

22-002

no. 22

1937

Sept. 10

c. 1

C.R. No. 21  
1937.Issued by Authority of the HON. W. D. EULER, M.P.,  
Minister of Trade and CommerceDOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

Dominion Statistician:

R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)

Chief, Agricultural Branch:

T. W. Grindley, Ph.D.

FIELD CROPS OF CANADA

Ottawa, September 10, 1937, 4 p.m. - The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued today a bulletin reporting for 1937 (1) the first estimate of the yields of the principal grain crops and hay and clover and (2) the condition of the late-sown crops. The estimates are based on schedules returned by crop correspondents, including farmers throughout Canada and bank managers, rural postmasters and railway and elevator agents, in the Prairie Provinces. A special list of selected agriculturists was also circularized, in addition to those already co-operating as regular crop correspondents.

The acreages are from the annual June Survey except for Quebec and for hay and clover in the Prairie Provinces, where the acreages are the estimates of crop correspondents.

SUMMARY

According to the first official estimate, the total Canadian wheat production in 1937 is 188,191,000 bushels, including 168,999,000 bushels of spring wheat and 19,192,000 bushels of fall wheat. Of the spring wheat, the crop in the Prairie Provinces accounts for 164,000,000 bushels distributed as follows: Manitoba 53 millions, Saskatchewan 35 millions, and Alberta 76 million bushels. The drought damage in 1937, particularly in Saskatchewan, has been unparalleled in the previous crop history of the Prairie Provinces, with the average yield per acre at a new low level. While the drought area in 1937 was not greatly different from that in 1936, the area of total failure was much larger than that of a year ago. The grade and quality of the 1937 crop is indicated to be very high, although slightly below the record of 1936. The total Canadian wheat crop this year is the lowest since 1914 when a crop of 161 million bushels was harvested from an acreage only four-tenths the size of the 1937 acreage.

For all Canada the 1937 crops of coarse grains except flaxseed show an increase over 1936, due to the improved yields in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. Due to dry soil conditions in Saskatchewan, the Canadian flaxseed acreage in 1937 was almost halved, and yields per acre were also reduced, accounting for the very small flaxseed production this year. The oat crop in 1937 is estimated at 282,065,000 bushels or slightly more than 10 million bushels higher than in 1936. Barley production is placed at 87,781,000 bushels, almost 16 million bushels more than a year ago. Oats and barley are proving of better quality than in 1936. Fall rye is estimated at 4,588,000 bushels and spring rye at 1,450,000 bushels, and the flaxseed crop at only 741,000 bushels.

The main hay and clover crop is estimated at 13,047,000 tons, a reduction of three quarters of a million tons from 1936. Ontario production is more than a million tons higher this year, but Quebec production is down by 1.3 millions, and production in the Prairie Provinces has been generally lower.

Condition figures as of August 31 indicate that the late-sown crops for all Canada have fared much better than a year ago with the exception of sugar beets, which were fairly well maintained last year. By provinces, the late-sown crops show a poorer condition in the Maritimes and Saskatchewan than in 1936, while in Ontario and Manitoba conditions are considerably improved. Alberta shows better mixed grain, potato, turnip, alfalfa and fodder corn crops, while peas, beans and sugar beets mainly in the irrigated areas show slightly lower condition figures than a year ago. British Columbia conditions are much the same as last year, while in Quebec potatoes, turnips, fodder corn and pastures show slight improvement, and peas, beans, buckwheat, mixed grains and alfalfa show some decline. Compared with a month ago, the Maritimes, Quebec and Saskatchewan generally have registered declines, while Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia have indicated very little change. Pastures in the Maritime Provinces deteriorated through August and are in poorer condition than at August 31, 1936. Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia pastures have been maintained during the month, while in Alberta, considerable improvement in pastures has been noted.



THE 1937 CROP SITUATION

Cool, wet conditions which prevailed over much of the country during the early spring retarded operations considerably on Canadian farms. On the other hand, parts of the Prairies experienced warm, windy weather which, coupled with low soil moisture reserves, facilitated early seeding. As the season advanced, good growing weather enabled many eastern fields to overcome the late start, while persistent dryness on the Prairies resulted in the most serious and widespread crop failure in the history of the country. With vast acreages of crop in this principal grain-growing area wiped out by drought before midsummer, total yields have touched a new low point in a succession of poor years. Offsetting in some measure the bad situation in Saskatchewan and eastern Alberta, crops in Manitoba and Ontario escaped the excessive heat and dryness of the previous season and in practically all cases, yields show decided improvement over 1936.

