

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

SUMMARY OF THE WHEAT SITUATION : AUSTRALIA.

DECEMBER, 1950.

Volume 8.

No. 1.

Page No.

CONTENTS

1.	Wheat for Grain: Estimate of Area Sown and Forecast, Production and Average Yield, 1950-51.	2
2.	Wheat for Grain : Area, Production and Average Yield, 1934-35 to 1938-39 and 1946-47 to 1950-51.	3
3.	Farmers' intentions to Sow Wheat and Actual Sowings, 1948-49 to 1950-51.	4
4.	Varieties of Wheat Sown	5
5.	Wheat Farms: Number growing Wheat for Grain on 20 acres and Upwards.	6
6.	Wheat Prices : Australia - (i) Wheat for Home Consumption (ii) Wheat for Stock Feed (iii) Export Wheat (iv) Average value of Wheat Exported.	6 7 7 8
7.	Pool Advances to Farmers on Wheat acquired.	9
8.	Oversea Shipping Freight Rates : Australia.	10
9.	Production and Disposal of Wheat : Australia. Graph on Production and Disposals of Wheat : Australia	11
10.	Stocks of Wheat and Flour Held.	11
11.	Production of Flour, Bran and Pollard.	12
12.	Exports of Wheat and Flour.	13
13.	Imports of Wheat and Flour into the United Kingdom	16
14.	Marketing of Wheat in Australia - (i) Wheat Industry Stabilization Board. (ii) Post-War Wheat Stabilization Plan. (iii) F.A.Q. Standard of Wheat	17 17 17
15.	World Wheat Situation - (i) General (ii) International Wheat Agreement	18 19

NOTE : The last issue of this Summary (Volume 7, No. 12) was released on 9th February, 1950. This is the first of the series to be included under Volume 8 and subsequent numbers will appear from time to time as circumstances require.

1. WHEAT FOR GRAIN : ESTIMATE OF AREA SOWN AND FORECAST PRODUCTION AND AVERAGE YIELD, 1950-51.

It is estimated that the 1950-51 area sown to wheat for grain in Australia was approximately 11,624,000 acres. This is the smallest area sown since 1945-46, being 616,000 acres or 5.0 per cent. less than in 1949-50 and 1,356,000 acres, 10.4 per cent. below average sowings for the five years ended 1938-39.

Official forecasts, based on conditions existing about the end of November indicate that production for the 1950-51 season may be about 185.0 million bushels or 15.92 bushels per acre. However, the position in New South Wales (which is normally the main wheat producing State) and in Queensland is somewhat obscure, disease and weed growth due to heavy winter and spring rains having caused wide-spread damage to crops. The present forecast includes an estimated yield of 45 million bushels in New South Wales and 9 million bushels in Queensland of which some 30 million bushels is expected to be below F.A.Q. standard. Much will depend on conditions between now and the time of harvest in these two States. Fortunately, however, a near-record harvest of 55 million bushels is expected in Victoria while lountiful crops in the other two principal wheat States, South Australia and Western Australia seem to be assured.

If the forecast production of 185.0 million bushels is realized in 1950-51 this will be the fourth successive year of good wheat harvests in Australia. The 1950-51 forecast production is less by 35.1 million bushels or 15.9 per cent. than the record 1947-48 crop but 30.7 million bushels (19.9 per cent.) greater than average production for the five years ended 1938-39.

The forecast average yield for Australia of 15.92 bushels per acre in 1950-51 is 10.7 per cent. less than the record yield of 17.83 bushels per acre in 1949-50 but 33.9 per cent. higher than the average yield of 11.89 bushels per acre for the years 1934-35 to 1938-39.

Details of the estimated area sown to wheat for grain and forecast production and average yield for each State and for Australia for the year 1950-51 are shown in the table following, together with the sources of these estimates.

TABLE 1 : WHEAT FOR GRAIN : ESTIMATED AREA SOWN AND FORECAST, PRODUCTION AND AVERAGE YIELD, 1950-51.

State	Estimated Area Sown		Forecast Production			
	Authority	Area ('000 Acres)	Authority	Date	Pro-duction ('000 bus.)	Average Yield per Acre (bus)
N.S.W.	Dept. of Agriculture	3,187	Dept. of Agriculture	1.12.50	45,000	14.12
Vic.	(a)	2,800	Aust. Wheat Board	8.12.50	55,000	19.64
Q'ld.	Dept. of Agriculture	660	" " "	1.12.50	9,000	13.64
S.A.	(a)	1,850	" " "	1.12.50	30,000	16.22
W.A.	Govt. Statistician	3,120	Govt. Statistician	5.11.50	45,876	14.70
Tas.	C'wealth Statistician	5	C'wealth Statistician	7.12.50	110	22.00
A.C.T.	C'wealth Statistician	2	C'wealth Statistician	7.12.50	35	17.50
Total	-	11,624	-	-	185,021	15.92

(a) Based on estimate of Area sown for all purposes compiled by Government Statist.

2. WHEAT FOR GRAIN : AREA PRODUCTION AND AVERAGE YIELD.

Details of the area, production and average yield per acre are given in Table 2 following, for each of the four seasons ended 1949-50 in comparison with the average for the five seasons ended 1938-39. Details of the estimated area sown and forecast production and average yield per acre for the 1950-51 season are also shown.

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

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>A. AREA SOWN TO WHEAT FOR GRAIN</u> (¹ 000 Acres)								
Average five years ended - 1938-39	4,168	2,522	312	3,096	2,864	16	2	12,980
1946-47	4,475	3,501	248	2,519	2,426	8	3	13,180
1947-48	5,043	3,227	462	2,375	2,760	8	5	13,880
1948-49	4,038	2,996	608	2,063	2,867	7	4	12,583
1949-50 (a)	4,812	2,828	600	1,896	2,894	6	4	12,240
1950-51 (b)	3,187	2,800	660	1,850	3,120	5	2	11,624

(a) Subject to Revision. (b) Estimated.

B. PRODUCTION OF WHEAT.
(¹000 bushels)

Average five years ended - 1938-39	53,634	34,505	4,223	32,578	28,984	359	42	154,325
1946-47	15,682	48,971	705	27,906	23,800	139	59	117,262
1947-48	95,227	46,962	10,685	32,524	34,500	118	100	220,116
1948-49	64,704	49,064	14,317	26,136	36,250	156	76	190,703
1949-50 (a)	81,939	57,434	11,778	28,351	38,500	127	92	218,221
1950-51 (b)	45,000	55,000	9,000	30,000	45,876	110	35	185,021

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Forecast.

C. AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE.
(Bushels)

Average five years ended - 1938-39	12.87	13.68	13.54	10.52	10.12	22.64	23.44	11.89
1946-47	3.50	13.99	2.84	11.08	9.81	18.47	18.09	8.90
1947-48	18.88	14.55	23.11	13.69	12.59	15.20	20.90	15.86
1948-49	16.02	16.38	23.56	12.67	12.64	22.69	18.23	15.15
1949-50 (a)	20.42	20.31	19.63	14.95	13.30	23.20	20.55	17.83
1950-51 (b)	14.12	19.64	13.64	16.22	14.70	22.00	17.50	15.92

(a) Subject to revision (b) Forecast.

3. FARMERS' INTENTIONS TO SOW WHEAT AND ACTUAL SOWINGS

4.

At the annual census of rural production collected during April and May, farmers throughout Australia 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 between farmers' intentions to sow and areas actually sown for the years indicated.

TABLE 3 : WHEAT ALL PURPOSES : AREA SOWN AND INTENTIONS TO SOW

('000 acres)

Particulars	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>SEASON 1948-49.</u>								
Area Sown -								
For Grain	4,038	2,996	608	2,063	2,867	7	4	12,583
For Hay	161	37	8	80	75	3	1	365
For Greenfeed	44	-	45	16	19	-	-	124
All Purposes	4,243	3,033	661	2,159	2,961	10	5	13,072
Area intended to be sown (all purposes) (f)	4,702	3,109	(b)	2,230	3,040	8	6	(e)13,095
<u>SEASON 1949-50.</u>								
Area sown (a) -								
For Grain	4,012	2,828	600	1,896	2,894	6	4	12,240
For Hay	122	39	4	99	68	3	1	336
For Greenfeed	40	-	65	10	22	1	-	138
All Purposes :	4,174	2,867	669	2,005	2,984	10	5	12,714
Area intended to be sown (All purposes) (f)	4,257	2,683	(b)	1,965	3,144	6	5	(e)12,060
<u>SEASON 1950-51.</u>								
Area Sown (d) -								
For Grain	3,187	2,800	660	1,850	3,120	5	2	11,624
For Hay	(e)	30	(e)	90	(e)	(e)	(e)	(e)
For Greenfeed	(e)	-	(e)	10	(e)	(e)	(e)	(e)
All Purposes :	(e)	2,830	(e)	1,950	(e)	(e)	(e)	(e)
Area intended to be sown (All Purposes) (f)	3,810	2,618	(b)	1,955	3,247	6	2	(e)11,638

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Not Collected. (c) Excludes Queensland
 (d) Estimated. (e) Not yet available. (f) According to farmers' returns at or about time of sowing.

4. VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN.

Details of the principal varieties of wheat sown in 1948 in the four main wheat-producing States of Australia and the percentage which each bears to the total area sown are given in the following table.

TABLE 4, WHEAT : PRINCIPAL VARIETIES SOWN, 1948.

New South Wales		Victoria		South Australia		Western Australia	
Variety	Per-centage	Variety	Per-centage	Variety	Per-centage	Variety	Per-centage
	%		%		%		%
Bencubbin	34.79	Quadrat	47.20	Bencubbin	19.31	Bencubbin	30.44
Gabo	13.00	Insignia	11.77	Warigo	15.03	Bungulla	25.51
Ford	7.12	Bencubbin	7.27	Waratah	6.75	Glucub	17.05
Charter	5.29	Magnet	7.23	Reldap	5.42	Ranee	3.72
Bordan	3.88	Churka	7.10	Gluyas	4.69	Kondu	3.68
Yalta	3.86	Pindar	5.67	Quadrat	4.60	Koorda	2.85
Quadrat	2.72	Pinnacle	4.82	Marathon	4.28	Morradin	2.39
Koala	2.60	Ranee	2.46	Sword	4.02	Eureka	1.45
Dundee	2.49	Regalia	1.75	Ranee	3.07	Waratah	1.40
All Other (a)	24.25	All Other(a)	4.73	All Other(a)	32.83	All Other	11.51
Total	100.00	Total	100.00	Total	100.00	Total	100.00

(a) Includes "not Stated".

Details of the varieties of wheat sown are also available for the 1949-50 season in South Australia and for the 1949-50 and 1950-51 seasons in Victoria. Particulars of these are shown in the following table.

TABLE 5, WHEAT : PRINCIPAL VARIETIES SOWN.

VICTORIA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Victoria				South Australia	
1949 Sowings		1950 Sowings		1949 Sowings	
Variety	Per-centage	Variety	Per-centage	Variety	Per-centage
	%		%		%
Quadrat	44.86	Quadrat	38.27	Bencubbin	18.35
Insignia	20.96	Insignia	22.50	Warigo	12.73
Pinnacle	8.02	Pinnacle	15.04	Waratah	6.10
Bencubbin	6.68	Bencubbin	7.06	Gabo	5.79
Magnet	5.79	Magnet	6.21	Reldap	5.71
Pindar	2.99	Pindar	2.03	Quadrat	5.15
Churka	2.92	Diadem	2.00	Gluyas	4.33
Diadem	2.40	Baldmin	1.55	Marathon	4.09
Baldmin	1.27	Ghurka	1.52	Scimitar	3.73
All Other (a)	4.11	All Other (a)	3.82	All Other (a)	34.02
Total	100.00	Total	100.00	Total	100.00

(a) Includes "Not Stated".

5. WHEAT FARMS : NUMBER GROWING WHEAT FOR GRAIN ON 20 ACRES AND UPWARDS

Particulars of the number of farms growing wheat for grain on 20 acres and upwards during the years 1938-39, and 1946-47 to 1949-50 are shown in the following table.

TABLE 6 : NUMBER OF FARMS GROWING WHEAT FOR GRAIN ON 20 ACRES AND UPWARDS.

State	1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50
New South Wales	16,550	15,971	16,797	15,674	15,594
Victoria	12,305	13,155	12,703	12,105	(b)
Queensland	3,190	2,006	2,923	3,804	3,744
South Australia	11,842	10,412	10,171	9,405	(b)
Western Australia	8,989	7,460	7,551	7,779	7,808
Tasmania	146	122	126	123	58
Total (a) :	53,022	49,126	50,271	48,890	(b)

- (a) Excludes Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory.
 (b) Not yet available.

