

19 APR 1956

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, CANBERRA,  
AUSTRALIA.

STATISTICAL BULLETIN:  
**THE WHEAT INDUSTRY,**  
AUSTRALIA.

No. 90 APRIL, 1956

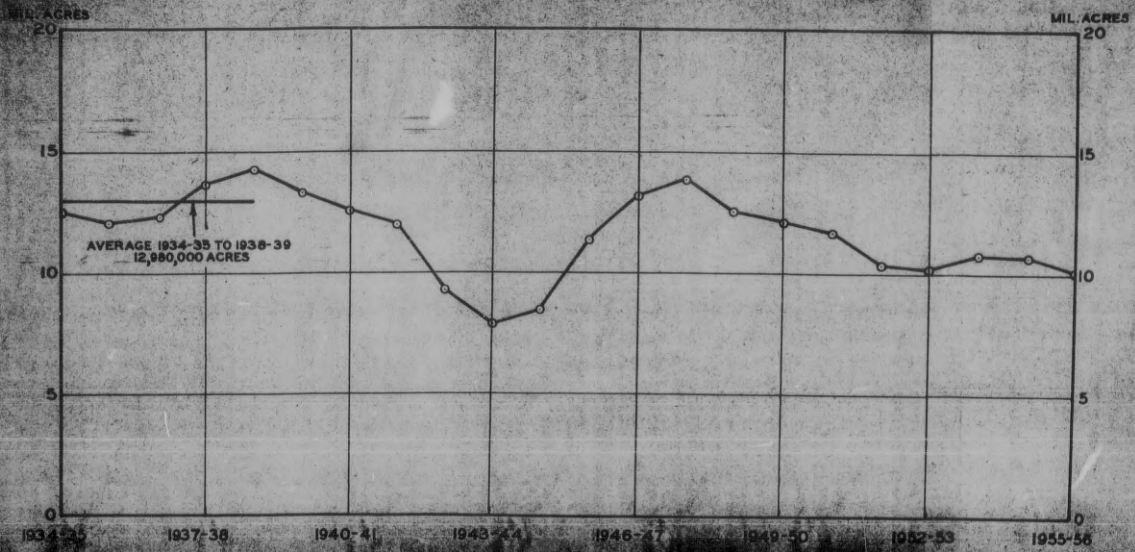


PREPARED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE TREASURER  
BY  
**S. R. CARVER,**

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

# WHEAT FOR GRAIN: AREA SOWN, AUSTRALIA

1934-35 TO 1955-56



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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STATISTICAL BULLETIN : THE WHEAT INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA

NO. 90 : APRIL, 1956

PREFACE

The previous issue of this Bulletin (No. 89) was released on 20th January, 1956. This is the nintieth issue in the series and subsequent numbers will appear as circumstances require. In general, this Bulletin is issued at least twice each season, namely (i) at an early stage during the harvest (December or early January) at which stage forecasts of the crop are available and (ii) after the harvest has been completed (March or April), when reliable estimates of the total crop can be made in the light of receivals by the Australian Wheat Board and sample surveys taken in some States.

In the compilation of this Bulletin, I have drawn heavily upon statistical and other data supplied by State Statisticians, the Australian Wheat Board and the Department of Primary Industry. To each of these authorities I tender my thanks for their valuable assistance and co-operation.

K. M. ARCHER  
ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

9TH APRIL 1956.

1. WHEAT FOR GRAIN : AREA,  
PRODUCTION AND YIELD PER ACRE.

The area sown to wheat for grain in Australia in the 1955-56 season is estimated at 10,093,000 acres from which an estimated total crop of 195.6 million bushels was harvested representing an average yield of 19.4 bushels per acre.

This current estimate of the 1955-56 wheat crop exceeds by 10,000 acres and 7.0 million bushels the forecast published in the previous issue of this Bulletin. The increase in the estimate of production was due to favourable harvesting conditions in most States, particularly Western Australia.

The area sown to wheat for grain in 1955-56 namely 10,093,000 acres was at approximately the same level as in the three previous years, but is about 27 per cent. less than the post war maximum of 13,880,000 acres sown in 1947-48. Compared with the 1945-55 season present estimates show that less wheat was sown for grain in 1955-56 in all mainland States.

The revised official estimate of production for 1955-56, namely 195.6 million bushels, is 27.0 million bushels (16.0 per cent.) more than in the previous year and 14.4 million bushels (8.0 per cent.) higher than average production for the five years ended 1954-55.

The estimated average yield per acre of 19.4 bushels in 1955-56 is 3.6 bushels more than that of the previous year and 2.5 bushels more than the average for the five years ended 1954-55.

Particulars of the estimates for each State are shown below:-

TABLE 1 : WHEAT FOR GRAIN : ESTIMATED AREA SOWN  
PRODUCTION AND YIELD PER ACRE 1955-56.