Abundant rainfall in the Maritime Provinces held up the seeding of spring grains and eventually many fields had to be planted to other crops. Pastures and hay crops benefited by the prevailing weather conditions, and for the whole region, the yield of hay and clover is not far below the bountiful crop of last season. Hot dry weather from late July onward resulted in considerable damage to grains and roots with consequent reductions in yields. Quebec likewise experienced a late spring but this handicap was fairly well overcome by the good growing weather which followed. Except for spring wheat, all crops show some reduction from last year's estimates. Ontario fared much better than a year ago. Fall wheat production was nearly seven million bushels greater while other grains and hay all show substantial gains.

The 1937 season in the Prairie Provinces has witnessed a still greater drought disaster than that which occurred in the 1936 season. Thus for five consecutive years the Prairie wheat crops have been small, culminating in the very short crop of 1937. Notwithstanding, Manitoba this year is harvesting an exceptionally good crop which will exceed slightly the production in 1928. Alberta, in addition, is harvesting a crop appreciably better than that of 1936 although the current production is still below that of any of the preceding years back to 1924. Apart from the drought damage in the short grass plains of eastern Alberta, the major loss occurred in Saskatchewan where the harvest areas are confined mainly to extreme north and north-eastern areas. The southern portions of the park belt were badly affected by drought while the grass plains area, except for some small yields on the Regina and Qu'Appelle valley heavy clay soils, is registering a total failure. This year the drought area extends from western Manitoba, below a line drawn from the international boundary up through Virden and across to Indian Head, Saskatchewan and up to the Quill Lakes, Humboldt, Duck Lake and Medstead to a few miles south of Lloydminster where the line cuts down again through Stettler, Drumheller and Taber to the international boundary. While the drought area in 1936 extended farther into southern Alberta and southern Manitoba, the areas suffering total loss in central and northern Saskatchewan this year were much more extensive than in 1936.

Commencing the season with serious subsoil moisture deficiency the greater part of Saskatchewan and eastern Alberta received only infrequent and inadequate showers during May and June. Intense heat in early July with continued lack of rain ended the prospect of any crop over the greater part of this area. In western and northern Alberta, rains in mid-July forestalled a rapidly developing drought situation, and germinated dormant seed with the result that most wheat fields and all oats and barley crops have a considerable second growth which has rendered the timing of harvest problematical. Because of the extensive drought, crop damage from other sources has been minimized, with grasshoppers most prevalent where there were no crops. Hail wrought serious damage in certain sections of west-central and north-eastern Alberta. Rust infection was extensive on the common wheat varieties in the Carberry and Killarney districts of Manitoba, although Thatcher fields proved a notable exception. The rust damage was in no wise as serious as that which occurred in 1935. Acute feed shortages have persisted in the whole drought area since early July. Already considerable numbers of cattle have been shipped to Manitoba and Ontario for finishing or slaughter.

A late spring in British Columbia was followed by warm showery weather in June and all crops made good progress. The heavy hay crop was garnered with difficulty owing to the wet weather and some loss was sustained. Subsequent hot dry conditions favoured the ripening of grains which were harvested with little difficulty.



# FIRST ESTIMATE OF THE YIELDS OF GRAIN CROPS

For all Canada, the average yields per acre of grain crops in 1937, in bushels, are as follows, with the 1936 figures within brackets: Fall wheat 26.7 (24.5); spring wheat 6.8 (8.7); all wheat 7.4 (9.1); oats 21.5 (20.7); barley 20.3 (16.2); fall rye 6.6 (6.7); spring rye 7.5 (7.0); all rye 6.8 (6.7); flaxseed 3.1 (3.8). The total yields, in bushels, are estimated as follows, with last year's figures in brackets: Fall wheat 19,192,000 (12,478,000); spring wheat 168,999,000 (216,740,000); all wheat 188,191,000 (229,218,000); oats 282,065,000 (271,778,000); barley 87,781,000 (71,922,000); fall rye 4,588,000 (3,042,000); spring rye 1,450,000 (1,239,000); all rye 6,038,000 (4,281,000); flaxseed 741,000 (1,795,300).

