cent of the coarse grains are seeded. Pasture and hay growth has improved but conditions are still rated as poor. Cutworm infestations are numerous and are doing damage.

In the Togo district of east-central Saskatchewan, the recent hot weather has promoted tremendous growth. Early-sown grains have shot up with germination being very rapid. Wild oat growth is abundant and good kills are anticipated when fields

are worked prior to seeding this week. Grass, clover and pastures are showing real promise. Timely rains should now produce a fair crop. It is estimated that 75 per cent of the wheat, and 5 per cent of the coarse grains have been seeded in the Sturgis district. Wild oats are a problem in early-seeded wheat fields. Sub-soil moisture supplies are poor.

Early-sown fields are showing green around Drake in the central part of the province and warm weather during the past week has promoted rapid growth. Seeding operations are 80 per cent completed except for flax, seeding of which will start in a few days. Moisture supplies are adequate for good germination. The Entomological Laboratory at Saskatoon reports no further insect outbreaks. Seeding in the Saskatoon district is progressing well and pastures are improving.

At Rosetown, the west-central part of the province, wheat seeding is complete and 50 per cent of the coarse grains is in the ground. Germination is good. Acreage seeded in the district is normal except for a slight increase in durum wheat. The Experimental Farm at Scott reports that the weather has been warm and dry during the past week and this has resulted in 90 per cent of the wheat and 75 per cent of the coarse grains now being seeded. Early-sown crops are now emerging. Surface moisture is drying rapidly but sub-soil reserves are still adequate. Forage crops and pastures are making good growth. At Meota in the northwest part of the province some 80 per cent of the wheat has been seeded while half of the coarse grains is in the ground. The weather has been hot and growth is very good. Moisture supplies are sufficient for the present and pastures are adequate.

The Experimental Farm at Melfort, in the northeastern part of the province, reports that the hot, dry weather of the past week has permitted farmers to make good progress with land preparation. Seeding is now general throughout the district with some 20 to 40 per cent sown. Hay and pasture crops are making steady, but not spectacular gains. Fall rye wintered well. At Nipawin the weather has also been very warm and dry, and seeding is progressing very satisfactorily. Land conditions are very good and moisture supplies are excellent. Rainfall this year since April 1 has totalled 1.85 inches compared with 2.30 inches a year ago. Pastures and grass crops are very good. Two forest fires are burning, out of control, north of Nipawin.

Average precipitation for the province since April has been 8 per cent above normal compared with 25 per cent above normal a week ago, 18 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 5 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 22 was 2.9 degrees above normal in contrast to 6.7 degrees below normal a week ago, 3.0 degrees below normal two weeks ago and compared with 1.0 degrees above normal for the week ending May 23, 1960.

#### ALBERTA

Seeding is 90 per cent completed in the Medicine Hat district, with crop emergence good following recent rains. However, moisture reserves remain low and more rain is required. Pastures and hay land are in only fair condition.

Hot, dry weather during the past few days has permitted grain seeding to proceed rapidly west of Lethbridge. Eastward to Medicine Hat, cereals are showing a good stand and potatoes and onions have emerged. Sugar beet thinning has started and potato planting and seeding of special crops are almost completed. Grass growth



is good. In the southwest corner of the province around Cardston land work is progressing favourably under ideal weather conditions, with about 25 per cent of the spring wheat now in the ground. Seeding of all grains is general in the Claresholm area. Moisture supplies are sufficient for the present, and hay and pasture are making rapid growth.

Seeding is nearing completion in the Vulcan district and, weather permitting, all grains will be in this week. Early-seeded crops are showing above ground following the hot, dry weather of the past week. Seeded pastures and hay lands are making a wonderful start.

Hot, dry weather has prevailed since the middle of last week in the Calgary district. Seeding is now general, with from 50 to 75 per cent of the wheat in the ground. Sowing of coarse grains is well underway. Hay and pastures are good and fall rye is up as high as 8 inches. Seeding of wheat and coarse grains should be completed this week in the Hanna district, where crops are already coming up to an even stand. Hay and pasture crops are doing well but rain will be needed soon.

In the Donalda district of central Alberta percentages seeded are estimated as follows: wheat 85, oats 40, barley 35, flax 15. Early-sown grain is emerging evenly as a result of the past several days of warm weather. Pastures are growing well, but will need moisture before long. Farther south at Stettler wheat seeding is virtually completed. Moisture supplies are satisfactory at present, but hot, dry weather is drying out the surface and more rain will soon be needed. Hay and pastures are improved following earlier rains.