6. WHEAT PRICES : AUSTRALIA.

(i) Price of Wheat for Home Consumption : Australia. From June, 1942, the monthly price of wheat sold for gristing into flour for home consumption averaged 3s. 11¹/₂d. per bushel (Wheat Board Price to millers, bulk basis) until 22nd December, 1947, when the price was increased to 4s. 11¹/₂d. per bushel, bulk basis. A further increase to 6s. 3d. per bushel (bulk basis) operated from 19th January, 1948. The price of wheat for human consumption other than in flour also rose to 6s. 3d. per bushel (bulk basis) on 19th January, 1948. The local consumption price was further increased to 6s. 8d. per bushel (bulk basis) as from 1st December, 1948. For the 1949-50 season the price remained at 6s. 8d. per bushel (bulk basis) but the Commonwealth Government paid a subsidy of 5d. per bushel to provide growers with the agreed return of 7s. 1d. per bushel (See Section 14 (ii) following). This subsidy has been withdrawn for the 1950-51 season and the price of wheat for home consumption increased to 7s. 10d. per bushel (bulk basis).

With the introduction of the International Wheat Agreement (see issue of this Summary, Vol. 7, No. 11) from August, 1949, it has become necessary to distinguish between prices applicable under the Agreement and those applicable to excess wheat sold above the quota fixed under the Agreement. The price at which wheat is sold overseas, therefore, may be broadly classified as follows (i) wheat sold within the terms fixed by the International Wheat Agreement, and (ii) wheat sold in excess of the quota (at present 80.8 million bushels) fixed under the agreement at prices negotiated on the "free" market.

As from August, 1949, under the terms of the I.W.A., Australia has undertaken to sell, if required, 80.8 million bushels per year (August to July) to contracting importing countries. The prices at which Australia is prepared to sell wheat under the terms of the Agreement are shown in terms of Australian currency in the table below. To November, 1950, this has been the maximum price prescribed by the Agreement. As the prices were fixed basically in terms of gold the maximum prices expressed in terms of Australian currency rose from 11s 2d. prior to devaluation to 16s. 1d. per bushel after devaluation (19th September, 1949). After commitments under the I.W.A. have been met, Australia is free to sell any additional wheat available at any price which may find a market.

TABLE 7 : EXPORT WHEAT PRICES : AUSTRALIA.

(Price per bushel)

Month	1938-39 (a)	1947-48 (b)	1948-49 (b)	1949-50		1950-51	
				Wheat sold Under Inter- national Wheat Agreement (c)	Wheat in Excess of I.W.A. Quota (c)	Wheat sold Under Inter- national Wheat Agreement (c)	Wheat in Excess of I.W.A. Quota (c)
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
August	3. 0.92	16. 4.00	17. 4.25	11. 2	14. 0	16. 1	18. 6
September	2. 8.72	17. 0.00	17. 4.25	13. 2	16. 2	16. 1	18. 6
October	2. 9.58	18. 3.75	16. 2.25	16. 1	20. 0	16. 1	18. 6
November	2. 6.34	19.10.00	15.10.25	16. 1	20. 0	16. 1	18. 6
December	2. 4.96	19.10.00	15.10.25	16. 1	19. 7		
January	2. 5.00	20. 4.25	15.10.25	16. 1	19. 0		
February	2. 5.05	20.10.00	15. 6.50	16. 1	19. 0		
March	2. 3.19	20.10.00	15. 4.25	16. 1	19. 0		
April	2. 4.12	20.10.00	15. 4.25	16. 1	19. 0		
May	2. 6.28	20.10.00	14. 7.25	16. 1	19. 0		
June	2. 4.68	19. 9.00	14. 5.25	16. 1	18. 7		
July	2. 2.15	17.11.25	14. 5.25	16. 1	18. 6		
Average	2. 5.08	19. 4.69	15. 8.19	15. 5	18. 6		

(a) Weighted average shippers' limits f.o.r. ports for growers' bagged and bulk lots, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

(b) Basic export selling price of Australian Wheat Board (average for bulk and bagged wheat f.o.r. ports basis).

(c) Australian Wheat Board price for f.a.q. bulk wheat f.o.b. basis.

(ii) Price of Wheat for Stock Feed - Australia : The price charged by the Wheat Board for wheat sold for stock food was 4s. 11¹/₂d. per bushel (Bulk basis) from early in 1947 to 19th January, 1948, from which date it was increased to 6s. 3d. per bushel and has since been fixed at the same levels as the price of wheat for human consumption (See (i) above).

(iii) Export Wheat Prices - Australia : Details of export wheat prices by months for the years ended July, 1939 and 1948 to 1950 and the months of August to November, 1950, are shown in Table 7 following.

Owing to changes which have occurred in the manner of selling export wheat, it is not possible to quote prices on a strictly comparable basis throughout the period covered by the table. Prior to November, 1939 the prices represent the "weighted average shippers' limits f.o.r. ports for growers' bagged and bulk lots, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide." Following the acquisition of the 1939-40 and later wheat crops by the Commonwealth Government, it was no longer possible to record prices on this basis. The prices in the following table from August, 1947 are the basic export selling prices of the Australian Wheat Board (averages for bulk and bagged wheat, f.o.r. ports basis).

The quotations are more or less nominal. The market is "broad" and wheat is sold at time above and below this basic price, depending upon conditions of sale. Much of the wheat is sold at prices fixed under contract for delivery over lengthy periods. The monthly prices recorded herein do not, therefore, necessarily represent the prices actually received for wheat currently being shipped, details of which are shown in Table 8.

(iv) Average Value of Wheat Exported : Australia. The following table shows the monthly wheat price used in compiling the monthly Export Price Index for the years ended July, 1939, and 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950 and the months August to October, 1950. The figures for 1938-39 represent the "weighted average shippers' limits f.o.r. ports for growers' bagged and bulk lots, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide". From July, 1945 onwards prices based on "average actual realizations for current shipments" were introduced into the Index, because it has become impossible to determine representative average prices at which current sales are being effected. This is due to the fact that in recent years a very large proportion of exportable wheat has been sold forward on long term contracts at widely differing prices. Since August, 1949 sales have been made on differential bases under the International Wheat Agreement (See section 6 (iii) above).

TABLE 8 : AVERAGE VALUE OF WHEAT EXPORTED : AUSTRALIA.

(per bushel)

Month	1938-39(a)	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
August	3. 1	10. 5	15. 1	18. 5	14. 8	16. 10
September	2. 9	10. 7	15. 5	17. 11	15. 0	16. 9
October	2. 10	10. 10	15. 3	17. 8	15. 1	(b)16. 9
November	2. 6	11. 0	15. 3	17. 6	15. 3	
December	2. 5	11. 6	16. 0	16. 8	15. 9	
January	2. 5	12. 3	17. 1	15. 10	15. 9	
February	2. 5	13. 4	17. 9	15. 3	16. 4	
March	2. 3	13. 10	18. 2	15. 2	16. 9	
April	2. 4	14. 1	18. 4	15. 2	17. 8	
May	2. 6	13. 10	18. 10	14. 10	17. 7	
June	2. 5	14. 2	18. 11	14. 7	17. 4	
July	2. 2	14. 8	18. 11	14. 5	16. 11	
Average	2. 5	12. 6	17. 1	16. 1	16. 2	

(a) Weighted average shippers' limits f.o.r. ports for growers' bagged and bulk lots, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

(b) Subject to revision.