## GRAIN YIELDS OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

For the three Prairie Provinces, the first estimate of the production of grain crops in 1937 is as follows, with the 1936 figures within brackets: Wheat 164,000,000 (212,000,000); oats 148,032,000 (135,862,000); barley 66,457,000 (52,617,000); rye 4,535,000 (3,201,000); flaxseed 663,000 (1,730,000). By provinces the total yields are: Manitoba - Wheat 53,000,000 (28,000,000); oats 44,000,000 (20,400,000); barley 38,000,000 (18,990,000); rye 2,201,000 (950,000); flaxseed 400,000 (415,000). Saskatchewan - Wheat 35,000,000 (117,000,000); oats 28,032,000 (65,462,000); barley 6,457,000 (16,627,000); rye 956,000 (1,489,000); flaxseed 123,000 (1,240,000). Alberta - Wheat 76,000,000 (67,000,000); oats 76,000,000 (50,000,000); barley 22,000,000 (17,000,000); rye 1,378,000 (762,000); flaxseed 140,000 (75,000).

## FIRST ESTIMATE OF THE YIELD OF HAY AND CLOVER

For all Canada, the total production of hay and clover is estimated at 13,047,000 tons from 9,072,400 acres, as compared with 13,803,000 tons from 8,786,800 acres in 1936, yields per acre of 1.44 tons and 1.57 tons respectively. By provinces the total yields in tons are estimated as follows with last year's figures within brackets: Prince Edward Island 377,000 (356,000); Nova Scotia 734,000 (734,000); New Brunswick 719,000 (891,000); Quebec 4,205,000 (5,559,000); Ontario 5,761,000 (4,637,000); Manitoba 516,000 (578,000); Saskatchewan 78,000 (297,000); Alberta 355,000 (424,000); British Columbia 302,000 (327,000).

## CONDITION OF LATE-SOWN CROPS

At August 31, 1937, the condition of late-sown crops for all Canada, expressed in percentages of the long-time average yields per acre, is reported as follows, with the condition figures within brackets for July 31, 1937, and August 31, 1936, in the order mentioned: Peas 85 (87, 70); beans 95 (91, 70); buckwheat 92 (94, 80); mixed grains 93 (96, 72); corn for husking 81 (89, 74); potatoes 90 (92, 77); turnips, etc. 96 (97, 79); alfalfa 96 ( - , 76); fodder corn 100 (93, 70); sugar beets 92 (93, 91); pasture 90 (91, 79).



CHARTS SHOWING THE AVERAGE YIELDS PER ACRE OF WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES,  
BY CROP DISTRICTS, 1937 AND 1936.

On the last two pages of this report, the average yields per acre by crop districts are pictured for the years 1937 and 1936. Since the two crops were sufficiently similar in size, it was possible to make the two patterns identical, thus facilitating direct comparisons.

Whereas the 1936 wheat crop in the Prairie Provinces registered the lowest average yield up to that date, the 1937 crop has surpassed the 1936 record for low yields. The 1937 drought area has embraced the most westerly part of Manitoba, and all Saskatchewan except the most northerly and north-eastern districts, reaching well up into the park belt. Continuing into Alberta, the drought area includes the grass plains area east of a line extending from Taber through Drumheller to Wainwright. In most of southern and central Saskatchewan and eastern Alberta this year the wheat crop is a complete failure. In 1936, the partial drought area extended farther east into southern Manitoba and farther west into southern Alberta but the area of total loss did not extend nearly so far up into central and north-western Saskatchewan. The crops in Manitoba and Saskatchewan this year have matured almost as early as in 1936, but in Alberta the crop has been late due to cool, rainy weather and considerable second growth. Partial rust damage was extensive in south central Manitoba this year, compared with practically no rust damage in 1936. Grasshoppers were very prevalent in southern Saskatchewan this year but were not present in serious numbers where there was any crop. There have been scattered reports of root-rot due to drought conditions. As was the case a year ago, hail cut several swaths through some good crops in west-central and north-eastern Alberta.

Manitoba - Yields were uniformly good on both Durum and common wheats in the Red River area. In the Brandon and Killarney districts Durum and Thatcher wheats withstood the rust although Corns and other wheats were damaged and showed poor samples. Partial drought accounted for the somewhat lower average yields in Crop Districts 7, 10 and 13 along the Saskatchewan boundary.

Saskatchewan - All crops were a total loss in Districts 3a, and only very few points in Districts 3b and 4 yielded any wheat at all. Around Regina and north of Indian Head the heavy soils yielded a few bushels, accounting for the production in District 2. Similarly in District 6 the heavy soil areas yielded a few bushels. Districts 5 and 8 include the bulk of the Saskatchewan crop this year. In the extreme northern part of the wheat belt in District 9 good yields were harvested, with the drought area extending up into the southern part of this district.