Seeding is well underway in the Vermilion district east of Edmonton, with 75 per cent of the wheat now in the ground. Moisture is adequate for even germination. However, pasture growth is still slow due to previous cold weather. Hot weather with drying winds has depleted surface moisture in the Edmonton district, but sub-soil moisture reserves are still reported as fair to good. Wheat seeding is about completed with some 50 per cent of the coarse grains in the ground.

Hot, dry weather during the past week has provided exceptionally good conditions for field operations and growth of vegetation in the Bonnyville area north-east of Edmonton. Most of the wheat is now seeded and first plantings are showing above ground. Pasture and hay crops are progressing favourably. North of Edmonton at Athabaska, hot, dry weather has advanced seeding operations rapidly. Percentages seeded are estimated as follows: wheat, 95; oats, 60; and barley, 40. Topsoil on high ground is drying, but apart from this, moisture conditions are excellent. Most farmers will be finished seeding this week.

At Beaverlodge in the western part of the Peace River district, seeding is nearing completion and crops are emerging rapidly following several days of hot weather. Showers last week in the Berwyn district delayed seeding somewhat, but improved moisture conditions. However, hot, dry winds during the past five days have reduced moisture reserves. Wheat seeding is nearly completed, and 50 per cent of the oats and 25 per cent of the barley are in the ground. Warmer weather has improved pasture growth.

Average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 8 per cent above normal, compared with 15 per cent above normal a week ago, 8 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 23 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending May 22 was 3.5 degrees above normal in sharp contrast to 6.8 degrees below normal a week ago, 4.4 degrees below normal two weeks ago and 4.1 degrees below normal for the week ending May 23, 1960.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces 1/

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending 8 a.m. May 22, 1961	Total since April 1	Normal since April 1	Week ending 8 a.m. May 22 1961	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
<u>MANITOBA</u>						
1	Pierson	N.R.	3.45 <u>2/</u>	2.42	54	54
	Bede	N.R.	2.20 <u>2/</u>	2.65	N.R.	53
	Waskada	Nil	2.39	2.14	54	53
2	Boissevain	Nil	2.01	2.42	55	52
	Deerwood	N.R.	2.15 <u>2/</u>	2.50	N.R.	53
	Ninette	Nil	2.43	2.68	56	53
	Pilot Mound	Nil	2.07	2.47	53	51
3	Portage la Prairie	Nil	2.43	2.37	56	54
	Graysville	N.R.	1.56 <u>2/</u>	2.36	N.R.	53
	Morden	Nil	1.47	2.85	57	54
	Altona	Nil	1.66	2.42	56	54
	Morris	Nil	1.73,	2.03	55	55
	Roland	N.R.	1.61 <u>2/</u>	2.46	N.R.	54
	Gretna	Nil	1.61	2.40	55	54
	Emerson	Nil	1.52	2.37	54	55
	Stonewall	Nil	2.71	2.30	54	52
4	Winnipeg	Nil	2.09	2.48	56	53
6	Sprague	N.R.	1.64 <u>2/</u>	2.69	N.R.	52
	Seven Sisters Falls	Nil	1.41	2.04	53	51
	Steinbach	Nil	2.15	2.48	55	53
7	Virden	Nil	1.58	1.97	56	53
	Reston	Nil	2.18	2.37	56	53
	Rivers	.01	4.33	2.27	56	52
8	Brandon	Nil	4.06	2.60	56	53
	Cypress River	Nil	2.79	2.24	56	53
9	Neepawa	Nil	2.95	2.03	57	52
	Grass River	Nil	2.51	2.11	55	53
10	Russell	Nil	2.32	1.77	N.R.	51
	Rosburn	Nil	3.25	1.82	57	51
	Birtle	N.R.	2.84 <u>2/</u>	1.86	N.R.	51
11	Dauphin	Trace	3.06	2.06	58	53
12	Gimli	Nil	2.12	1.97	53	52
13	Swan River	Nil	1.45	1.76	55	50
	The Pas	Nil	2.37	1.74	54	50
MANITOBA AVERAGE		Nil	2.32	2.27	55.3	52.6

