

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA.

MONTHLY SUMMARY

OF

THE WHEAT SITUATION IN AUSTRALIA

MAY, 1941.

Volume 5.

No. 11.

C O N T E N T S .

1. Area under Wheat, Production and Average Yields.
2. Weather Conditions.
3. Wheat Prices.
4. Oversea Freight Rates.
5. Exports of Wheat and Flour.
6. Imports of Wheat and Flour into the United Kingdom.
7. Production of Flour.
8. Stocks of Wheat and Flour and Exportable Surplus.
9. General Review -
 - (a) Australia.
 - (b) Abroad.

Prepared under instructions from the Honorable the Treasurer

by

S. R. CARVER

Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

19th June, 1941.

1. WHEAT PRODUCTION AND AVERAGE YIELD.

Final estimates of the production of wheat in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia for the season 1940-41 leave the total estimate practically unchanged at 83,191,000 bushels. This crop was harvested from an area of 12,386,000 acres and represents an average yield of 6.72 bushels per acre sown for grain.

This yield is the lowest return per acre recorded since 1914-15 (2.59 bus. per acre) and indicates the extreme conditions under which the crop was grown. The harvest of 83.2 million bushels is the smallest since 1919-20 when 46 million bushels were produced.

Seeding operations for the 1941-42 crop are proceeding in all States.

Details of the area production and average yield per acre for the five seasons ended 1940-41 and for the ten years ended 1940 are given in the tables below :-

ESTIMATES OF AREA OF WHEAT SOWN FOR GRAIN AND OF PRODUCTION, 1940-41.

State	ESTIMATED AREA		ESTIMATED PRODUCTION		
	Authority	Area Acres	Authority	Date	Production bushels
N.S.W.	Govt. Statistician	4,289,000	Govt. Statistician	18.3.41	24,441,000
Vic.	Govt. Statist ..	2,572,000	Govt. Statist ..	19.5.41	13,521,422
Qld.	State Wheat Board	302,000	State Wheat Board	25.1.41	5,600,000
S.A.	Govt. Statist ..	2,559,370	Govt. Statist ..	20.5.41	17,822,081
W.A.	Govt. Statistician	2,582,000	Govt. Statistician	11.2.41	21,600,000
Tas.	Govt. Statistician	9,200	Govt. Statistician	20.2.41	187,000
A.C.T.	Com. Statistician	2,000	Com. Statistician	29.1.41	20,000
AUSTRALIA:	TOTAL	12,386,298	TOTAL	-	83,191,503

AREA SOWN UNDER WHEAT FOR GRAIN - AUSTRALIA.
(in 1,000 acres)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	A.C.T.	AUSTRALIA
1935-36	3,851	2,324	240	2,989	2,541	10	2	11,957
1936-37	3,933	2,394	284	3,058	2,575	21	1	12,316
1937-38	4,465	2,686	373	3,162	3,026	21	2	13,735
1938-39	4,651	2,748	442	3,080	3,413	10	2	14,346
1939-40	4,381	2,527	361	2,735	2,970	7.5	2	13,284
Average Ten Years ended 1940	4,343	2,989	292	3,435	3,096	16	2	14,173
Estimate of 1940-41(a)	4,289	2,673	302	2,559	2,552	9	2	12,386

PRODUCTION OF WHEAT - AUSTRALIA.
(in 1,000 bushels)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	A.C.T.	AUSTRALIA
1935-36	43,822	37,552	2,690	31,616	23,315	186	36	144,217
1936-37	55,658	42,845	2,016	28,715	21,549	571	26	151,390
1937-38	55,104	46,173	3,749	43,429	36,225	526	50	187,156
1938-39	59,398	46,104	3,584	31,674	36,844	205	59	155,368
1939-40	75,552	48,054	6,585	41,072	40,861	108	45	210,277
Average Ten Years ended 1940	60,745	40,381	4,353	35,473	35,990	347	45	177,738
Estimate of 1940-41(a)	24,441	13,521	5,600	17,822	21,600	187	20	83,191

AVERAGE YIELD PER ACRE - AUSTRALIA.

