

Agri-Food Statistics Update



Issue No: CR17-2

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Section monitors statistical indicators of agri-food activity for Alberta. The Agri-Food Statistics Update is designed to provide users with commentary on current issues, trends and new developments related to agriculture and the food and beverage processing industries. Up-to-date statistics are supplemented with informative charts and diagrams. To gauge Alberta's performance, comparative data and information are often available for Canada and the provinces.

Please visit the following website for a complete listing of Agri-Food Statistics Update releases:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270)

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November 2017 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Alberta

On December 6, 2017, Statistics Canada released for Canada and the provinces the November estimates of crop production for 2017.

Key Messages

- In Alberta, the 2017 crop season started with a wet spring and some unharvested areas from the last season, which resulted in late seeding. Generally, weather conditions during the season were not uniform across the province and resulted in variable seeding and harvest progress, yields and crop quality.
- In 2017, the production of selected field crops (including forages) totalled 33.5 million tonnes, down 2.4 per cent from a year ago. Excluding forages, production totalled 24.8 million tonnes, a marginal decline of 0.8 per cent from last year.
- Spring wheat production increased 9.1 per cent to 8.7 million tonnes (8.0 million tonnes in 2016), due to higher harvested area, although yield was down.
- Barley production fell 11.2 per cent to 3.9 million tonnes (4.4 million tonnes in 2016), as both yield and harvested area decreased.
- Canola production increased 10.9 per cent to a record of 6.8 million tonnes (6.2 million tonnes in 2016), and was 35.1 per cent higher than the 10-year average.
- Forage production declined 6.6 per cent from last year to 8.7 million tonnes. This was attributed to a lower production of tame hay, despite fodder corn production increasing.

December 19, 2017

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Total 2017 Crop Production Marginally Decreased in Alberta

Statistics Canada released its third and final estimates of 2017 crop production for Canada and the provinces on December 6, 2017. Production of selected field crops (including forages) in Alberta totaled 33.5 million tonnes, down 2.4 per cent from a year ago. Excluding forages, selected field crops production was at 24.8 million tonnes, 0.8 per cent lower than last year (see Table 1). It is important to note that although estimates were lower for 2017, they are still 13.6 and 17.8 per cent higher respectively, than the 10-year averages (2007-2016). Generally, weather conditions during the 2017 crop season were not uniform across the province and resulted in variable seeding and harvest progress, yields and crop quality. Provincial average yields for most major crops fell from 2016, but were still higher than the 10-year averages (see Table 2). Total seeded areas of principal field crops increased 2.0 per cent from 2016, while total harvested area was up 5.7 per cent, due to the lower harvested area in 2016 as a result of the challenging harvest season.