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Estevan	Nil	1.67	1.74	55	54
	Carlyle	Nil	1.82	2.01	52	51
	Oxbow	Nil	1.55	2.14	53	53
	Willmar	Nil	1.65	1.83	N.R.	N.R.
1B	Broadview	Trace	.84	1.86	54	51
	Moosomin	Nil	1.72	1.77	57	52
2A	Yellow Grass	Trace	2.02	1.77	53	53



Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces 1/

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m. May 22, 1961	since April 1	since April 1	May 22 1961	Normal
		- inches -			- degrees F. -	
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (continued)						
2A	Creelman	Nil	1.53	1.75	53	52
	Weyburn	.01	1.42	1.78	54,	52
	Midale	N.R.	1.74 2/	1.92	N.R.	53
	Claybank	N.R.	2.00 2/	1.84	N.R.	53
2B	Moose Jaw	.57	1.98	1.83	57	54
	Regina	.25	1.34	1.76	55	53
	Francis	Trace	.61	1.49	52	52
	Qu'Appelle	N.R.	1.31 2/	2.07	N.R.	52
	Indian Head	Nil	1.35	1.83	55	52
	Wilcox	.24	1.87	1.85	56	53
	Assiniboia	.82	2.38	1.70	55	53
3AS	Ormiston	.24	1.72	1.89	55	53
	Readlyn	N.R.	.92 2/	1.75	N.R.	53
	Minton	.08	1.91	2.24	56	54
	Cardross	.48	2.08	1.87	54	53
	Ceylon	.01	2.00	2.27	54	53
	Chaplin	Trace	1.66	1.79	58	53
	Gravelbourg	.55	2.37	1.69	56	54
3AN	Coderre	.58	2.53	1.80	55	53
	Shaunavon	.08	1.34	1.86	54	53
	Cadillac	N.R.	.69 2/	1.96	N.R.	54
3BS	Pambrun	Trace	1.87	1.76	54	54
	Aneroid	N.R.	.78 2/	1.78	N.R.	54
	Instow	N.R.	1.16 2/	1.71	N.R.	54
	Pennant	.12	2.04	1.80	55	54
	Swift Current	Trace	2.12	1.81	54	54
	Hodgeville	.15	1.75	1.76	54	54
	Hughton	.08	2.27	1.71	57	52
4A	Maple Creek	Nil	1.26 2/	1.82	57	54
	Consul	.11	1.69	1.51	52	51
4B	Abbey	.26	1.64	1.65	55	54
5A	Cupar	.28	2.11	1.67	58	53
	Melville	.13	1.50	1.76	55	52
	Yorkton	.08	2.35	1.76	56	52
	Bangor	.06	1.99	1.84	56	52
5B	Dafoe	.06	1.27	1.56	54	52
	Foam Lake	N.R.	1.38 2/	1.81	N.R.	52
	Lintlaw	Nil	2.58	1.94	54	48
	Kamsack	Nil	1.53	1.70	58	52
	Arran	Nil	1.44	1.73	55	50
6A	Davidson	.21	2.01	1.76	54	53
	Imperial	N.R.	1.42 2/	1.69	N.R.	52
	Semans	.20	1.84	1.62	55	52
	Strasbourg	.28	2.08	1.67	55	52

