

# Agri-Food Statistics Update



## Issue No: CR07-5

Collected from a variety of sources, the **Statistics and Data Development Unit** 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 refer to the following website for a 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 Estimate of 2007 Production of Principal Field Crops, Alberta

On December 6, 2007, Statistics Canada released the November estimate of 2007 production of principal field crops for Canada and provinces. Estimates for Alberta were generated from a survey of 8,972 Alberta farms, which was conducted by Statistics Canada during the period from October 26 to November 13, 2007. The Statistics and Data Development Unit of Alberta Agriculture and Food reviewed the survey results and provided input before the estimates were released by Statistics Canada.

Based on the November estimate, total 2007 production of principal crops in Alberta was estimated at 26.4 million tonnes. This is down 2% from a year ago, but 14% higher than the 10-year average. The persistent hot, dry weather across the province in July resulted in a significant deterioration in crop conditions. In general, provincial yields for most crops were estimated to be similar to their 10-year averages, but lower than in 2006. Crop quality is average for cereals, but below average for canola.

The November estimate is considered to be more accurate than the previously released September estimate since the November survey was conducted during the latter part of the crop season. As well, the sample size for the November survey was much larger, compared to the September survey. The November estimate is the final production estimate for 2007 field crops.

**Alberta**

December 11, 2007

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# November Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, 2007

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Update No. CR07-5

## 2007 Crop Production, Alberta

On December 6, 2007, Statistics Canada released the November estimate of 2007 production of principal field crops for Canada and provinces. Based on the November estimate, total 2007 production of principal crops in Alberta was 26.4 million tonnes (see Table 1). This is down 2% from a year ago, but 14% higher than the 10-year average. Due to the hot, dry weather this past July, provincial yields for most crops were lower than in 2006, but similar to their 10-year averages (see Table 2). In addition, total seeded area and forecasted harvested acreage for principal crops in the province remained virtually unchanged from a year ago, while total summerfallow area contracted by 5% to 2.1 million acres, from 2.2 million acres in 2006.

Regarding estimates for specific crops, total 2007 production of spring wheat declined 22% from last year, to 5.2 million tonnes. The lower production stemmed from a combination of lower harvested area and reduced yield. Total harvested area was estimated at 4.8 million acres, or 16% lower than a year ago. The provincial average yield was 40.2 bushels per acre, down 7% from 2006. For durum wheat, production increased to 670,000 tonnes, or 2% higher than in 2006. The higher production stemmed from a large increase in harvested area, which negated the impact of a lower yield. The provincial average yield was estimated at 32.4 bushels per acre, or 24% lower than in 2006. The lower yield was a result of severe dry conditions this summer in southern Alberta, where the crop was primarily grown. Overall, total production of all wheat was estimated at 6.1 million tonnes, down 19% from 2006.

Total oats production was estimated at 627,400 tonnes, down 11% from 2006. The lower production was attributed to a lower harvested area, as yield was practically unchanged. The provincial average yield was 65.6 bushels per acre, compared to 65.0 bushels per acre in 2006 and 67.3 bushels per acre for the 10-year average. Total barley production increased 16% from last year, to 5.1 million tonnes in 2007. The gain was the result of a 26% increase in harvested area. The provincial average yield for barley was estimated at 55.0 bushels per acre, down 8% from last year. Despite the increases in barley production, supplies of feed grains in the local market are expected to be tight in 2007/08. This is due to a low carry-over from the 2006/07 crop year and increased use of grains for ethanol production. As a result, significant amounts of US corn are expected to be imported into Alberta for the remainder of this winter.

Total canola production dropped to 3.0 million tonnes, or 13% lower than in 2006. The lower production was the result of a reduction in the provincial average yield, as harvested area remained virtually unchanged. The average yield was estimated at 29.6 bushels per acre, down 12% from a year ago.

Total production of dry peas was estimated at 527,500 tonnes, or 5% lower than in 2006. A 9% reduction in yield was behind the decline, despite harvested area increasing.

## 2007 Crop Production, Canada

Based on the November estimate, 2007 yields for most major crops in Canada were similar to their 10-year averages. This was mostly as a result of the hot, dry weather conditions across the Prairies in July. By crop type, 2007 Canadian production was 20.1 million tonnes for all wheat, 11.0 million tonnes for barley, 4.7 million tonnes for oats, 8.8 million tonnes for canola, and 2.9 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).