State	Estimated Area Sown		Estimated Production			
	Authority	Area ('000 acres)	Authority	Date	Production (mill. bus.)	Yield per acre sown (Bushel)
New South Wales	Gov. Stat'n	2,730	Gov. Stat'n	24.2.56	57.0	20.9
Victoria	Gov. Statist	2,186	Aus. Wheat Board	1.3.56	41.5	19.0
Queensland	Gov. Stat'n	630	Gov. Stat'n	28.2.56	15.0	23.8
South Australia	Gov. Statist	1,640	Gov. Statist	27.2.56	29.5	18.0
West. Australia	Gov. Stat'n	2,900	Gov. Stat'n	27.2.56	52.5	18.1
Tas. & A.C.T.	C'wealth. Stat'n	7	C'wealth Stat'n	2.3.56	0.1	14.3
AUSTRALIA	-	10,093	-	-	195.6	19.4

Details of the area, production and yield per acre are given in Table 2 following, for each of the five seasons ended 1954-55 together with estimates for the 1955-56 season.

TABLE 2 : WHEAT FOR GRAIN : AREA, PRODUCTION AND YIELD PER ACRE.

Season	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	AUST.
<u>AREA SOWN TO WHEAT FOR GRAIN ('000 Acres)</u>								
1950-51	3,329	2,735	559	1,848	3,185	5	2	11,663
1951-52	2,753	2,464	455	1,613	3,094	4	1	10,384
1952-53	2,702	2,232	724	1,544	2,999	7	1	10,209
1953-54	3,357	2,389	580	1,528	2,885	10	2	10,751
1954-55	2,919	2,390	688	1,689	2,979	7	1	10,673
1955-56 (a)	2,730	2,186	630	1,640	2,900	6	1	10,093

(a) Estimated.

TABLE 2 : WHEAT FOR GRAIN (continued)

Season	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	AUST.
PRODUCTION OF WHEAT '000 bushels)								
1950-51 ..	43,273	51,236	8,785	30,936	49,900	95	19	184,244
1951-52 ..	39,689	45,995	6,632	27,301	40,000	94	14	159,725
1952-53 ..	56,670	50,335	18,662	33,919	35,458	156	8	195,208
1953-54 ..	63,681	53,698	10,180	30,409	39,700	263	29	197,960
1954-55 ..	37,718	48,484	16,478	31,463	34,300	159	5	168,607
1955-56 (a) ..	57,000	41,500	15,000	29,500	52,500	85	15	195,600
YIELD PER ACRE (Bushels)								
1950-51 ..	13.0	18.7	15.7	16.7	15.7	17.8	10.1	15.8
1951-52 ..	14.4	18.7	14.6	16.9	12.9	26.1	14.0	15.4
1952-53 ..	21.0	22.6	25.8	22.0	11.8	23.4	12.8	19.1
1953-54 ..	19.0	22.6	17.6	19.7	13.8	27.2	18.5	18.4
1954-55 ..	12.9	20.3	24.0	18.6	11.5	21.7	6.5	15.8
1955-56 (a) ..	20.9	19.0	23.8	18.0	18.1	14.2	15.0	19.4

(a) Estimated.

## 2. FARMERS' INTENTIONS TO SOW WHEAT AND ACTUAL SOWINGS

At the annual census of rural production collected during April and May, farmers in certain of the wheat-growing States are asked to indicate their intentions to sow wheat for all purposes (grain, hay and green feed) subject to the reservation "Weather and other conditions permitting". In the following table a comparison is given for the years indicated, between farmers' intentions to sow and areas actually sown.

TABLE 3 : WHEAT, ALL PURPOSES : AREA SOWN OR INTENDED TO BE SOWN  
('000 Acres)

Particulars	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	AUST.
SEASON 1953-54								
Area sown -								
For Grain ..	3,357	2,389	580	1,528	2,885	10	2	10,751
For Hay ..	146	40	6	62	38	3	-	295
For Greenfeed ..	45	-	72	13	15	2	-	147
All Purposes	3,548	2,429	658	1,603	2,938	15	2	11,193
Area intended to be sown (all Purposes)(a)	3,569	(b)	(b)	1,566	2,895	11	2	(b)
SEASON 1954-55								
Area sown -								
For Grain ..	2,919	2,390	688	1,689	2,979	7	1	10,673
For Hay ..	185	40	6	68	99	3	-	401
For Greenfeed ..	75	-	52	9	22	2	-	160
All Purposes	3,179	2,430	746	1,766	3,100	12	1	11,234
Area intended to be sown (all Purposes)(a)	3,283	(b)	(b)	1,628	3,146	9	1	(b)

(a) According to farmers' returns at or about time of sowing.  
(b) Not collected.

TABLE 3 : WHEAT, ALL PURPOSES : AREA SOWN OR INTENDED TO BE SOWN (CONT'D.)  
('000 Acres)

Particulars	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	A.C.T.	AUST.
SEASON 1955-56								
Area Sown (c) -								
For Grain ..	2,730	2,186	630	1,640	2,900	6	1	10,093
For Hay ..	79	36	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
For Greenfeed ..	48	-	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
All Purposes	2,857	2,222	680	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
Area intended to be sown (all Purposes)(a)	2,977	(b)	(b)	1,767	3,016	8	1	(b)

(a) According to farmers' returns at or about time of sowing. (b) Not collected.  
(c) Estimated. (d) Not yet available.

### 3. VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN

The principal varieties of wheat sown in 1954 in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia and the proportion which each bears to the total area sown were included in the previous issue of this Bulletin, (No. 89).

