

Table 1. - Marketing and Purchasing Co-operatives
In Canada, 1932 - 1959.

Crop Year: Ended	Associations	Total Business		
		including Other Revenue	Marketing	Purchasing
	- number -	- thousand dollars -		
1932 ^{a/}	795	145,303.9	134,611.1	10,665.5
1935	697	130,384.9	120,853.6	9,241.8
1940	1,151	236,322.5	214,293.4	21,129.8
1945	1,824	585,650.1	500,481.6	81,360.9
1950	2,495	1,015,264.0	803,639.0	206,082.0
1955	1,949	941,377.0	707,047.0	228,446.0
1958	2,002	1,209,805.0	898,168.0	296,743.0
1959	1,980	1,299,672.0	947,835.5	332,943.9

a/ 1932 is the first year these data are available.

The volume of the marketing and purchasing business of co-operatives for each occupied farm and for each person in the farm population is not quite as large in Canada as it is in the United States. Using the latest Census data available, the figures for the United States were \$1,920 a farm and \$440 a person in 1955. Comparable 1956 figures for Canada were \$1,826 and \$399. While these figures require some adjustment for the limited volume of business carried on with the non-farm population, they indicate that the extent of development of co-operation in the agricultural sector is similar in the two countries.

Nevertheless, co-operatives handle a larger share of total farm marketings in Canada than in the United States. In Canada about a third of all commercially marketed farm produce is sold through co-operative associations. In the United States the corresponding proportion is about one quarter.

In recent years the farm-supply business of co-operatives in the United States has been about nine times as great as the total purchasing business of Canadian co-operatives. As net farm income in the United States is over ten times as great as in Canada, this suggests that the Canadian co-operatives may have a larger share of the farm-supply business than those in the United States. However, the United States figure excludes the business of urban purchasing co-operatives, while the Canadian figure includes it. Although separate data are not available on the urban business of Canadian purchasing co-operatives, such business is known to be small in comparison with that in farming areas.