The figures from July, 1945 do not show the movement of current monthly export prices but represent the average amount realized for current monthly shipments on the basis of a three months moving average.

An initial advance on the 1950-51 crop was announced on 15th November, 1950. The advance will be 6s. 7d. per bushel for bulk wheat and 7s. 3d. per bushel for bagged wheat, both less freight.

Approval has also been given to the refund of amounts contributed to the Wheat Prices Stabilization Fund in respect of the 1947-48 harvest (Pools No. 11 and 11A.) These amounts together with interest which accrued while the moneys were held in the Fund and a small balance remaining in the Pools (totalling about 1s. 8d. per bushel in all) will be paid early in 1951.

Contributions to the Wheat Prices Stabilization Fund from the 1948-49 and 1949-50 harvests amount to about 1s. 5d. and 1s. 6d. per bushel respectively.

7. POOL ADVANCES TO FARMERS ON WHEAT ACQUIRED.

Details of the advances paid in respect of wheat acquired from the harvest of 1947-48 (Nos. 11 and 11A Pools), 1948-49 (No. 12 Pool) and 1949-50 (No. 13 Pool) are shown in the table below.

TABLE 9 : WHEAT POOL ADVANCES : AUSTRALIA AS AT 30TH NOVEMBER, 1950.

Advance	1947-48 Harvest					
	No. 11 Pool			No. 11A Pool (a)		
	Date (b)	Bulk	Bagged	Date (b)	Bulk	Bagged
		s. d. per bus.	s. d. per bus.		s. d. per bus.	s. d. per bus.
First	1.12.47	4. 6	5. 0	1.12.47	4. 6	5. 0
Second	3. 6.48	2. 0(c)	2. 0(c)	3. 6.48	2. 0(c)	2. 0(c)
Third	26. 8.48	2. 0	2. 0	26. 8.48	2. 0	2. 0
Fourth	16.11.48	2. 0	2. 0	8. 3.49	1. 6	1. 6
Fifth	8. 3.49	1. 6	1. 6	16. 8.49	1. 0	1. 0
Sixth	8.11.49	0. 7	0.8.5	8.11.49	0.11.5	1. 1
Total Advances (c)		12. 7	13.2.5		11.11.5	12. 7
Net Quantity Acquired	'000 Bushels			'000 Bushels		
Bulk	114,619			105		
Bagged	83,271			6,599		
Total :	197,890			6,704		

Advance	1948-49 Harvest			1949-50 Harvest		
	No. 12 Pool			No. 13 Pool		
	Date (b)	Bulk	Bagged	Date (b)	Bulk	Bagged
		s. d. per bus.	s. d. per bus.		s. d. per bus.	s. d. per bus.
First	29.12.48	5. 0(c)	5. 6(c)	6.12.49	6. 0(c)	6. 6(c)
Second	13. 9.49	1. 6	1. 6	5. 9.50	2. 0	2. 0
Third	22.11.49	1. 0	1. 0	2.12.50	1. 6	1. 6
Fourth	7. 3.50	2. 0	2. 0			
Fifth	19. 9.50	0.3.3	0.5.9			
Sixth	-	-	-			
Total Advances (c)	-	9.9.3	10.5.9	-	9.6	10. 0
Net Quantity Acquired	'000 bushels			'000 Bushels		
Bulk	111,547			124,704		
Bagged	63,462			78,210		
Total :	175,009			202,914		

(a) This pool refers to low grade wheat (under 54 lb. per bushel) which was segregated from other wheat received in No. 11 Pool.

(b) Date of commencement of payments in respect of each Advance.

(c) Less rail freight to terminals.

8. OVERSEA SHIPPING FREIGHT RATES : AUSTRALIA.

10.

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 1946 to 1950 (to September). 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 10 : OVERSEA SHIPPING FREIGHT RATES PER TON WEIGHT ON WHEAT,
AUSTRALIA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENTAL PORTS.

(Supplied by the Oversea Shipping Representatives Assn.)

Quarter ended -	1945			1946			1947			1948		1949		1950	
	s. d	s. d	s. d	s. d	s. d	s. d	s. d	s. d	Bulk	Bagged	Bulk	Bagged	Bulk	Bagged	
31st March :															
Eastern States	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	102. 6	110. 0	92. 6	102. 6	67. 6	75. 0	
Western Australia	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0							
30th June :															
Eastern States	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	102. 6	110. 0	87. 6	97. 6	65. 0	72. 6	
Western Australia	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0							
30th September :															
Eastern States	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	102. 6	110. 0	62. 6	70. 0	67. 6	75. 0	
Western Australia	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0							
31st December :															
Eastern States	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	120. 0	102. 6	110. 0	67. 6	75. 0			
Western Australia	110. 0	110. 0	110. 0	115. 0	115. 0	95. 0	95. 0	105. 0	105. 0	105. 0	67. 6	75. 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 24th June, 30th September and 25th November, 1950 were as follows :-

TABLE 11 : CHARTER RATES ON BULK WHEAT FOR SHIPMENT TO

UNITED KINGDOM AND INDIA.

(Source : Australian Wheat Board)
(s.d. stg. per long ton)

Date	United Kingdom		India	
	Eastern States	Western Australia	Eastern States	Western Australia
24. 6.50	60. 0	55. 0	47. 6	42. 6
30. 9.50	70. 0	67. 6	55. 0	-
25.11.50	87. 6	85. 0	72. 6	70. 0

9. PRODUCTION AND DISPOSALS OF WHEAT : AUSTRALIA.

Details of the production and disposal of wheat in each of the cereal years ended 30th November, 1945 to 1950 compared with the average for the three years ended 30th November, 1939 are given in the following table and are illustrated in graph facing this page.

TABLE 12 : PRODUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF WHEAT : AUSTRALIA.