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	A.C.T.	AUSTRALIA
	bush.	bush.	bush.	bush.	bush.	bush.	bush.	bush.
1935-36	12.68	16.16	11.23	10.58	9.18	17.88	22.37	12.06
1936-37	13.98	17.90	7.11	9.39	8.37	26.78	17.98	12.29
1937-38	12.34	17.93	10.05	13.74	11.87	24.95	24.24	13.63
1938-39	12.86	6.59	15.42	10.28	10.79	20.84	28.74	10.83
1939-40	17.48	15.23	18.27	15.02	13.76	14.27	15.54	15.83
Average Ten Years ended 1940	13.85	13.51	14.89	10.62	11.63	21.34	21.15	12.54
Indicated 1940-41(a)	5.70	5.06	16.54	6.96	8.46	20.36	10.00	6.72

(a) See Section 1 above.

/2. WEATHER

2. WEATHER CONDITIONS

(Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Meteorologist and current press reports).

Seasonal conditions were somewhat dry throughout the Agricultural areas of the Commonwealth during April and May. Some areas received over average rains during the latter month, however, and these have been followed by widespread rains during the first two weeks in June. As a result the seasonal outlook is regarded as favourable.

3. WHEAT PRICES.

Following the acquisition of the 1939-40 Australian crop by the Commonwealth Government, it was no longer possible to continue this table on the former basis of "Shippers' Limits" f.o.b. ROBE. From November, 1939, the quotations are approximate but may be compared with prices quoted for previous months.

WHEAT PRICES - AUSTRALIA.

(Source: New South Wales Government Statistician, other States daily press.)
(Weighted average of shippers' limits for growers' bagged and bulk lots, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide)
(pence per bushel)

Month	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
January ..	32.80	44.54	61.84	51.86	29.00	(a) 46.50	(a) (47.75)
February ..	34.12	42.29	60.26	51.51	29.05	(a) 46.50	(a) (50.00)
March ..	36.04	43.22	64.07	47.95	27.19	(a) 47.00	(a) 50.00
April ..	39.36	49.11	66.58	46.17	29.12	(a) (48.00)	(a) 50.00
May ..	38.75	43.90	62.65	44.69	30.28	(a) (48.00)	
June ..	36.59	42.19	60.40	41.85	28.56	(a) (48.00)	
July ..	34.42	46.63	65.21	42.02	26.15	(a) (48.00)	
August ..	36.81	55.24	61.14	38.02	24.98	(a) (47.25)	
September ..	40.20	55.54	60.47	39.72	29.93	(a) (47.25)	
October ..	43.51	56.44	63.06	33.28	32.00	(a) 47.75	
November ..	40.11	50.87	55.22	30.31	(a) (32.00)	(a) (47.75)	
December ..	41.33	62.94	51.65	28.56	(a) (32.00)	(a) (47.75)	
Average:	37.84	49.67	60.51	40.70	29.37	47.50	

(a) See text above for qualifications. The figures shown in brackets are nominal.

4. OVERSEAS FREIGHT RATES.

Particulars of freight and charter rates on wheat from Australia to the United Kingdom and Continental Ports were given by months for a series of years in previous issues of this Summary (See No. 6, Vol. 5). As the relevant data are not now available, these tables will be discontinued until further notice.

5. EXPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The tables showing quantities of wheat and flour currently exported from Australia are not available for publication.

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

Data not available.

7. PRODUCTION OF FLOUR.

Detailed particulars of the production of flour in Australian mills during 1938-39 were included in Issue No. 1 of Volume 5 of this Summary. Similar details for 1939-40 will become available in the next issue.

8. STOCKS OF WHEAT AND EXPORTABLE SURPLUS.

Tables showing the exportable surplus of wheat and flour in Australia and the stocks of wheat at country sidings are not available for publication.