### 4. WHEAT FARMS : NUMBER GROWING 20 ACRES OR MORE OF WHEAT FOR GRAIN

Particulars of the number of farms growing 20 acres or more of wheat for grain during the years 1950-51 to 1954-55 are set out in the following table.

TABLE 4 : NUMBER OF FARMS GROWING 20 ACRES OR MORE OF WHEAT FOR GRAIN

State	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
New South Wales ..	14,279	13,147	13,167	14,865	13,784
Victoria ..	11,203	10,076	10,049	10,900	10,547
Queensland ..	3,862	3,005	4,970	3,918	4,570
South Australia ..	8,416	8,345	8,432	8,473	8,892
Western Australia ..	7,814	7,766	7,751	7,786	7,979
Tasmania ..	79	51	95	149	114
Australian Capital Territory	18	13	9	17	12
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>45,671</b>	<b>42,403</b>	<b>44,473</b>	<b>46,108</b>	<b>45,898</b>

### 5. WHEAT PRICES : AUSTRALIA

#### (i) Price of Wheat for Home Consumption - Australia

(a) For Human Consumption. Details of the prices charged by the Wheat Board from 19th January, 1948 up to the present time for all wheat for human consumption (as flour or in other forms) in Australia are set out in the following table together with particulars of the dates on which they became operative.

TABLE 5 : PRICE OF WHEAT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION - AUSTRALIA

Date from which price became effective	Price Charged by Wheat Board (bulk basis)
19th January, 1948	s. d.
1st December, 1948	6. 3.
" " 1949	6. 8.
8th " 1950	(a) 6. 8.
1st " 1951	7. 10.
" " 1952	10. 0.
" " 1953	11. 11.
" " 1955	(b) 14. 1½
	(b) 13. 5½

- (a) During the 1949-50 season the Commonwealth Government paid a subsidy of 5d. per bushel to provide growers with the agreed return of 7s. 1d. per bushel.  
(b) Includes, 1½d. used to meet freight charges incurred on wheat shipped to Tasmania.

(b) For Stock Feed. The price charged by the Wheat Board for wheat sold as stock feed was 4s. 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per bushel (bulk basis) from early in 1947 to 19th January, 1948. On that date it was increased to 6s. 3d. per bushel, and to the close of the 1950-51 season was fixed at the same levels as the price of wheat for human consumption (see (a) above).

All States, except Western Australia, by uniform legislation, fixed the price of stock-feed wheat for the 1951-52 season at 12s. 0d. per bushel. In addition, the Commonwealth Government, under the terms of the Wheat Bounty Act of 1951, agreed to pay a subsidy on wheat used by the dairy, pig and poultry industries during the 1951-52 and 1952-53 wheat seasons. The subsidy was limited to 26 million bushels of wheat in respect of each season. The purpose of the subsidy was to bring the wheat-growers' return from the sale of such wheat to 16s. 1d. per bushel. For the 1951-52 season the rate of subsidy was 4s. 1d. per bushel - i.e. the difference between 16s. 1d. and 12s. 0d. In the case of Western Australia the price of wheat for stock feed was fixed at 10s. 0d. per bushel, and consequently the growers' return from the sale of stock feed wheat in that State was 14s. 1d. per bushel.

For the 1952-53 season the rate of subsidy was 2s. 2d. per bushel, equal to the difference between 16s. 1d. and 13s. 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d., the price ruling in all States from 1st December, 1952 for stock feed wheat for use by the dairying, pig and poultry industries.

The price for the 1953-54 and 1954-55 seasons was fixed at 14s. 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per bushel bulk basis and for the 1955-56 season at 13s. 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d., the same as the price for human consumption in those seasons. These prices include 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per bushel used to meet freight charges incurred on wheat shipped to Tasmania.

(i) Export Wheat Prices - Australia. Details of export wheat prices by months for the years ended July, 1952 to 1955 and the months of August, 1955 to January, 1956 are shown in Table 6 following. The table has been arranged to conform with the selling year applicable to sales under International Wheat Agreements operating from August, 1949. The prices shown are the basic export selling prices of the Australian Wheat Board.

For the period up to July, 1953 the table shows separately the Australian Wheat Board's basic export selling prices applicable to (i) wheat sold within the terms of the International Wheat Agreement operating during that period (shown as I.W.A. Quota wheat) and (ii) wheat sold on the free market outside the terms of the Agreement (shown as "Free wheat"). Under the terms of the 1949-53 I.W.A., Australia undertook to sell, if required, 80.8 (subsequently increased to 88.7 but reduced to 72.0 in 1951-52 because of the small harvest) million bushels of wheat (including flour in terms of wheat) per year (August to July) to contracting importing countries. (See Section 14 (ii) following). For the whole of the period of this Agreement, the basic export price for I.W.A. wheat was quoted at the relevant maximum prices specified under the Agreement, namely 16s. 1d. per bushel (bulk) from 19th September, 1949, but increased to 16s. 6d. per bushel from December, 1951 by the addition of 5d. per bushel "carrying charge". "Free" wheat refers to wheat sold after I.W.A. commitments had been met and varied considerably in quantity from year to year. The "free" wheat prices were quoted at levels somewhat above the I.W.A. maximum. Both I.W.A. and "free" wheat were sold at times below the prices quoted while some "free" wheat was sold above the basic prices, depending on conditions of sale. Some of the wheat was sold at prices fixed under contract for delivery over lengthy periods.