Table 1: Alberta Crop Production ('000 tonnes)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016r	2017p	10-year Average	% change	
								17 vs 16	17 vs Avg
Winter Wheat	206.8	261.3	272.2	225.9	318.4	176.9	263.9	-44.4%	-33.0%
Spring Wheat	7,429.9	10,169.6	8,369.1	7,247.6	7,995.9	8,720.0	7,536.9	9.1%	15.7%
Durum Wheat	732.1	870.9	707.6	816.5	1,583.9	1,083.2	849.4	-31.6%	27.5%
All Wheat	8,368.8	11,301.8	9,348.9	8,290.0	9,898.2	9,980.1	8,650.2	0.8%	15.4%
Oats	518.2	601.5	542.9	393.3	624.6	609.2	554.4	-2.5%	9.9%
Barley	4,463.3	5,545.4	4,131.3	4,289.2	4,398.0	3,906.0	4,642.6	-11.2%	-15.9%
Fall Rye	34.3	36.3	30.9	33.0	49.5	33.5	42.1	-32.3%	-20.4%
Mixed Grains	10.5	13.3	12.9	12.2	24.9	33.0	25.6	32.5%	29.1%
Flaxseed	41.9	73.7	87.6	83.8	54.6	62.2	50.5	13.9%	23.3%
Canola	5,097.2	6,168.9	5,796.9	5,851.3	6,157.5	6,826.6	5,051.3	10.9%	35.1%
Corn for Grain	35.6	66.0	91.4	87.6	63.5	152.9	53.5	140.8%	185.9%
Dry Beans	44.7	48.1	66.0	47.9	54.6	61.5	48.1	12.6%	27.8%
Fababeans	---	---	107.5	81.6	54.4	45.4	81.2	-16.5%	-44.1%
Dry Peas	1,208.4	1,321.3	1,475.1	1,314.5	2,271.2	1,991.5	1,130.4	-12.3%	76.2%
Lentils	68.1	110.3	84.4	176.4	506.2	264.4	142.1	-47.8%	86.1%
Mustard Seed	35.9	37.2	59.4	31.9	73.3	27.1	42.7	-63.0%	-36.5%
Triticale	19.1	16.9	17.5	14.5	19.6	23.2	20.7	18.4%	12.1%
Sugar Beets	598.7	598.7	580.6	503.5	725.7	771.1	598.3	6.3%	28.9%
All Crops	20,544.7	25,939.4	22,433.3	21,210.7	24,975.8	24,787.7	21,042.9	-0.8%	17.8%
Tame Hay	7,711.1	7,588.6	7,257.5	4,971.4	7,819.9	7,175.8	7,434.4	-8.2%	-3.5%
Fodder Corn	784.7	1,179.3	943.5	1,115.8	1,542.2	1,564.9	1,031.5	1.5%	51.7%
All Forages	8,495.8	8,767.9	8,201.0	6,087.2	9,362.1	8,740.7	8,465.8	-6.6%	3.2%
Total	29,040.5	34,707.3	30,634.3	27,297.9	34,337.9	33,528.4	29,508.8	-2.4%	13.6%

Production by Crop Type, Alberta

Total production of **spring wheat** in 2017, increased 9.1 per cent, to 8.7 million tonnes, second highest on record. The higher production stemmed from an increase in harvested area (up 16.5 per cent) compensating for the decline in yield (down 6.7 per cent). The provincial average yield was estimated at 55.5 bushels per acre, with harvested area at 5.8 million acres. **Durum wheat** production decreased 31.6 per cent, to 1.1 million tonnes, due to a 5.7 per cent drop in harvested area to 1.1 million acres, as well as a 27.5 per cent decline in average yield from last year, to 36.7 bushels per acre. For **all wheat**, production slightly increased by 0.8 per cent, to 10.0 million tonnes. The higher production was due to harvested area increasing 10.7 per cent to 7.0 million acres, despite a 9.3 per cent decline in yields, to 52.6 bushels per acre.

Total **barley** production fell 11.2 per cent from last year to 3.9 million tonnes. The average yield was down 7.6 per cent to 71.8 bushels per acre, while harvested area declined 3.8 per cent to 2.5 million acres.

Total **canola** production increased 10.9 per cent from 2016 to a record of 6.8 million tonnes. This was attributed to a higher harvested area of 6.9 million acres (up 17.8 per cent from 2016), despite average yield falling 5.8 per cent, to 43.7 bushels per acre.

Dry peas production fell 12.3 per cent to 2.0 million tonnes, due to a lower yield of 40.9 bushels per acre (down 11.3 per cent from 2016) and harvested area of 1.8 million acres (down 1.1 per cent). Despite the production decline, it was still the second highest on record and 76.2 per cent above the 10-year average.

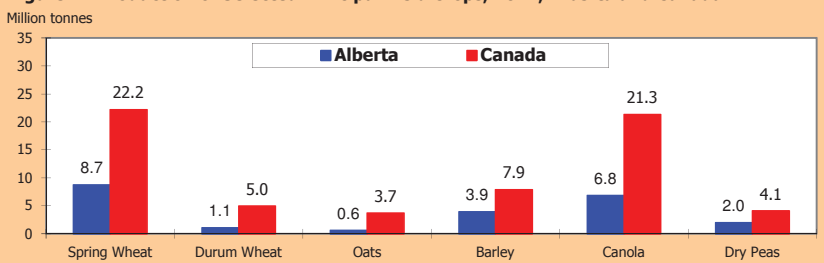
Total **oats** production dropped 2.5 per cent, to 609,200 tonnes, due to a 2.5 per cent decrease in yield to 92.9 bushels per acre. Harvested area remained unchanged at 425,000 acres.