(Million bushels)

Particulars	Average three Years ended 30th Nov., 1939	Year ended 30th November					
		1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950(a)
Opening Stocks (Incl. Flour as Wheat)	10.4	77.9	11.5	20.2	13.5	26.4	19.1
Production	164.7	52.9	142.4	117.3	220.1	190.7	218.2
Total Available supplies	175.1	130.8	153.9	137.5	233.6	217.1	237.3
Exports - Wheat	75.0	6.1	19.4	12.0	87.0	82.4	} (b) 116.7
Flour as Wheat	31.8	12.9	37.7	34.0	44.6	37.1	
Local Consumption -							
Flour as Wheat	30.9	33.1	32.2	33.5	33.6	34.5	(b) 35.5
Stock Feed	8.2	44.9	24.4	22.2	20.7	22.6	(b) 23.5
Seed	14.6	12.0	13.2	13.8	12.5	12.2	(b) 11.7
Breakfast Foods and Other uses	(c)	3.1	3.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	(b) 3.0
Balance retained on Farm (excl. seed)	(d)	7.2	3.8	4.3	4.6	5.0	5.3
Closing stocks (incl. Flour as Wheat)	14.6	11.5	20.2	13.5	26.4	19.1	(b) 41.6
Total Disposals :	175.1	130.8	153.9	137.5	233.6	217.1	237.3

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Estimate. (c) Included with flour.
(d) Included with stock feed.

10. STOCKS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR HELD.

The movements in stocks of wheat and flour as wheat held in Australia at Mills, Sidings, Ports and Depots as at 30th November, is shown in the following table for each State for the years 1939 and 1946 to 1949. Details at 30th November, 1950, are not yet available but figures as at 25th November have been shown.

TABLE 13. STOCKS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR AS WHEAT.

('000 bushels)

30th November	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
1939	6,733	4,749	558	6,170	2,527	244	20,981
1946	11,854	3,722	1,016	1,900	1,618	97	20,207
1947	3,023	6,003	564	2,166	1,492	269	13,517
1948	14,086	4,408	1,544	4,706	1,311	392	26,447
1949 -							
Wheat	6,656	4,034	838	1,490	1,642	110	14,770
Flour (Tons)	26,082	19,407	3,978	16,700	24,107	443	90,717
Total as Wheat	7,908	4,965	1,029	2,292	2,799	131	19,124
1950 (a) -							
Wheat	16,331	10,776	4,296	6,354	5,629	137	43,523
Flour (Tons)	26,462	35,720	5,755	5,967	8,925	1,120	83,949
Total as Wheat	17,601	12,491	4,572	6,640	6,058	191	47,553

NOTE : One ton of 2,000 lb. of flour is taken as the equivalent of 48 bushels of wheat.

(a) As at 25th November, 1950. Source : Australian Wheat Board.

PRODUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF WHEAT

AUSTRALIA, 1937 TO 1950

MILL. BUSHELS

250

200

150

100

50

0

TOTAL SUPPLIES

OPENING STOCKS
PRODUCTION

TOTAL DISPOSALS

CLOSING STOCKS
LOCAL CONSUMPTION ETC
EXPORTS

AVERAGE 3 YEARS
1937 TO 1939

1945

1946

1947

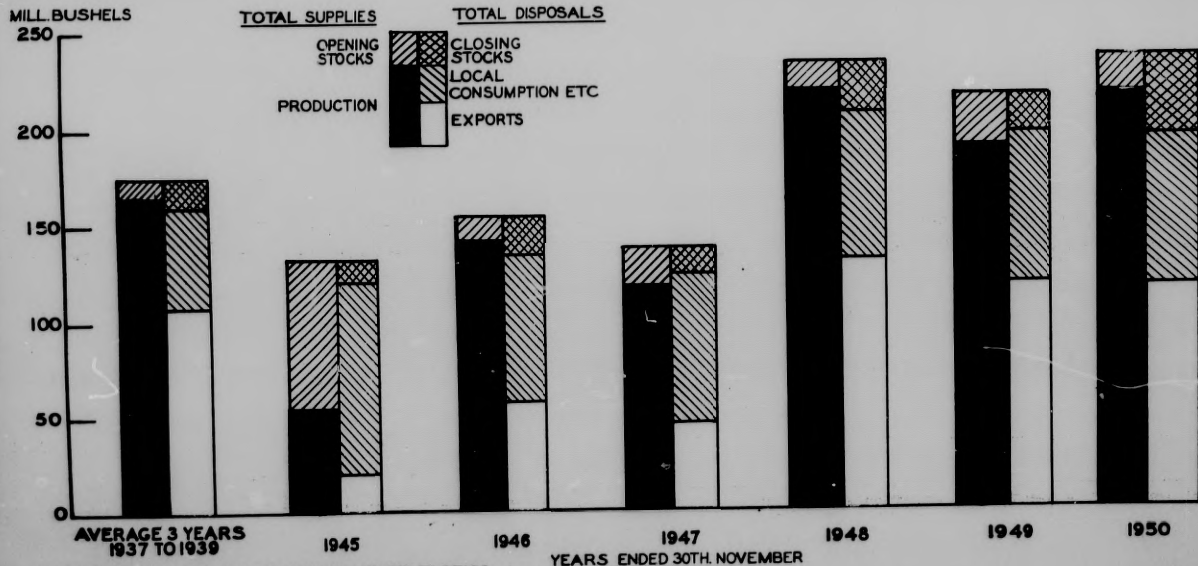
1948

1949

1950

YEARS ENDED 30TH. NOVEMBER

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.
DECEMBER, 1950



11. PRODUCTION OF FLOUR, BRAN AND POLLARD.

The following table shows details of the production of flour in each State for the year 1938-39 and each of the years 1945-46 to 1949-50.

TABLE 14 : PRODUCTION OF FLOUR.

(Tons of 2,000 lb.)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total
1938-39	547,162	436,829	84,314	146,262	138,583	19,582	1,372,732
1945-46	451,895	315,525	96,984	164,986	166,791	22,657	1,218,838
1946-47	541,469	449,170	98,232	202,366	176,727	21,695	1,489,659
1947-48	552,784	501,325	108,022	215,155	197,104	23,753	1,598,143
1948-49	662,720	479,288	110,843	211,787	208,143	26,484	1,699,265
1949-50 (c)	602,207	448,844	112,365	158,509	154,872	26,982	1,503,779

(a) Not available for publication. (b) Including particulars for States marked (a). (c) Subject to revision

Particulars of the operations of flour mills and other grain mills in each State during 1948-49 are shown hereunder, together with details for Australia for the years 1945-46 to 1949-50.

TABLE 15 : OPERATIONS OF FLOUR MILLS : 1948-49.

Particulars	Unit	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
No. of Mills	No.	56	39	10	31	20	8	164
No. of Persons employed	"	1,823	1,263	437	578	515	152	4,768
Wheat milled (a)	'000 bus.	32,361	24,309	6,322	10,165	8,919	1,311	83,387
Output of (a) - Flour (white)	'000 tons	646	467	105	209	207	26	1,660
Wheatmeal for Baking	"	16	12	6	2	2	1	39
Total Flour	"	662	479	111	211	209	27	1,699
Bran	"	119	99	14	43	40	4	319
Pollard	"	152	99	26	40	31	7	355

Note : Ton = 2,000 lb.