From August, 1953, a new International Wheat Agreement has operated, the maximum price for Australian f.a.o. wheat being approximately 18s. 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per bushel (bulk) f.o.b. Australia. Australia's quota was originally 48 million bushels but this was subsequently reduced to 44.4 million bushels because of the withdrawal of some countries previously participating in the agreement. Since the introduction of the new Agreement, all Australian export wheat has been sold at prices below the new I.W.A. maximum prices and consequently there has been no differential between prices for I.W.A. quota and "free" wheat.

Owing to the fact that in recent years varying proportions of exportable wheat have been sold forward on contracts for delivery some months ahead and because these were made on differential bases under the 1949-53 International Wheat Agreement, the prices recorded in the table below do not necessarily represent the prices actually received for wheat currently being shipped.

**TABLE 6 : EXPORT WHEAT PRICES : AUSTRALIA**  
(s.d. per bushel)

Month	1951-52 (a)		1952-53 (a)		1953-54 (a) (c)	1954-55 (a) (c)	1955-56 (a) (c)
	I.W.A. Quota Wheat	"Free" Wheat	I.W.A. Quota Wheat (b)	"Free" Wheat			
August	16.1	19.0	16.6	21.6	18.3	14.7	14.6
September	16.1	19.0	16.6	21.6	18.2	14.6	13.11½
October	16.1	19.9	16.6	21.6	17.8	14.6	13.8
November	16.1	20.1	16.6	21.6	17.0	14.6	13.4
December	16.6(b)	21.0	16.6	21.6	16.10½	14.6	13.4
January	16.6(b)	21.2	16.6	21.6	16.9	14.6	13.4
February	16.6(b)	21.6	16.6	21.6	16.6	14.6	13.2
March	16.6(b)	21.6	16.6	21.6	16.1	14.6	12.9
April	16.6(b)	21.6	16.6	21.0	15.9	14.6	
May	16.6(b)	21.6	16.6	21.0	15.9	14.6	
June	16.6(b)	21.6	16.6	20.6	15.2	14.6	
July	16.6(b)	21.6	16.6	19.7	15.0	14.6	
Average (d)	16.4	20.9	16.6	21.2	16.7	14.6	

(a) Australian Wheat Board basic selling price for f.a.q. bulk wheat, f.o.b. basis.  
 (b) Includes 5d. per bushel "carrying charge". (c) For some destinations where other exporting countries have a geographical freight advantage the selling price is below the basic price. From August, 1953 the basic prices shown have applied to both I.W.A. quota and "free" wheat. (d) Simple average of twelve monthly prices, no attempt having been made to weight them by the quantities exported.

**6. POOL ADVANCES TO FARMERS ON WHEAT ACQUIRED**

Details of the advances paid in respect of wheat acquired from the harvest of 1953-54 (No. 17 Pool), 1954-55 (Nos. 18 and 18A Pools) and 1955-56 (No. 19 Pool), are shown in the following table.

**TABLE 7 : WHEAT POOL ADVANCES : AUSTRALIA AS AT 23RD MARCH, 1956.**

Advance	1953-54 Harvest No. 17 Pool			1954-55 Harvest No. 18 Pool		
	Date (a)	Bulk s. d. per bus. (b)(c)10.0	Bagged s. d. per bus. (b)(c)10.4	Date (a)	Bulk s. d. per bus. (b)(c)10.4	Bagged s. d. per bus. (b)(c)10.8
First	14. 2.53			23.11.54		
Second	13. 9.55	1.0	1.2			
Third	15.11.55	1.0	1.0			
Total Advances:		(c)12.0	(c)12.6		(c)10.4	(c)10.8
Net Quantity Acquired		'000 bushels			'000 bushels	
Bulk		138,989			101,170	
Bagged		44,209			46,327	
Total:		183,198			147,497	
Advance	1954-55 Harvest No. 18A Pool (d)			1955-56 Harvest No. 19 Pool		
	Date (a)	Bulk s. d. per bus. (b)9.4	Bagged s. d. per bus. (b)9.8	Date (a)	Bulk s. d. per bus. (b)(c)9.6	Bagged s. d. per bus. (b)(c)9.10
First	23.11.54			16.11.55		
	21. 9.55	3	3			
	29.11.55	1.2	1.2			
Total Advances:		9/8.2	10/0.2		9.6	9.10
Net Quantity Acquired		'000 bushels			'000 bushels	
Bulk		4,300			(e) 175,000	
Bagged		90			(e) 175,000	
Total:		4,390				

(a) Date of commencement of payments in respect of each advance. (b) Less rail freight to terminals. (c) Western Australian growers receive 2d. per bushel above these rates in recognition of the freight advantage which that State enjoys over other States owing to its proximity to the main overseas markets. (d) The Wheat Board determined that rain-damaged wheat harvested in North-Eastern Victoria should be placed in a separate pool and marketed separately from f.a.q. wheat in No. 18 Pool. (e) Subject to revision.