Forage production decreased 6.6 per cent from last year to 8.7 million tonnes. This was attributed to a lower production of **tame hay** (down 8.2 per cent to 7.2 million tonnes), despite **fodder corn** production increasing (up 1.5 per cent to 1.6 million tonnes). Tame hay yield was down 5.0 per cent at 1.9 tons per acre. For fodder corn, it was down 4.0 per cent at 19.2 tons per acre.

Table 2: Alberta Crop Area and Yield

Crops	2016	2017p	2016	2017p	2016	2017p	10-year	Yield % change	
	Seeded	Seeded	Harvested	Harvested	Yield	Yield	Avg Yld	17 vs 16	17 vs Avg
	('000 acres)		('000 acres)		(bushel/acre)				
Winter Wheat	185.0	105.0	185.0	105.0	63.2	61.9	55.0	-2.1%	12.6%
Spring Wheat	5,335.0	5,860.0	4,955.0	5,775.0	59.5	55.5	49.0	-6.7%	13.3%
Durum Wheat	1,170.0	1,090.0	1,150.0	1,085.0	50.6	36.7	44.0	-27.5%	-16.5%
All Wheat	6,705.0	7,080.0	6,290.0	6,965.0	58.0	52.6	48.5	-9.3%	8.4%
Oats	720.0	690.0	425.0	425.0	95.3	92.9	78.6	-2.5%	18.1%
Barley	3,200.0	2,850.0	2,600.0	2,500.0	77.7	71.8	66.4	-7.6%	8.1%
Fall Rye	65.0	45.0	42.0	25.0	46.4	52.8	42.9	13.8%	23.2%
Mixed Grains	105.0	135.0	20.0	25.0	61.0	64.6	61.4	5.9%	5.2%
Flaxseed	70.0	85.0	64.0	85.0	33.6	28.8	29.9	-14.3%	-3.7%
Canola	5,980.0	6,930.0	5,850.0	6,890.0	46.4	43.7	38.2	-5.8%	14.5%
Corn for Grain	25.0	60.0	18.0	45.0	138.9	133.8	114.0	-3.7%	17.4%
Dry Beans	45.0	50.0	45.0	50.0	44.7	45.2	39.7	1.1%	13.8%
Fababeans	45.0	35.0	41.0	34.0	48.8	49.0	46.8	0.3%	4.6%
Dry Peas	1,845.0	1,800.0	1,810.0	1,790.0	46.1	40.9	39.8	-11.3%	2.7%
Lentils	575.0	485.0	560.0	483.0	33.2	20.1	30.0	-39.4%	-33.0%
Mustard Seed	135.0	95.0	132.0	93.0	24.5	12.8	18.5	-47.5%	-30.6%
Triticale	30.0	35.0	13.0	15.0	59.2	60.8	50.8	2.7%	19.7%
					(tons/acre)				
Sugar Beets	25.0	26.0	25.0	26.0	32.0	32.7	27.1	2.2%	20.7%
Tame Hay	4,825.0	4,460.0	4,395.0	4,160.0	2.0	1.9	1.7	-5.0%	11.1%
Fodder Corn	110.0	130.0	85.0	90.0	20.0	19.2	17.8	-4.0%	7.7%
Total	24,505.0	24,991.0	22,415.0	23,701.0	---	---	---	---	---

Figure 1: Production of Selected Principal Field Crops, 2017, Alberta and Canada



2017 Crop Production, Canada

Total 2017 Canadian production was 22.2 million tonnes for spring wheat, 5.0 million tonnes for durum, 3.7 million tonnes for oats, 7.9 million tonnes for barley, 21.3 million tonnes for canola, and 4.1 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

10-year average refers to 2007 to 2016.

Source: Statistics Canada r- Revised p- Preliminary --- Not available bu - Bushels Avg - Average Yld - Yield

Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section

Email: ashan.shoostarian@gov.ab.ca Telephone: 780-422-2887