(a) Includes operations of other grain mills

TABLE 16 : OPERATIONS OF FLOUR MILLS : AUSTRALIA.

Particulars	Unit	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50
No. of Mills	No.	1,170	172	167	164	(a)
No. of Persons employed	"	4,099	4,442	4,623	4,768	(a)
Wheat milled (b)	'000 bus.	63,191	75,780	76,927	83,387	69,865(c)
Output of Flour (b)	" tons	1,219	1,490	1,598	1,699	1,504(c)
Output of Bran (b)	" "	238	288	308	319	266(c)
Output of Pollard (b)	" "	256	316	326	355	309(c)

Note : Ton = 2,000 lb.

(a) Not yet available. (b) Includes operations of other grain mills.
(c) Flour Mills; subject to revision.

The following table shows the total production of flour in each State and the percentage exported overseas during financial year 1938-39 and for each year from 1945-46 to 1949-50.

TABLE 17 : PRODUCTION OF FLOUR AND PERCENTAGE EXPORTED.

Year ended June	Unit	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
1939 - Production	'000 tons	547	437	84	146	139	20	1,373
% Exported	%	53.6	58.7	-	59.3	64.2	-	52.8
1946 - Production	'000 tons	452	315	97	165	167	23	1,219
% Exported	%	40.0	40.5	1.2	63.6	62.5	-	42.6
1947 - Production	'000 tons	542	449	98	202	177	22	1,490
% Exported	%	50.1	49.3	0.4	70.4	73.3	-	51.4
1948 - Production	'000 tons	553	501	108	215	197	24	1,598
% Exported	%	39.4	59.0	-	60.8	70.8	-	49.1
1949 - Production	'000 tons	662	479	111	211	209	27	1,699
% Exported	%	44.6	56.9	4.8	70.9	62.9	-	50.3
1950 - Production	'000 tons	602	449	112	159	155	27	1,504
% Exported	%	45.2	64.9	4.1	58.1	74.4	-	51.5

Note - Ton = 2,000 lb.

(a) Subject to revision.

12. EXPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The following table furnishes details of the quantity of wheat and flour exported by States for the years ended June, 1939 and 1947 to 1950, whilst in Tables 19 and 20 details of the quantity and value of wheat and flour exports are shown for the same years according to the countries of destination.

TABLE 18 : EXPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Year ended 30th June	New South Wales	Victoria	Queens- land	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Total
<u>WHEAT</u> ('000 bushels)							
1939	15,031	5,233	1,766	18,486	22,613	-	63,129
1947	3,386	685	-	3,973	4,132	-	12,176
1948	19,322	13,226	-	9,698	17,928	-	60,174
1949	35,322	9,695	3,380	16,236	18,397	-	83,033
1950	28,003	16,860	2,207	9,856	21,498	-	78,424
<u>FLOUR</u> (Tons of 2,000 lb.)							
1939	293,168	256,231	4	86,678	88,981	3	725,065
1947	271,154	221,476	454	142,423	129,591	-	765,098
1948	218,096	295,666	7	131,062	139,540	-	784,371
1949	295,490	272,887	5,339	150,232	130,832	-	854,780
1950	272,022	291,270	4,586	92,018	115,199	-	775,095

TABLE 19 : EXPORTS OF WHEAT CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION : AUSTRALIA.

Country to which exported	QUANTITY ('000 Bushels)					VALUE (£A.f.o.b.)				
	1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50
United Kingdom ..	32,235	-	17,226	34,523	9,435	4,443,613	2	14,751,498	26,887,685	6,215,373
Aden ..	-	-	600	332	-	-	-	547,331	233,444	-
Africa, British East ..	19	-	22	7	127	3,286	-	25,769	7,319	125,382
Ceylon ..	138	-	-	17	7	22,282	-	-	12,718	7,257
India ..	6,922	6,692	21,336	16,939	35,254	957,926	3,678,058	19,402,292	14,902,287	26,516,271
Ireland, Republic of ..	2,303	-	2,402	1,337	321	312,776	-	2,382,493	1,415,790	206,623
Malta ..	559	-	-	-	280	79,719	-	-	-	195,598
New Zealand ..	3,096	4,332	4,401	7,395	5,756	417,696	1,906,334	1,459,161	2,652,242	4,528,690
Rhodesia, Southern ..	-	868	741	799	712	-	599,434	640,198	792,429	648,694
Union of South Africa ..	1,705	38	5	1,623	2,242	331,787	23,009	4,601	1,638,237	1,178,986
Other British Countries ..	68	238	1,125	2,392	988	9,745	125,232	1,125,851	2,011,882	825,828
China ..	10,621	-	11	1	76	1,357,010	-	9,969	547	77,930
Egypt ..	389	1	509	8,510	6,511	54,286	600	433,117	6,110,634	5,633,961
France ..	-	-	3,516	958	-	-	-	3,583,214	952,313	-
French Dependencies ..	-	7	2,317	337	5	-	5,381	2,146,974	357,906	5,443
Greece ..	1,583	-	-	-	-	237,713	-	-	-	-
Iraq ..	-	-	1,465	1,027	2	-	-	1,444,766	781,410	2,020
Italy ..	-	-	665	5	325	20	-	715,958	3,715	348,316
Japan ..	432	-	-	1,843	6,885	61,944	-	-	1,297,770	7,105,953
Norway ..	-	-	688	-	504	-	-	734,289	-	412,059
Sweden ..	-	-	556	746	1,029	-	-	565,171	760,459	829,115
Switzerland ..	-	-	682	-	-	-	-	725,482	-	-
Other Foreign Countries ..	3,059	-	1,907	4,239	7,965	445,171	339	2,114,407	3,880,536	7,309,387
TOTAL :	63,129	12,176	60,174	83,030	78,424	8,734,974	6,338,389	52,812,541	64,705,323	62,172,894

TABLE 20 : EXPORTS OF FLOUR, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION

AUSTRALIA.

(Tons of 2,000 lb.)