7. OVERSEA SHIPPING FREIGHT RATES : AUSTRALIA

The next table gives particulars of the oversea freight rates for wheat shipped to the United Kingdom and Continental ports for the quarters in each of the years 1951 to 1955. These rates are expressed in sterling and are subject to an adjustment of 25½ per cent. on account of exchange when freight is prepaid in Australia.

**TABLE 8 : OVERSEA SHIPPING FREIGHT RATES PER TON WEIGHT ON WHEAT -  
AUSTRALIA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENTAL PORTS**

(Supplied by the Oversea Shipping Representatives Association)

(s.d. stg. per long ton)

Quarter ended	1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	Bulk	Bagged	Bulk	Bagged	Bulk	Bagged	Bulk	Bagged	Bulk	Bagged
31st March	160-0	167-6	115-0	122-6	110-0	122-6	95-0	107-6	125-0	125-0
30th June	122-6	130-0	85-0	92-6	105-0	117-6	95-0	107-6	125-0	125-0
30th Sept.,	122-6	130-0	107-6	115-0	105-0	117-6	105-0	117-6	155-0	155-0
31st Dec.,	125-0	132-6	102-6	110-0	82-6	95-0	120-0	120-0	175-0	175-0

In practice the greater portion of the wheat exported from Australia is shipped on specially chartered vessels under the Austral Charter Party terms and conditions. The relevant charter rates for bulk wheat for shipment to the United Kingdom and India as at various dates to 12th March, 1956 were as follows:

**TABLE 9 : CHARTER RATES (a) ON BULK WHEAT FOR SHIPMENT TO UNITED KINGDOM AND INDIA**

(Source : Australian Wheat Board)

(s.d. stg. per long ton)

Date	United Kingdom	India
30. 7.54	67.6	52.6
25. 8.54	(b)	65.0
17.12.54	(b)	90.0
14. 1.55	125.0	95.0
7. 2.55	125.0	(b)
25. 2.55	(b)	95.0
28. 3.55	(b)	80.0
5. 4.55	(b)	75.0
23. 4.55	95.0	(b)
3. 5.55	(b)	70.0
7. 5.55	96.3	(b)
24. 5.55	125.0	(b)
4. 7.55	127.6	(b)
15. 7.55	130.0	(b)
7.10.55	150.0	(b)
21.10.55	165.0	(b)
2.11.55	145.0	(b)
21.11.55	150.0	(b)
2.12.55	160.0	(b)
9. 1.56	(b)	(b)
13. 1.56	175.0	137.6
21. 1.56	177.6	(b)
15. 2.56	(b)	(b)
22. 2.56	167.6	135.0
10. 3.56	180.0	(b)
12. 3.56	(b)	(b)
		137.9

(a) Eastern state basis, shipments from Western Australia customarily 10/- less.  
(b) Not quoted.

## 8. PRODUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF WHEAT, AUSTRALIA

Details of the production and disposal of wheat in each of the cereal years ended 30th November, 1951 to 1956 together with estimates for the year ended 30th November, 1956 are given in the following table.

TABLE 10 : PRODUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF WHEAT : AUSTRALIA  
(Million Bushels)

Particulars	Year ended 30th November -					
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 (a)	1956 (b)
Opening Stocks (incl. Flour as Wheat)	43.8	19.4	16.9	37.7	94.9	95.0
Production	184.2	159.7	195.2	198.0	168.6	196.0
Total available supplies	228.0	179.1	212.1	235.7	263.5	291.0
Exports - Wheat	85.9	45.6	60.7	38.5	64.8	(c)
Flour as Wheat	41.7	36.1	41.4	27.9	35.0	(c)
Local Consumption						
Flour as Wheat	37.6	39.0	39.1	34.4	38.0	38.0
Stock Feed Wheat Sales	27.4	23.9	18.4	17.6	16.5	16.0
Seed	10.5	10.3	10.8	10.8	10.9	} 16.0
Retained on Farm	3.7	3.4	4.6	4.0	5.0	
Breakfast Foods and other uses - Exports	2.0	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0
Local Consumption	2.3	2.6	2.2	1.6	2.0	2.0
Closing Stocks (incl. Flour as Wheat)	19.4	16.9	37.7	94.9	95.0	(c)
Total Disposals	230.5	179.0	215.7	230.5	268.2	291.0
Excess (+) or Deficiency (-) of Disposals in respect of total available supplies (d)	(+) 2.5	(-) 0.1	(+) 3.6	(-) 5.2	(+) 4.7	-

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Estimate. (c) Not yet available. (d) Includes allowance for unrecorded movements in stocks, gain or loss in outturn, etc..

## 9. STOCKS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR HELD

Details of the movement in recorded stocks of wheat and flour as wheat held in Australia at Mills, Sidings, Ports and Depots as at 30th November, for each State for the years 1951 to 1955, are shown in the following table.