Table 1: Alberta Crop Production ('000 tonnes)

						10 year		% change	
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	average	07 vs 06	07 vs avg
Winter Wheat	29.9	144.2	196.0	190.5	167.4	175.5	103.0	5%	70%
Spring Wheat	2,594.4	5,278.4	6,392.9	7,160.3	6,678.7	5,230.6	5,907.0	-22%	-11%
Durum Wheat	898.1	1,007.0	982.5	1,020.6	657.3	670.0	873.0	2%	-23%
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>3,522.4</b>	<b>6,429.6</b>	<b>7,571.4</b>	<b>8,371.4</b>	<b>7,503.4</b>	<b>6,076.1</b>	<b>6,883.0</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-12%</b>
Oats	370.1	826.6	828.2	829.7	706.3	627.4	756.0	-11%	-17%
Barley	2,547.4	5,421.3	5,628.2	5,231.9	4,404.6	5,114.3	5,184.0	16%	-1%
Fall Rye	14.2	76.2	68.6	79.0	57.2	36.8	60.0	-36%	-39%
Mixed Grains	16.3	40.8	44.9	40.8	65.9	24.1	53.0	-63%	-55%
Flaxseed	20.3	25.4	29.2	53.3	36.3	16.3	31.0	-55%	-47%
Canola	1,224.7	2,222.6	2,925.7	3,651.4	3,424.6	2,993.7	2,451.0	-13%	22%
Dry Peas	221.6	491.3	642.3	617.5	552.6	527.5	517.0	-5%	2%
Mustard Seed	19.1	38.8	51.2	31.1	25.6	27.0	32.3	5%	-16%
Chick Peas	15.9	13.2	8.6	19.6	26.0	26.7	17.4	3%	53%
Triticale	8.3	30.1	27.9	21.8	15.0	17.8	32.0	19%	-44%
Sugar Beets	422.4	628.1	740.5	668.1	963.2	762.0	731.5	-21%	4%
Fodder Corn	362.9	453.6	340.2	453.6	952.5	839.1	408.0	-12%	106%
Tame Hay	3,039.1	6,395.7	7,393.6	8,754.3	8,142.0	9,276.0	5,949.0	14%	56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,805</b>	<b>23,093</b>	<b>26,301</b>	<b>28,824</b>	<b>26,875</b>	<b>26,365</b>	<b>23,105</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>14%</b>

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

10-year average refers to 1997 to 2006.

Source: Statistics Canada, and Alberta Agriculture and Food

Table 2: Alberta Crop Area and Yield

	2006		2007		2007		10 year		Yield % change	
	seeded	hrvtd	yield	seeded	hrvtd	yield	avg yld	07 vs 06	07 vs avg	
	('000 acres)		(bu/acre)		('000 acres)		(bu/acre)			
Winter Wheat	128	120	51.3	160	140	46.1	43.9	-10%	5%	
Spring Wheat	5,769	5,685	43.2	4,867	4,785	40.2	39.5	-7%	2%	
Durum Wheat	571	565	42.7	765	760	32.4	36.2	-24%	-10%	
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>6,468</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>5,792</b>	<b>5,685</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>1%</b>	
Oats	1,269	705	65.0	1,050	620	65.6	67.3	1%	-3%	
Barley	4,095	3,400	59.5	4,850	4,270	55.0	58.0	-8%	-5%	
Fall Rye	105	55	40.9	70	40	36.3	36.9	-11%	-2%	
Mixed Grains	373	60	53.8	140	20	59.0	53.1	10%	11%	
Flaxseed	60	55	26.0	30	30	21.3	22.8	-18%	-7%	
Canola	4,500	4,480	33.7	4,500	4,460	29.6	28.8	-12%	3%	
Dry Peas	587	565	35.9	610	595	32.6	35.5	-9%	-8%	
Mustard Seed	63	60	18.8	85	85	14.0	15.3	-25%	-8%	
Chick Peas	41	40	23.9	50	50	19.6	18.5	-18%	6%	
Triticale	76	15	39.3	40	18	38.9	39.9	-1%	-3%	
	(tons/acre)		(tons/acre)		(tons/acre)		(tons/acre)			
Sugar Beets	38	37	28.6	34	34	24.7	22.8	-14%	8%	
Fodder Corn	70	55	19.1	70	50	18.5	16.3	-3%	13%	
Tame Hay	6,241	5,450	1.6	6,240	5,585	1.8	1.2	13%	50%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,985</b>	<b>21,347</b>	-	<b>23,561</b>	<b>21,542</b>	-	-	-	-	

hrvtd - harvested

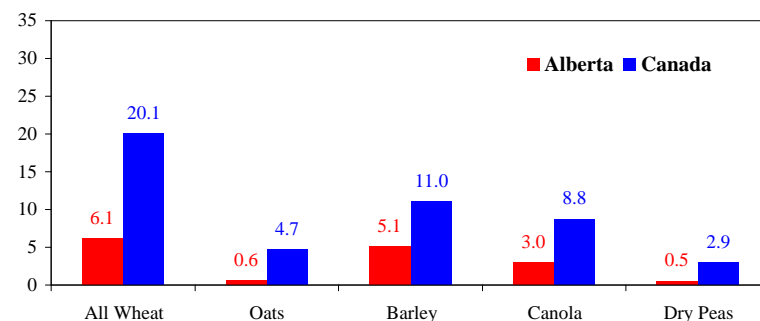
avg - average

yld - yield

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, and Alberta Agriculture and Food.

Figure 1: Production of Principal Field Crops, 2007  
Alberta and Canada (million tonnes)



Source: Statistics Canada, and Alberta Agriculture and Food.