Country to which Exported	QUANTITY (Tons)					VALUE (£a.f.o.b.)				
	1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50
United Kingdom ..	118,958	99,954	56,366	233,545	35,236	705,518	3,387,817	2,402,909	8,928,246	1,097,639
Aden ..	4,066	-	20,522	38,601	7,264	26,135	-	836,534	1,602,425	224,802
Ceylon ..	18,147	171,191	190,104	187,932	131,348	112,444	4,876,486	7,457,451	7,172,635	4,538,533
Hong Kong ..	23,040	33,050	21,988	9,820	90,699	148,305	981,816	839,904	361,009	2,624,990
India ..	591	49,581	58,922	71,778	188,358	3,242	1,213,020	2,475,472	2,861,508	6,572,441
Malaya, Federation of	66,965	194,036	135,255	100,223	72,830	438,072	5,375,577	5,419,103	3,930,873	2,590,577
Mauritius ..	13,525	42,243	46,357	19,722	33,204	77,475	1,609,109	1,920,327	710,629	1,117,165
New Zealand ..	554	17,047	22	3,327	96	3,757	380,346	1,427	54,777	9,208
Pacific Islands (British)	8,238	13,443	10,620	13,299	14,337	56,963	305,846	485,123	464,977	456,995
Singapore ..	(a)	(a)	4,321	14,937	21,375	(a)	(a)	166,459	600,162	752,148
Union of South Africa	132	9,024	448	196	261	936	215,728	21,708	7,551	9,619
Other British Countries	55,796	16,880	53,363	11,189	27,761	342,335	543,421	2,120,048	705,710	873,689
Portuguese Possessions -										
Mozambique ..	7,422	2,274	5,222	5,028	101	50,689	74,523	213,718	232,958	4,281
Burma (b) ..	3,722	6,478	21,824	6,160	236	22,146	183,326	866,546	357,152	10,222
China ..	216,877	39,192	4,304	368	6,852	1,307,430	1,044,971	186,455	21,126	312,170
Egypt ..	17,153	37,545	65,841	42,869	53,760	106,646	1,305,784	3,414,274	1,726,188	2,035,288
France ..	-	-	4,032	-	-	-	-	154,801	-	-
French Dependencies	15,665	28,463	35,035	22,073	6,111	110,750	832,257	1,610,966	975,796	240,608
Indonesia ..	96,524	2,730	34	68	4,471	647,746	87,568	510	3,017	162,872
Other Foreign Countries	57,688	1,967	28,781	73,645	75,813	379,621	117,422	1,227,278	3,003,513	2,689,560
TOTAL :	725,065	765,098	784,371	854,780	775,095	4,540,210	22,534,957	31,823,013	33,720,862	26,327,807

(a) Included with Federation of Malaya.

(b) British Country to 1948-49.

13. IMPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

During 1949, total imports of wheat and flour into the United Kingdom expressed in terms of wheat, amounted to 210.4 million bushels, which represented an increase of 8.9 million bushels of 4.4 per cent. over the figure for the previous year, but a decrease of 7.3 million bushels or 3.4 per cent. from the corresponding total for 1939.

The two tables following show details of imports of wheat, flour and total in terms of wheat into the United Kingdom according to country of origin for the years 1939 and 1946 to 1949.

TABLE 21 (i) : WHEAT IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Country of Origin	1939	1946	1947	1948	1949
Australia ..	25,132,542	-	-	28,783,860	30,475,782
Canada ..	65,626,828	107,686,193	128,354,330	124,211,504	136,683,167
Other British Countries ..	105	-	-	25,484	4
<u>Total from British Countries :</u>	90,759,475	107,686,193	128,354,330	153,020,848	167,158,953
Argentine Republic	46,596,400	4,164,076	14,449,387	3,917,575	-
U.S. of America	25,313,542	14,046,393	12,936,203	342,048	10,356,933
Other Foreign Countries	35,336,119	-	835,102	670,219	1,183,301
<u>Total from Foreign Countries :</u>	107,246,061	18,210,469	28,220,692	4,929,842	11,540,234
TOTAL :	198,005,536	125,896,662	156,575,022	157,950,690	178,699,187

TABLE 21(ii) : WHEATEN FLOUR IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(Source : Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of United Kingdom)
(Flour - Tons of 2,000 lb.)

Country of Origin	1939	1946	1947	1948	1949
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
Australia ..	87,525	3,321	113,318	195,327	139,964
Canada ..	250,520	529,289	740,139	712,329	445,332
Other British Countries ..	185	79	-	26	19
<u>Total from British Countries :</u>	338,230	532,689	853,457	907,682	585,315
France ..	38,887	-	(b)	(b)	(b)
U.S. of America ..	7,399	54,975	147,591	415	74,518
Argentine Republic	18,947	11,799	-	17	(b)
Other Foreign Countries ..	7,120	-	1	65	1
<u>Total from Foreign Countries :</u>	72,423	66,774	147,592	497	74,519
TOTAL :	410,653	599,463	1,001,049	908,179	659,834
TOTAL : In terms of Wheat (a)	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
	19,711,344	28,774,224	48,050,352	43,592,592	31,672,032
GRAND TOTAL .. Imports of Wheat and Flour in Terms of Wheat(a)	217,716,880	154,670,886	204,625,374	201,543,282	210,371,219

- (a) One ton of flour taken as equivalent to 48 bushels of wheat.
(b) Included with "Other Foreign Countries".

(iii) F.A.O. Standard of Wheat. The following table sets out the f.a.o. weight of a bushel of wheat in each of the four main wheat-producing States for the seasons 1938-39 and 1944-45 to 1949-50 :-

TABLE 22 : F.A.O. 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
1938-39	64½	64½	64½	63½
1944-45	63	63	63	63
1945-46	63½	62½	61½	63½
1946-47	62½	63	61½	63
1947-48	60½	60	61	64½
1948-49	63½	63	63½	63½
1949-50	63	64	62	64½

14. 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 Summary. This has since been superseded by the permanent Stabilization Plan, referred to in (ii) following.

(ii) Post-war Wheat Stabilization Plan : Full details of the post-war Wheat Stabilization Plan which was established in 1948 under joint Commonwealth and State legislation were given in Vol. 7, No. 10 of the Wheat Summary.

The price guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government under the plan was 6s. 3d. per bush. f.o.r. ports, bulk basis for the 1947-48 season, subject to variation in accordance with changes in the cost of producing wheat in subsequent seasons. Following seasonal reviews of wheat production costs, the guaranteed price was increased to 6s. 8d. per bushel for the 1948-49 season, to 7s. 1d. per bushel for the 1949-50 season and to 7s. 10d. per bushel for 1950-51 season.

During the year 1949-50 the price of wheat for home consumption was retained at the 1948-49 level, i.e. 6s. 8d. per bushel (bulk basis) and the Commonwealth Government provided a subsidy to meet the additional 5d. per bushel payable to growers on wheat for home consumption in that season. This subsidy has been withdrawn in 1950-51 and the price of wheat for home consumption has been raised to the full amount guaranteed to growers, viz. 7s. 10d. per bushel (bulk basis).