TABLE 11 : STOCKS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR AS WHEAT  
('000 Bushels)

30th November -	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	AUST.
1951	3,595	6,251	565	5,557	3,249	163	19,380
1952	5,881	4,432	5	4,254	2,108	187	16,867
1953	9,888	11,550	2,237	7,576	6,307	188	37,746
1954 - Wheat	25,392	25,762	2,241	14,830	22,747	100	91,072
Flour (tons)	23,009	25,373	5,307	12,600	16,249	546	83,084
Total as Wheat	26,457	26,937	2,487	15,413	23,499	125	94,918
1955 - Wheat	16,557	27,165	3,788	18,100	25,836	211	91,657
Flour (tons)	19,998	27,428	5,633	8,000	9,539	967	71,565
Total as Wheat	17,483	28,434	4,048	18,471	26,278	256	94,970

## 10. PRODUCTION OF FLOUR

The following table shows details of the production of flour in each State for the years 1950-51 to 1954-55, and for the six month periods July - December, 1954 and 1955.

TABLE 12 : PRODUCTION OF FLOUR (FROM WHEAT) (a)  
(Tons of 2,000 lb.)

Period	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	TOTAL
1950-51	694,036	448,881	116,503	189,962	218,841	27,336	1,695,559
1951-52	578,686	559,224	124,703	206,856	223,936	27,745	1,721,150
1952-53	543,693	592,465	132,839	201,685	227,269	28,349	1,726,300
1953-54	603,575	473,842	138,524	164,907	197,654	30,556	1,609,058
1954-55 (b)	570,894	452,535	156,667	141,516	187,602	29,247	1,538,461
July - December							
1954 (b)	262,495	210,540	78,619	69,243	93,703	14,477	729,077
1955 (b)	272,689	227,845	85,846	78,775	84,399	13,545	763,099

(a) White flour, sharps and wheatmeal for baking; excludes sharps prior to 1952-53.

(b) Flour mills only; subject to revision.

Particulars of the operations of flour mills and other grain mills in each State during 1953-54, together with available details for Australia for the years 1950-51 to 1954-55 were included in the previous issue of this Bulletin (No. 89).

## 11. EXPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR

The following table furnishes details of the quantity of wheat and flour exported overseas by States for the years ended June, 1952 to 1955 and for the six month periods July - December, 1954 and 1955.

TABLE 13 : EXPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR

Period	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	TOTAL
<u>WHEAT</u> ( '000 bushels)							
1950-51	13,171	26,734	1,179	15,197	30,501	-	86,782
1951-52	3,700	15,883	-	16,524	26,814	-	62,921
1952-53	7,623	11,955	3,654	12,968	23,308	-	59,508
1953-54	7,904	7,161	1,274	12,909	6,791	-	36,039
1954-55	7,259	21,065	1,508	13,974	19,327	-	63,133
July - December							
1954	4,540	10,767	62	6,667	7,876	-	29,912
1955	2,845	7,731	2,397	8,770	5,313	-	27,056

## FLOUR (a)

(Tons of 2,000 lb.)

1950-51	363,180	233,636	4,195	129,237	159,710	-	889,958
1951-52	208,954	310,630	2,040	126,016	163,707	18	811,365
1952-53	201,338	357,088	3,161	135,106	175,620	-	872,313
1953-54	276,522	259,030	5,978	89,890	154,100	-	785,520
1954-55	244,712	221,405	18,321	68,650	130,432	-	683,520
July - December							
1954	82,398	97,928	6,471	31,001	56,530	-	274,328
1955	112,375	112,291	15,877	39,918	56,884	-	337,345

(a) White flour, sharps and wheatmeal for baking; excludes sharps prior to 1953-54.

Details of the total production of flour in each State and the proportion exported overseas during the financial years 1951-52 to 1954-55, together with details of the quantity and value of wheat and flour exports for the same years according to the countries of consignment were shown in the previous issue of this Bulletin (No. 89).

## 12. IMPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

During the 1955, total imports of wheat and flour into the United Kingdom, expressed in terms of wheat, amounted to 186.1 million bushels, which represented an increase of 38.1 million bushels (25.7 per cent.) from the figure recorded in the previous year.

Details of imports of wheat, flour, and the total in terms of wheat, into the United Kingdom according to country of origin, for the years 1951 to 1955 are shown in Tables 14 (i) and (ii) following.

TABLE 14 (i) : WHEAT IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

(Source : Accounts relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom)  
(Bushels)

Country of Origin	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Australia	21,165,280	16,672,848	17,361,286	11,480,192	18,743,010
Canada	83,975,069	103,339,341	104,153,049	73,216,179	84,317,720
Other Commonwealth Countries and Irish Republic	17	32	3,970	1,111	1,673
<u>Total from Commonwealth Countries:</u>	105,140,366	120,012,221	121,518,305	84,697,482	103,062,403
France	1,198,594	794,771	616,808	12,411,063	24,065,014
U.S. of America	39,678,819	16,933,114	16,626,738	13,949,354	17,694,432
Soviet Union	-	7,315,353	75,639	2,181,150	1,325,395
Other Foreign Countries	5,284,130	679,978	11,255,821	16,049,193	22,016,478
<u>Total from Foreign Countries:</u>	46,161,543	25,723,216	28,575,006	44,590,760	65,101,319
<u>Total:</u>	151,301,909	145,735,437	150,093,311	129,288,242	168,163,722

TABLE 14 (ii) : WHEATEN FLOUR IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

(Source : Accounts relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom)

Country of Origin	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	short tons	short tons	short tons	short tons	short tons
Australia	102,462	102,083	133,957	26,434	96,180
Canada	472,041	457,278	394,742	362,460	253,966
Other British Countries	47	30	45	47	278
<u>Total from British Countries:</u>	574,550	559,391	528,745	388,941	350,424
Foreign Countries	1,383	2	9,108	15,015	36,089
<u>Total :</u>	575,933	559,393	537,853	40,395	386,513
Total in terms of wheat (a)	bushels 26,665,698	bushels 25,899,896	bushels 24,902,594	bushels 18,703,163	bushels 17,895,552
<u>Grand Total</u>					
Imports of Wheat and Flour in terms of wheat (a)	177,967,607	171,635,333	174,995,905	147,991,405	186,059,274

(a) One ton of flour taken as equivalent to 46.3 bushels of wheat.

