

Non-metallic minerals and their products (except chemicals).....	29,332,099	33,754,096	45,172,085	56,580,147	62,191,800
Chemicals and allied products.	24,263,342	31,222,806	58,676,338	77,332,918	86,350,800
Miscellaneous	16,447,654	37,909,040	127,869,409	520,594,466	578,530,200
Total	924,926,104	1,178,954,420	1,621,003,175	2,363,773,296	2,871,100,000

FOOD

The food industry is in many respects Canada's most important industry. It is complementary to agriculture; it is the biggest processing and merchandising business in Canada, and it contributes an important part of Canada's export trade.

Canada has increased its total output of agricultural products by more than 50% in the last four years, but further considerable increases under prevailing conditions seem unlikely. The net value of agricultural production increased from \$826,400,000 in 1939 to \$1,692,000,000 in 1942. This peak production was accomplished despite a reduction in manpower of 23%.

Although rationing of certain commodities has been introduced, total food consumption in Canada has increased during the war. Canada's food contribution to the United Nations has been made possible by increased production.

The importance of Canadian exports to the United Kingdom is readily seen when it is realized that from Canada the United Kingdom gets 65% of its bacon, 52% of its wheat, 35% of its canned fish, 25% of its cheese and 10% of its eggs.

To August 31, 1944, the Canadian Red Cross assisted by the Canadian government had sent 11,327,974 food parcels to prisoners of war.

Government food officials predict that if Canada is to meet greater demands for the urgent needs of the increasing number of armed forces and suffering people, its civilian population will have to face greater denials than have yet been experienced.

The character of production and the plan of farming have been greatly changed in many areas. In Western Canada the raising of hogs has become as common as the raising of wheat; livestock is to be found on thousands of farms where it did not exist before the war; butter production has been stepped up tremendously; poultry has greatly increased and improved; special crops have been introduced, and even vegetable growing has been extended.

With the exception of wheat, pre-war surpluses have largely disappeared. The wheat stockpile is being steadily reduced, and difficulty is being experienced in establishing and maintaining even moderate stockpiles of other commodities deemed essential for war operations and the maintenance of populations in liberated countries.

Production of the principal agricultural products during wartime and the average for the five years 1935-39 were as follows:

	1935-39	1940	1941	1942	1943
(in thousands).....				
Total milk (lb.)	15,601,021	16,283,078	16,752,823	17,428,662	17,516,000
Creamery butter (lb.)	254,773	264,724	285,848	284,305	312,000
Cheddar cheese (lb.)	119,384	144,685	131,212	202,749	162,000
Eggs. (doz.)	234,523	250,403	259,157	295,253	330,000
Pork (lb.)	634,016	850,638	1,022,777	1,092,574	1,172,000
Beef (lb.)	618,556	643,459	720,651	736,823	886,000
Wheat (bu.)	312,399	540,190	314,825	556,121	293,000
Wheat stocks at July 31 (bu.)	101,142	300,473	480,129	423,752	601,000