Amounts contributed to the Wheat Stabilization Prices Fund in respect of the 1945-46 and 1946-47 harvest have been refunded to growers while contributors from the 1947-48 harvest will be refunded early in 1951. Contributions to the Fund from the 1948-49 harvest amounted to about £12.5 million whilst contributions from the 1949-50 harvest are expected to approximate £15 million.

(i) General : The extent to which world import requirements of wheat can be met depends mainly upon the surpluses available for export in the four chief exporting countries, viz., Australia, Argentine, Canada and the United States of America. Details of the production, domestic utilization and exportable surpluses of these countries, compiled from statistics published by the Food Research Institute and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and from other official sources, are given in the following table for the years 1938-39 and 1945-46 to 1949-50.

TABLE 23 : 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 Stocks	Crop	Total				
<u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (JULY TO JUNE)</u>							
1938-39	153	920	1,073	714	359	109	250
1945-46	281	1,109	1,390	898	492	391	101
1946-47	101	1,153	1,254	782	472	388	84
1947-48	84	1,367	1,451	769	682	486	196
1948-49	196	1,288	1,484	690	794	501	293
1949-50(a)	293	1,146	1,439	697	742	325	417
<u>CANADA (AUGUST TO JULY)</u>							
1938-39	25	360	385	124	261	158	103
1945-46	258	319	577	163	414	340	74
1946-47	74	413	487	161	326	239	87
1947-48	87	342	429	156	273	195	78
1948-49	78	393	471	140	331	232	99
1949-50(a)	99	367	466	140	326	213	113
<u>ARGENTINE (DECEMBER TO NOVEMBER)</u>							
1938-39 (a)	72	379	451	99	352	122	230
1945-46	50	144	194	125	69	53	16
1946-47	16	206	222	128	94	82	12
1947-48	12	245	257	103	154	79	75
1948-49	75	190	265	147	118	74	44
1949-50(a)	44	198	242	132	110	(a)92	(a)18
<u>AUSTRALIA (DECEMBER TO NOVEMBER)</u>							
1938-39	14	155	169	57	112	91	21
1945-46	12	142	154	78	76	56	20
1946-47	20	117	137	76	59	46	13
1947-48	13	220	233	75	158	132	26
1948-49	26	191	217	79	138	119	19
1949-50	19	218	237	(b)78	(b)159	(b)117	(b)42
(a)	subject to revision.			(b)	Estimate.		
(d)	Unofficial estimate.			(c)	August to July.		

Latest estimates received place the 1950-51 wheat crops of the United States of America and Canada at 1,011.6 million bushels and 461.7 million bushels respectively.

Table 24 sets out details of the estimated World Production of Wheat by Continents for 1948, 1949 and 1950 compared with the average of five years ended 1939. These data are based on compilations and estimates of the U.S. Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, as published in "The Wheat Review" of The Canadian Bureau of Statistics of September, 1950.

Two slight revisions in accordance with the latest information available have been incorporated in the latest production figures of North America and Oceania.

TABLE 24 : WHEAT : ESTIMATED WORLD PRODUCTION (a) BY CONTINENTS.

Continent	Average 1935-39	1948	1949	1950(b)	1950 as Percentage of Average 1935-39	1950 as Percentage of 1949
	Million bus.	Million bus.	Million bus.	Million bus.	%	%
North America	1,086	1,719	1,531	1,470	136	96
Europe	1,599	1,455	1,505	1,550	97	103
Soviet Union	1,240	1,025	1,100	1,110	90	101
Asia	1,498	1,600	1,475	1,600	107	108
Africa	143	150	158	150	105	95
South America	281	273	279	290	103	104
Oceania	177	158	222	190	107	86
Totals :	6,024	6,420	6,270	6,360	106	101

(a) Based on compilations and estimates of the U.S. Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

(b) Preliminary estimates.

(ii) International Wheat Agreement :

In a previous issue of this Summary (Vol. 7. No.11) details were given of the International Wheat Agreement which was signed in Washington in March and April, 1949 by the representatives of 41 nations, comprising 36 importing countries and the wheat exporting countries of Canada, United States of America, Australia, France and Uruguay. The Agreement covers a period of four years from 1st August, 1949 to 31st July, 1953, with provision for extension beyond that date, if desired. Under its terms the exporting countries participating in the Agreement must sell specified minimum quantities of wheat each year if required by importing countries to do so at the maximum price quoted in the Agreement while the importing countries are obliged to buy specified quantities if required by the exporter at the minimum price quoted for the relevant year. Expressed in Australian currency equivalent, the maximum price in respect of transactions under the Agreement is approximately 16s. 1d. per bushel for each year, while minimum prices range from 13s. 5d. per bushel in 1949-50 to 10s. 9d. per bushel in 1952-53.

The export and import quotas originally specified in the Agreement, totalling 456.3 million bushels have subsequently been varied because of

(i) the withdrawal of certain countries from participation in the Agreement (Uruguay as an exporter and China, principally, of the importing countries), and

(ii) the admission of new members to the Agreement. The principal new participant was Germany for which the United States of America had originally accepted responsibility for wheat supplies outside the provisions of the Agreement.

Details of the adjusted quotas (which now total 525.1 million bushels) for the principal exporting and importing countries participating in the Agreement are shown in the following table. The table also shows transactions recorded under the Agreement for the year August, 1949 to July, 1950.

TABLE 25 : INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT : GUARANTEED SALES AND PURCHASES
AND TRANSACTIONS RECORDED FOR 1949-50.

(Million Bushels)

Exporting Countries			Importing Countries		
Country	Guaranteed Annual Sales (a)	Sales Recorded 1949-50	Country	Guaranteed Annual Purchases (b)	Purchases Recorded 1949-50
United States of America	235.9	162.8	United Kingdom	177.1	177.0
Canada	205.1	185.5	Germany	(c) 56.1	31.8
Australia	80.8	80.8	Italy	40.4	13.0
France	3.3	3.3	India	38.3	38.3
			Netherlands	27.6	27.5
			Belgium	20.2	19.9
			Union of South Africa	11.0	7.9
			Remaining 30 importing Countries	144.4	117.0
Total :	525.1	432.4	Total	525.1	432.4

- (a) Quantities which exporting countries must sell if required by importing countries to do so at the maximum price.
 (b) Quantities which importing countries must buy if required by exporting countries to do so at the relevant minimum price.
 (c) Germany was a participating country for a portion only of the year 1949-50.

(ROLAND WILSON)
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

3RD JANUARY, 1951.