NOTE : Short ton = 2,000 lbs.

13. MARKETING OF WHEAT IN AUSTRALIA

(i) Wheat Industry Stabilization Board: Details of the war-time Wheat Industry Stabilization Plan administered by the Wheat Industry Stabilization Board were given in Vol. 7, No. 10, and previous issues of this Bulletin. This has since been superseded by the Stabilization Plans, referred to in (ii) and (iii) following.

(ii) Wheat Stabilization Plan 1947-48 to 1952-53: Full details of the first post-war Wheat Stabilization Plan, which was established under joint Commonwealth and State legislation and which expired after the marketing of the 1952-53 crop, were given in Bulletin No. 84 and previous issues.

(iii) Wheat Stabilization Plan 1953-54 to 1957-58: After protracted negotiations between the Commonwealth and State Governments agreement was reached at a conference held in July, 1954 on the terms of a new five-year Stabilization Plan. The proposed plan was submitted to polls of growers in all the mainland States and was overwhelmingly approved, 46,584 votes being recorded for the Plan and 2,934 against. Complementary legislation was subsequently passed by Commonwealth and State Parliaments, thus making the plan effective. The main provisions of the Stabilization Plan are as follows:-

(a) The Plan is to apply to the crops of the 1953-54 to 1957-58 seasons inclusive.

(b) The Australian Wheat Board, during the period of the Plan, is to be the sole authority for the marketing of wheat within Australia and wheat and flour for export.

(c) The Commonwealth Government is to guarantee to growers a return equal to the ascertained cost of production in respect of up to 100 million bushels of wheat exported from each of the five seasons' crops.

(d) A Stabilization Fund is to be established by means of an export tax of up to 1s. 6d. per bushel of wheat from each season's crop exported, to be levied when export realizations exceed the cost of production.

(e) The maximum amount of the Fund is to be £20m., repayments from the Fund to be made to the oldest contributing Pool on the recommendations of the Australian Wheat Board when moneys in the Fund exceed this figure.

(f) When export realizations fall below the cost of production, returns are to be raised in respect of up to 100 million bushels from each crop to that level firstly by drawing on the Stabilization Fund and secondly when that source is exhausted, by the Commonwealth Government.

(g) The home consumption price for each year of the plan is to be fixed at 14s. per bushel bulk f.o.r. ports or the ruling I.W.A. export price at the beginning of the year if this is less than 14s. The home consumption price will, however, not be less than the cost of production determined for each season. As the ruling I.W.A. price at the beginning of the 1955-56 season was 13s. 4d. and the cost of production for the 1955-56 season was calculated at 13s. 1d. per bushel the home consumption price for that season is fixed at 13s. 4d. per bushel. If Australia should not be a party to an International Wheat Agreement during any part of this period the current price for export sales by the Australian Wheat Board at the commencement of each season is to be taken in determining the home consumption price instead of the ruling International Wheat Agreement export price.

(h) A premium of 3d. per bushel on wheat grown in Western Australia and exported from that State will be paid out of export realizations in recognition of the natural freight advantage applying to Western Australia owing to the proximity of the State to the principal overseas markets for wheat.

(i) Provision has been made for a loading of 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per bushel on all wheat sold for consumption in Australia to cover the cost of transporting wheat from the mainland to Tasmania. This extra amount will be kept in a separate fund and will not affect the pool return to growers in any way.

(iv) **F.A.Q. Standard of Wheat.** Details of the F.A.Q. weights of a bushel of wheat in each of the four main wheat producing States for the seasons 1950-51 to 1955-56 are given in the following table. These data are calculated on the basis of the Schopper 1 litre scale chondrometer.

**TABLE 15 : F.A.Q. STANDARD WEIGHT OF A BUSHEL OF WHEAT IN THE MAIN WHEAT-PRODUCING STATES OF AUSTRALIA**  
(lb.)

Season	New South Wales	Victoria	South Australia	Western Australia
1950-51	61½	62½	64½	64½
1951-52	63	64	63	62½
1952-53	64	64½	63½	64½
1953-54	64	64½	63½	64½
1954-55	61½	62½	64½	63½
1955-56	62	63½	64½	64

#### 14. WORLD WHEAT STATISTICS

(1) **General:** Details of the production, domestic utilization, and exportable surpluses of the four chief wheat-exporting countries, namely, the United States of America, Canada, Argentina and Australia, compiled from statistics published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and from other official sources are given in the following table for the years 1950-51 to 1955-56.

