

Canada's Wheat Grain, Root, and Fodder Crops

Government's Preliminary Estimate Shows That Last Year's Field Crops Are Worth \$1,089,687,000—The Crop Record of The Monetary Times

Field crops of Canada.	1915.		1916.		1917.	
	Per bushel.	Total.	Per bushel.	Total.	Per bushel.	Total.
Wheat	\$0.91	\$356,816,900	\$1.31	\$344,096,400	\$1.95	\$ 451,874,000
Oats	0.36	171,009,100	0.51	210,957,500	0.60	236,142,000
Barley	0.52	27,985,800	0.82	35,024,000	1.00	51,684,000
Rye	0.77	1,921,900	1.11	3,196,000	1.50	6,359,700
Peas	1.65	5,724,100	2.22	4,919,000	3.00	10,117,800
Beans	3.05	2,206,800	5.40	2,228,000	7.00	9,727,900
Buckwheat	0.75	5,913,000	1.07	6,375,000	1.20	9,860,400
Flax	1.51	9,210,400	2.04	16,889,900	3.00	20,618,100
Mixed grains	0.57	10,062,300	0.88	9,300,900	1.00	15,461,400
Corn for husking	0.71	10,243,000	1.07	6,747,000	1.00	9,177,400
Potatoes	0.60	36,459,800	0.81	50,982,300	1.00	81,355,000
Turnips, etc.	0.24	14,588,700	0.39	14,329,000	0.46	29,253,000
	Per ton		Per ton.		Per ton.	
Hay and clover	14.37	152,531,600	11.60	168,547,900	10.40	142,320,300
Fodder corn	4.91	16,612,600	4.92	9,396,000	5.18	10,900,900
Sugar beets	5.50	775,500	6.20	440,000	6.75	793,800
Alfalfa	12.68	3,309,100	10.69	3,066,000	11.59	3,041,300
Totals		\$825,370,600	\$886,494,900	\$1,089,687,000

The above is the preliminary estimate of the census and statistics office, Ottawa, issued on November 30th, of the value of the field crops last year, compared with the finally revised estimates for 1915 and 1916. The total for 1917 is \$1,089,687,000, which is 22 per cent. greater than the total for the previous year. This is the first time that the estimated value of the field crops of Canada has reached \$1,000,000,-

000, that large figure being due to the high prices now ruling. The estimated value for 1917 represents the prices received by farmers, being calculated from market quotations in October. They are subject to revision after the compilation of returns from correspondents in December. The final estimates of value for 1917 will be issued by the census and statistics office this month.

Probable Demand for Wheat and other Cereals upon Canada and the United States

The following table, compiled in October last, shows the normal peace sources of the annual supplies of wheat of France, Italy, the United Kingdom and Belgium, being an average of the three-year prewar period:—

Commodity.	Production.	Imports from United States.	Imports from Canada.	Net imports, other sources.	Consumption.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat	590,675,000	79,426,000	112,900,000	188,478,000	974,485,000
Corn	121,109,000	10,811,000	135,675,000	266,596,000
Oats	570,890,000	6,783,000	16,580,000	88,612,000	682,865,000
Barley	125,201,000	4,946,000	6,660,000	63,030,000	199,793,000
Rye	78,573,000	567,000	60,000	11,309,000	90,537,000
Total	1,486,448,000	102,533,000	136,200,000	487,134,000	2,214,276,000

It will be seen from the above that the normal imports of wheat are 381,000,000 bushels, and of other cereals 345,000,000 bushels. The estimate of the 1917 harvest in the allied countries, based upon crop reports from these countries, is as follows:—

Commodity.	Probable 1917 production.	Average normal production.	Deficiency in production due to war.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat	393,770,000	590,675,000	196,905,000
Corn	94,464,000	121,109,000	26,645,000
Oats	337,235,000	570,890,000	233,655,000
Barley	93,585,000	125,201,000	31,616,000
Rye	41,732,000	78,573,000	36,841,000
Total	960,786,000	1,486,448,000	525,662,000

In order to provide normal consumption it would therefore be necessary to import in the next 12 months a total of 577,000,000 bushels of wheat and 674,000,000 bushels of other cereals. North America will have an apparent surplus of wheat of 208,000,000 bushels and of other cereals of about 950,000,000 bushels.

The prospective position of the United States and the Canadian harvest was estimated in October as follows:—

Commodity.	Probable United States, 1917.	Average normal United States consumption.	Probable United States surplus.	Add possible Canadian surplus.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat ..	678,000,000	509,304,000	88,000,000	120,000,000
Corn ...	3,124,000,000	2,653,698,000	470,000,000	62,000,000
Oats ...	1,453,000,000	1,148,713,000	304,000,000	30,000,000
Barley ..	214,000,000	178,829,000	35,000,000	9,000,000
Rye ...	56,100,000	35,866,000	20,200,000	18,000,000
Total ..	5,525,100,000	4,607,410,000	917,200,000	239,000,000

The allies are isolated from those markets other than Canada and the United States, on which they were accustomed to rely before the war. The Russian supply cannot be got out. Bulgarian and Roumanian supplies are in the hands of the central empires. The voyage from Australia and India is three times as long, and therefore requires three times as many tons of shipping as is required from North Atlantic ports. It is also twice as dangerous, because of the longer exposure to submarine attack. There has been a large failure in the South American countries, and the new harvest from that quarter will not be available in Europe until next spring. All the allied countries are, and have been for some time, rigorously administering and economizing their food. In