

Imports of grains and oilseeds and their products in 1984 were \$228 million, 15 percent of the value of all agricultural imports. In addition to corn and soybeans, soybean oilcake and meal, rice and small amounts of other grains and oilseeds and products are imported.

11. Structural Characteristics

1. Numbers and Sizes of Farms (enterprises)

The number of specialized grain and oilseed producers has decreased from 121 thousand in 1966 to about 89 thousand in 1981. Most grain and oilseed farms are still relatively small. However, the average farm size has increased substantially. Farms with sales of less than \$15,000 (in 1975 constant dollars) accounted for about 77 percent of farms in 1966 and for only 51 percent in 1981. As well, average sales have increased more than 100 percent from \$18 thousand in 1966 to approximately \$38 thousand in 1981.

2. Geographic Distribution

The main region of production for grains and oilseed is the Prairie Provinces although some wheat is grown in all regions. In Ontario and Quebec have increased their share over the last two decades. Ontario is the main corn and soybean-producing area. The area and production of corn has been increasing significantly and corn is now the second most important coarse grain crop in Canada.

3. Production Growth and Productivity

Over the past twenty years grain output levels have increased with an average annual growth rate of 1.5 percent during the 1960's and 3.7 percent during the seventies and early eighties. During the sixties, oilseed production increased at an average annual growth rate of 10 percent and in the seventies oilseed output increased an average 4.9 percent per year. Oilseed production declined in the early 1970's, but it is now approaching the levels that existed in the late 1970's.