The Australian Wheat Board has stated that the quantity of wheat for disposal during 1941 is about 89 million bushels. Sales to the end of May, 1941, amounted to 36 million bushels leaving 53 million bushels to be disposed of during the following 7 months. The expected distribution of this 53 million bushels is as follows:-
Local Consumption 25 million, export flour 12 million bushels and 16 million bushels exported as wheat or retained as end of season stocks.

/9(e).

9(a). GENERAL REVIEW - AUSTRALIA.

The Wheat Industry Stabilization Board is establishing Local Committees in all wheat-growing districts. This action has been taken to protect wheat-growers and to prevent others from entering the industry who are not entitled to do so under the National Security Regulations.

This action has been necessary because it was found that some claims had been made for the registration of farms although they were not eligible for registration as wheat-farms. In addition, many farmers had applied for licences to sow wheat this year considerably in excess of what might be regarded as their normal acreages. In order that these claims may be reviewed, the Board is establishing Committees which will consist of wheat-growers nominated by wheat-growers' associations and a representative of a State Government Department.

These Committees will be asked to consider, in the first instance, the two outstanding problems, viz. -

- (i) Who are entitled to be registered as wheat-growers.
- (ii) What area of wheat should individual farms be licensed to grow.

9(b). GENERAL REVIEW - AFRICA.

The fourth official estimate of the All-India wheat acreage indicates an area of 34,499,000 acres compared with 34,003,000 acres in 1940 and 25,289,000 acres in 1939. The second forecast of production was announced on 23rd May and amounted to 372 million bushels. This is equal to the output of 1939 but it is 30 million bushels below that of 1940.

Harvest expectations in the United States for the 1941 wheat crop point to a greater production than was previously expected. According to the official crop report on conditions existing on 1st June, the estimated winter wheat yield is expected to be 697.7 million bushels, spring wheat 213 million bushels or a total output of almost 911 million bushels. This anticipated result compares with 817 million bushels in 1940, 751 million bushels in 1939, 932 million bushels in 1938 and 747 million bushels, the average for the ten years ended 1939.

Normally, the quantity of wheat needed in the United States ranges about 700 million bushels. In the event of the forecast proving correct, the surplus wheat from the 1941 harvest in United States will exceed 200 million bushels.

In addition to this expected surplus of 200 million bushels there is the carryover from the previous year, which, at the 1st July next is estimated to be 385 million bushels. The total surplus available for export and carryover for the year ended June, 1942 therefore should approximate 585 million bushels. A surplus of this dimension would be the greatest yet recorded in the United States.

In view of the probable magnitude of excess stocks, plans for their reduction were agreed to by growers in a referendum held in May, 1941. United States Growers approved of the plan which will become effective during the marketing year 1941-42. Under this plan growers will be free to market all the wheat produced provided that the acreage planted is within that allotted. Where wheat is sown in excess of the quota, the production will be subject to a penalty unless it is stored under seal.

The first estimate of the area sown or intended to be sown has been released for Canada for 1941. If growers complete their seeding according to their intentions, then the area will amount to 21.7 million acres compared with 28.7 million acres in 1940. This represents a reduction of 7 million acres or 25 per cent. This reduction is being made in the Prairie Provinces in response to the Dominion Government's request for a smaller wheat area, together with the programme offered for a diversion of land use from wheat into coarse grains, grasses and summer fallow. At the same time growers are planning corresponding increases in oats, barley, rye and flax-seed. Seeding in the Prairies is reported to be nearing completion.

The Dominion Statistician reported that the condition of the spring wheat crop on 31st May was 98 per cent. compared with 96 per cent. on the same date in 1940 and 94 in 1939.

/Canadian

Canadian wheat in store on 2nd May last was reported at 471.2 million bushels compared with 298.5 million bushels on 3rd May, 1940. Including Canadian wheat stored in the United States, the total quantity available for export and carryover on 1st April, 1941 exceeded 610 million bushels compared with 372 million on the same date in 1940.

Wheat stocks have accumulated also in the Argentine. On the 1st April last, the quantity of wheat available for export and carryover amounted to 162 million bushels. In April, 1940, the quantity so held amounted to 37.7 million bushels.

S. R. CARVER
Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 19th June, 1941.