Alberta - All crop yields were low in Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7 in the drought area of this province except on the irrigation developments in District 3. The best average yield is indicated in District 2 where there are several irrigated areas and where the "dry land" farms received heavy and timely rains. West of a line from Edmonton to Calgary wheat yields are slightly above average this year. East of this line yields diminish fairly rapidly. North and east of Edmonton, yields are good but are still somewhat below average. The Peace River District, affected by partial drought, shows an average yield much lower than last year.



1. First Estimate of the Yield of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Flaxseed and Hay and Clover in Canada, 1937 as compared with 1936.

Field Crops	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937
	acres	acres	bush. per acre	bush. per acre	bush.	bush.
<u>CANADA -</u>						
Fall wheat	509,300	718,900	24.5	26.7	12,478,000	19,192,000
Spring wheat	24,779,700	24,855,400	8.7	6.8	216,740,000	168,999,000
All wheat	25,289,000	25,574,200	9.1	7.4	229,218,000	188,191,000
Oats	13,118,400	13,094,500	20.7	21.5	271,778,000	282,065,000
Barley	4,432,500	4,319,900	16.2	20.3	71,922,000	87,781,000
Fall rye	457,300	700,300	6.7	6.6	3,042,000	4,588,000
Spring rye	177,700	192,900	7.0	7.5	1,239,000	1,450,000
All rye	635,000	893,200	6.7	6.8	4,281,000	6,038,000
Flaxseed	467,750	241,300	3.8	3.1	1,795,300	741,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	8,786,800	9,072,400	1.57	1.44	13,803,000	13,047,000
<u>P. E. Island -</u>						
Spring wheat	24,000	18,600	8.3	16.9	199,000	314,000
Oats	154,800	153,300	35.3	26.8	5,464,000	4,108,000
Barley	5,200	6,500	28.5	23.6	148,000	153,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	223,800	216,600	1.59	1.74	356,000	377,000
<u>NOVA SCOTIA -</u>						
Spring wheat	4,000	4,000	19.3	17.5	77,000	70,000
Oats	96,600	87,400	39.2	29.4	3,788,000	2,570,000
Barley	8,900	9,600	30.2	23.2	269,000	223,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	396,700	401,000	1.85	1.83	734,000	734,000
<u>NEW BRUNSWICK -</u>						
Spring wheat	16,400	13,000	19.0	17.2	311,000	224,000
Oats	219,900	210,400	32.8	28.0	7,218,000	5,891,000
Barley	13,300	13,400	27.4	24.3	365,000	326,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	574,700	570,500	1.55	1.26	891,000	719,000
<u>QUEBEC -</u>						
Spring wheat	56,300	57,000	16.5	16.8	931,000	958,000
Oats	1,690,200	1,690,500	27.9	24.3	47,182,000	41,079,000
Barley	153,900	157,000	26.4	23.3	4,060,000	3,658,000
Spring rye	6,300	6,200	17.3	14.6	109,000	91,000
Flaxseed	2,900	2,800	9.8	8.6	28,300	24,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	3,575,800	3,504,300	1.60	1.20	5,559,000	4,205,000
<u>ONTARIO -</u>						
Fall wheat	509,300	718,800	24.5	26.7	12,478,000	19,192,000
Spring wheat	98,000	94,200	17.7	17.9	1,735,000	1,686,000
All wheat	607,300	813,000	23.4	25.7	14,213,000	20,878,000
Oats	2,345,900	2,263,900	28.5	33.0	66,858,000	74,709,000
Barley	519,200	555,900	27.0	29.6	14,018,000	16,455,000
Fall rye	53,200	74,700	16.8	17.6	894,000	1,315,000
Flaxseed	5,300	5,000	6.5	10.2	34,000	51,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	2,898,300	3,368,900	1.60	1.71	4,637,000	5,761,000
<u>MANITOBA -</u>						
Spring wheat	2,566,000	2,872,000	10.9	18.5	28,000,000	53,000,000
Oats	1,441,000	1,410,000	14.2	31.2	20,400,000	44,000,000
Barley	1,384,000	1,393,000	13.7	27.3	18,990,000	38,000,000
Fall rye	80,000	116,600	10.0	16.3	800,000	1,901,000
Spring rye	13,000	18,600	11.5	16.1	150,000	300,000
All rye	93,000	135,200	10.2	16.3	950,000	2,201,000
Flaxseed	88,000	38,300	4.7	10.4	415,000	400,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	365,000	339,500	1.58	1.52	578,000	516,000
<u>SASKATCHEWAN -</u>						
Spring wheat	14,596,000	13,893,000	8.0	2.5	117,000,000	35,000,000
Oats	4,610,000	4,380,000	14.2	6.4	65,462,000	28,032,000
Barley	1,299,000	1,174,000	12.8	5.5	16,627,000	6,457,000
Fall rye	243,500	429,000	4.0	1.5	974,000	644,000
Spring rye	83,100	89,000	6.2	3.5	515,000	312,000
All rye	326,600	518,000	4.6	1.8	1,489,000	956,000
Flaxseed	354,300	175,000	3.5	0.7	1,240,000	123,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	230,000	186,300	1.29	0.42	297,000	78,000