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces<sup>1/</sup>

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	Week ending 8 a.m.	
		8 a.m.	Since	Since	May 22	
		May 22, 1961	April 1	April 1	1961	Normal
		- inches -	- degrees F. -			
<u>SASKATCHEWAN</u> (concluded)						
6A	Watrous	.35	2.84	1.53	55	52
6B	Harris	.15	3.45	1.42	53	53
	Outlook	.30	2.08	1.35	57	53
	Saskatoon	.17	2.00	1.63	56	53
	Elbow	.15	2.29	1.70	N.R.	53
	Tugaske	.11	2.83	1.66	54	53
	Dundurn	.16	1.96	1.45	57	53
7A	Alsask	.22	1.49	1.82	56	53
	Kindersley	nil	1.93	1.49	57	53
	Rosetown	.12	2.61	1.80	54	52
7B	Macklin	nil	1.70	1.83	55	52
	Denzil	nil	2.06	1.83	56	52
	Scott	.10	2.74	1.87	53	51
	Biggar	.06	2.43	1.51	56	53
8A	Hudson Bay	nil	1.94	1.96	56	49
	Porcupine Plain	N.R.	3.03 2/	1.82	N.R.	46
	Prairie River	nil	2.03	1.75	52	46
	Armit	trace	2.08	1.96	54	48
8B	Humboldt	.29	1.69	1.47	54	49
	Melfort	nil	2.37	1.66	55	53
9A	North Battleford	.07	1.56	1.65	56	53
	Victoire	N.R.	2.01 2/	1.54	N.R.	51
	Prince Albert	trace	2.71	2.05	56	52
	Island Falls	nil	1.70	1.76	51	46
9B	Waseca	trace	2.04	1.91	57	51
	St. Walburg	.05	.99	1.92	56	49
SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE		.12	1.92	1.77	55.0	52.1
<u>ALBERTA</u>						
1	Empress	.12	.44	1.13	56	55
	Foremost	.23	1.31	2.24	52	54
	Hanna	N.R.	1.12 2/	1.63	N.R.	53
	Manyberries	N.R.	1.15 2/	1.51	N.R.	54
	Medicine Hat	.08	1.37	1.92	57	56
	Naco	.17	1.27	1.51	N.R.	53
	Winnifred	N.R.	.52 2/	2.10	N.R.	56
2	Brooks	.51	2.88	1.87	N.R.	54
	Drumheller	.07	1.51	1.59	57	55
	Gleichen	.05	2.85	2.16	56	53
	Hays	.32	1.19	1.86	55	55
	Hussar	N.R.	1.94 2/	2.08	N.R.	53
	Raymond	.72	3.28	2.86	55	53
	Lethbridge	.31	2.86	2.62	54	53
	Strathmore	.14	2.14	2.10	50	51





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Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces<sup>1/</sup>

Province and Crop District	Station	Precipitation			Mean Temperature		
		Week ending 8 a.m.	Total Since	Normal Since	Week ending 8 a.m. May 22	Normal	
		May 22, 1961	April 1	April 1	1961	Normal	
		- inches -			- degrees F. -		
ALBERTA (concluded)							
2	Taber	.06	1.88	2.24	55	51	
	Three Hills	.25	2.19	1.81	53	51	
	Trochu	N.R.	3.14 2/	2.22	N.R.	52	
	Vulcan	.10	2.85	2.22	55	53	
3	Calgary	.23	2.82	2.47	55	51	
	Cardston	.95	4.30	2.49	53	52	
	Pincher Creek	.90	7.39	2.92	52	50	
	Fort MacLeod	.72	3.57	2.44	53	54	
	High River	.71	4.39	2.98	51	49	
	Jasper	.06	1.35	1.37	54	49	
	Magrath	.97	4.01	2.73	54	53	
	Olds	N.R.	1.53 2/	2.37	N.R.	51	
	Alliance	.05	1.13 2/	1.80	55	51	
	Camrose	N.R.	1.19 2/	2.14	N.R.	52	
4	Coronation	.13	1.97	1.78	54	51	
	Hughenden	N.R.	1.92 2/	1.68	N.R.	52	
	Lloydminster	nil	2.07	1.78	57	52	
	Stettler	.30	1.89	2.07	56	51	
	Vegreville	trace	.85	1.68	56	50	
	Vermilion	.05	1.89	1.63	55	51	
	Edmonton	.15	1.23	2.23	56	53	
	Lacombe	N.R.	1.52 2/	2.47	N.R.	51	
	Red Deer	.12	2.10	2.08	55	51	
	Rocky Mountain House	.61	3.71	3.02	54	50	
5	Wetaskiwin	.05	1.25	2.36	55	52	
	Athabasca	nil	1.92	1.84	57	50	
	Campsie	.25	.94 2/	2.22	54	50	
	Edson	.25	3.58	2.13	56	49	
	Elk Point	trace	.71	1.61	56	50	
	Embarras	nil	.97	1.53	58	49	
	Lac la Biche	.24	1.29	1.94	58	52	
	Whitecourt	.19	3.24	2.59	55	49	
	Beaverlodge	.01	1.05	1.83	59	51	
	Fairview	.28	1.53	1.90	60	51	
6	Ft. Vermilion	N.R.	1.43 2/	1.45	N.R.	51	
	Grande Prairie	.01	1.37	1.81	59	51	
	High Prairie	nil	1.65	1.88	59	51	
	Rycroft	nil	.92	1.56	58	51	
	Wagner	trace	1.33	1.96	53	50	
	ALBERTA AVERAGE		.24	2.20	2.04	55.3	51.8

N.R. - No report.

<sup>1/</sup> - Source: Meteorological Service of Canada.

<sup>2/</sup> - Incomplete; not included in average.