**TABLE 20 : WHEAT SUPPLIES AND DISPOSITION IN FOUR CHIEF EXPORTING COUNTRIES**  
(Million Bushels)

Year	Supplies			Domestic Use (incl. Food, Seed, Feed, etc.)	Surplus over Domestic Utilization	Net Exports	Year end Stocks
	Initial Year	Crops	Total				
<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (JULY TO JUNE)</b>							
1950-51	427	1,027	1,454	705	749	353	396
1951-52	396	981	1,377	678	699	443	256
1952-53	256	1,291	1,547	688	859	297	562
1953-54 (a)	562	1,170	1,732	619	1,113	211	902
1954-55 (a)	902	985	1,887	596	1,291	270	1,021
1955-56 (b)	1,021	938	1,959	625	1,334	(c)	(c)
<b>CANADA (AUGUST TO JULY)</b>							
1950-51	112	462	574	144	430	241	189
1951-52	189	553	742	169	573	356	217
1952-53	217	702	919	150	769	386	383
1953-54	383	614	997	141	856	254	602
1954-55 (a)	602	309	911	165	746	252	494
1955-56 (b)	494	494	988	160	828	(c)	(c)
<b>ARGENTINA (DECEMBER TO NOVEMBER)</b>							
1950-51	7	213	220	107	113	95	18
1951-52	18	76	94	96	(d)(- )2	(- )4	2
1952-53	2	280	282	142	140	67	73
1953-54 (a)	73	228	301	129	172	112	60
1954-55 (b)	60	283	343	132	211	133	78
<b>AUSTRALIA (DECEMBER TO NOVEMBER)</b>							
1950-51	44	184	228	79	149	130	19
1951-52	19	160	179	79	100	83	17
1952-53	17	195	212	71	141	103	38
1953-54	38	198	236	74	162	67	95
1954-55 (a)	95	169	264	68	196	101	95
1955-56 (b)	95	196	291	72	219	(c)	(c)

(a) Subject to revision.

(b) Estimated.

(c) Not yet available.

(d) Imports amounted to 8 million bushels.

Table 17 below sets out details of the estimated world production of wheat by regions for 1951 to 1955 together with the percentage increase or decrease of production in each region in 1955 as compared with 1954.

TABLE 17 : WHEAT, ESTIMATED WORLD PRODUCTION BY REGIONS  
(Source : "Foreign Crops and Markets" published by U.S. Office of Foreign  
Agricultural Relations)

Region	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955(a)	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) 1955 on 1954
	Million Bushels	Million Bushels	Million Bushels	Million Bushels	Million Bushels	
North America	1,550	1,999	1,809	1,300	1,450	(+) 11.5
Europe	1,578	1,640	1,725	1,720	1,740	(+) 1.2
Soviet Union	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Asia	1,610	1,600	1,790	1,790	1,780	(-) 0.6
Africa	159	174	195	220	185	(-) 15.9
South America	155	370	330	390	355	(-) 9.0
Oceania	164	200	203	171	205	(+) 19.9
TOTAL:	(c)6,470	(c)7,280	(c)7,380	(c)6,930	(c)7,315	(+) 5.6

(a) Preliminary estimates. (b) Not available. (c) Includes allowance for Soviet Union.

(ii) International Wheat Agreement:

Full details of the 1949-53 International Wheat Agreement were given in Bulletin No. 84 and previous issues of this Bulletin. Details of quotas for the principal exporting and importing countries participating in that Agreement together with transactions recorded under the Agreement for years up to 1953-54 have been shown in previous issues of this Bulletin.

A new International Wheat Agreement came into force on 1st August, 1953, covering a period of three years from 1st August, 1953 to 31st July, 1956. The 1953 Agreement is identical in form with the 1949 Agreement, although amendments have been made to many of the more important provisions. A conference convened by the United Nations Organisation is at present considering the renewal of the International Wheat Agreement to replace the present agreement which expires on 31st July, 1956.

The maximum and minimum prices under the International Wheat Agreement are expressed in terms of "Canadian currency per bushel, at the parity of the Canadian dollar determined for the purposes of the International Monetary Fund as at 1st March, 1949, for No. 1 Manitoba Northern wheat in bulk in store Fort William - Port Arthur". Expressed in terms of Australian currency the maximum price for f.a.q. Australian wheat f.o.b. is approximately 18s. 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per bushel. The direct currency conversion of the minimum price is 13s. 10d. but this price will vary according to differences in freight rates between Canada/United Kingdom and Australia/United Kingdom.

The annual quota of 421.2 million bushels determined by the International Wheat Council was reduced to 389.2 million bushels in April, 1954 because Italy and Sweden had withdrawn from the Agreement. Australia's quota was reduced from 48 million bushels to 44.2 million bushels. Italy finally became a party to the Agreement in December, 1954 with a reduced quota. The annual adjusted quota is now 393.0 million bushels and Australia's share 44.8 million bushels.

Fuller details of the 1953 International Wheat Agreement were given in Bulletin No. 86 and previous issues.

Particulars of guaranteed sales and purchases and transactions actually recorded during 1954-55 were shown in the previous issue of this Bulletin (No. 89).

K. M. ARCHER  
ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

9TH APRIL 1956.

PRODUCTION  
MIL. BUSHEL

YIELD PER ACRE  
BUSHEL