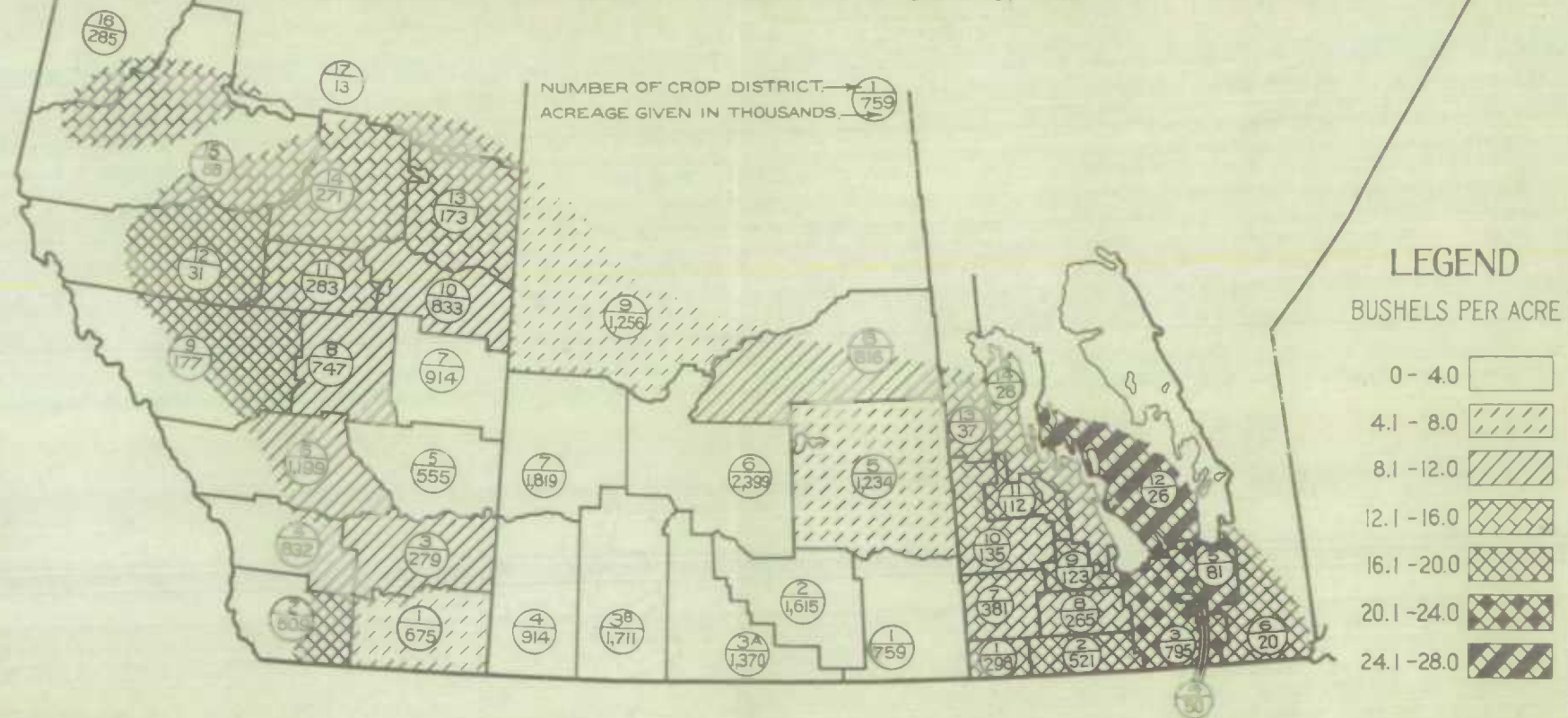
1. First Estimate of the Yield of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Flaxseed and Hay and Clover in Canada, 1937 as compared with 1936. -Concl'd.

Field Crops	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937
	acres	acres	bush. per acre	bush. per acre	bush.	bush.
<b>ALBERTA -</b>						
Spring wheat	7,360,000	7,834,000	9.1	9.7	67,000,000	76,000,000
Oats	2,454,000	2,789,000	20.4	27.2	50,000,000	76,000,000
Barley	1,036,000	995,300	16.4	22.1	17,000,000	22,000,000
Fall rye	80,600	80,000	4.6	9.1	374,000	728,000
Spring rye	71,300	75,000	5.4	8.7	388,000	650,000
Small rye	151,900	155,000	5.0	8.9	762,000	1,378,000
Flaxseed	17,000	20,000	4.4	7.0	75,000	140,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	367,000	341,300	1.16	1.04	424,000	355,000
<b>BRITISH COLUMBIA -</b>						
			bush.	bush.	bush.	bush.
Spring wheat	59,000	69,600	25.2	25.1	1,487,000	1,747,000
Oats	106,000	110,000	51.0	51.6	5,406,000	5,676,000
Barley	13,000	15,200	34.2	33.5	445,000	509,000
Spring rye	4,000	4,100	19.2	23.6	77,000	97,000
Flaxseed	250	200	13.5	12.5	3,000	3,000
			tons	tons	tons	tons
Hay and clover	155,500	144,000	2.10	2.10	327,000	302,000

II. Area and Yield of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye and Flaxseed in the Prairie Provinces, 1935-37.

Province and Crop	1935	1936	1937	1935	1936	1937
	acres	acres	acres	bush.	bush.	bush.
<b>PRAIRIE PROVINCES -</b>						
Wheat	23,293,000	24,522,000	24,599,000	264,096,000	212,000,000	164,000,000
Oats	9,478,000	8,505,000	8,579,000	244,854,000	135,862,000	148,032,000
Barley	3,187,000	3,719,000	3,562,500	62,625,000	52,617,000	66,457,000
Rye	649,300	571,500	808,200	8,379,000	3,201,000	4,535,000
Flaxseed	296,700	459,300	233,300	1,563,400	1,730,000	663,000
<b>MANITOBA -</b>						
Wheat	2,587,000	2,566,000	2,872,000	23,250,000	28,000,000	53,000,000
Oats	1,434,000	1,441,000	1,410,000	30,700,000	20,400,000	44,000,000
Barley	1,121,000	1,384,000	1,393,000	23,100,000	18,990,000	38,000,000
Rye	107,000	93,000	135,200	1,816,000	950,000	2,201,000
Flaxseed	17,300	88,000	38,300	158,400	415,000	400,000
<b>SASKATCHEWAN -</b>						
Wheat	13,206,000	14,596,000	13,893,000	142,198,000	117,000,000	35,000,000
Oats	4,942,000	4,610,000	4,380,000	131,951,000	65,462,000	28,032,000
Barley	1,146,000	1,299,000	1,174,000	23,149,000	16,627,000	6,457,000
Rye	374,200	326,600	518,000	4,967,000	1,489,000	956,000
Flaxseed	260,000	354,300	175,000	1,250,000	1,240,000	123,000
<b>ALBERTA -</b>						
Wheat	7,500,000	7,360,000	7,834,000	98,648,000	67,000,000	76,000,000
Oats	3,102,000	2,454,000	2,789,000	82,203,000	50,000,000	76,000,000
Barley	920,000	1,036,000	995,300	16,376,000	17,000,000	22,000,000
Rye	168,100	151,900	155,000	1,596,000	762,000	1,378,000
Flaxseed	19,400	17,000	20,000	155,000	75,000	140,000

AVERAGE  
YIELDS PER ACRE OF WHEAT IN THE  
PRAIRIE PROVINCES BY CROP DISTRICTS, 1937  
ACCORDING TO THE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF SEPT. 10, 1937





# AVERAGE YIELDS PER ACRE OF WHEAT IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES, 1936

ACCORDING TO THE THIRD ESTIMATE OF JAN. 21, 1937

ACREAGE IN THOUSANDS  
GIVEN IN EACH CROP DISTRICT

## LEGEND BUSHELS PER ACRE

0 - 4.0	
4.1 - 8.0	
8.1 - 12.0	
12.1 - 16.0	
16.1 - 20.0	
20.1 - 24.0	
24.1 - 28.0	



STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010525377

