

# Agri-Food Statistics Update



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Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Branch 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.

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## July 31 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops Alberta, 2010

On August 20, 2010, Statistics Canada released its report entitled "July 31 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Canada, 2010". The Alberta estimates were generated from a Statistics Canada survey of 3,802 farms in the province, during the period from July 26 to August 3, 2010.

Based on the Statistics Canada report, total production of principal field crops in Alberta in 2010 is projected at 18.63 million tonnes. If realized, this would be up 20 per cent from a year ago, and 18 per cent above the 10-year average (2000-2009). This stems from higher yield projections and an increase in total harvested area. Crop growing conditions in the province this year have been mainly favourable. The exception is the Peace Region, where crop yields are below average, due to dry conditions. Also, there were some crops lost due to flooding, mainly in the Southern Region.

Provincial average yields are mostly projected to be higher than in 2009, and their 10-year averages. Just to caution, these estimates reflect yield potentials at the time the survey was conducted. Also, crop development this year is 10-20 days behind normal in the Southern Region, and 7-10 days behind normal in the Central, North East and North West Region.

The July 31 estimate is preliminary and is the first of three production estimates planned by Statistics Canada. A second set (September estimate) is scheduled for release on October 4, while the November estimate, which contains the final production statistics for 2010, will be released on December 3.

**August 25, 2010**

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**Total Crop Production Increases in Alberta in 2010**

On August 20, 2010, Statistics Canada released its report entitled "July 31 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Canada, 2010". Based on the report, total 2010 production of principal field crops in the province could reach 18.63 million tonnes, or 20 per cent higher than last year, and 18 per cent above the 10-year average (see Table 1). Crop growing conditions in the province this year have been mainly favorable, despite the impact of some adverse weather factors in some areas. Provincial average yields are mostly projected to be higher than in 2009, and their 10-year averages (see Table 2). Just to caution, these estimates reflect yield potentials at the time the survey was conducted (July 26 to August 3, 2010). Also, crop development this year is behind normal, with the exception of the Peace Region. Total seeded area of principal field crops in the province is estimated to be relatively unchanged from 2009, while the harvested acreage is expected to be up by eight per cent, resulting from improved weather conditions.

**Table 1: Alberta Crop Production ('000 tonnes)**

Crops	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009r	2010p	10-year Average	% change	
								10 vs 09	10 vs avg
Winter Wheat	190.5	167.4	175.5	386.5	266.7	253.1	167.1	-5%	51%
Spring Wheat	7,160.3	6,678.7	5,230.6	7,272.0	6,180.6	7,070.5	5,832.2	14%	21%
Durum Wheat	1,020.6	657.3	670.0	1,077.7	993.4	481.7	864.7	-52%	-44%
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>8,371.4</b>	<b>7,503.4</b>	<b>6,076.1</b>	<b>8,736.2</b>	<b>7,440.7</b>	<b>7,805.3</b>	<b>6,864.0</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Oats	829.7	706.3	627.4	541.3	308.4	649.3	628.7	111%	3%
Barley	5,231.9	4,404.6	5,114.3	5,447.5	3,840.7	4,924.9	4,765.1	28%	3%
Fall Rye	79.0	57.2	36.8	76.2	38.1	44.5	53.3	17%	-16%
Flaxseed	53.3	36.3	16.3	33.0	28.4	34.3	28.0	21%	22%
Canola	3,651.4	3,424.6	3,401.9	4,322.7	3,161.5	4,127.7	2,817.9	31%	46%
Dry Beans	52.8	60.8	54.4	34.9	49.9	35.7	48.2	-28%	-26%
Dry Peas	617.5	552.6	527.5	731.4	666.7	947.1	557.8	42%	70%
Mustard Seed	31.1	25.6	28.1	37.1	47.7	63.3	30.2	33%	109%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,918.1</b>	<b>16,771.4</b>	<b>15,882.8</b>	<b>19,960.3</b>	<b>15,582.1</b>	<b>18,632.1</b>	<b>15,793.3</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>18%</b>

**Production by Crop Type, Alberta**

Total production of spring wheat could increase 14 per cent, to 7.07 million tonnes. The rise in production stems from higher yields, and to a lesser extent, a projected increase in harvested area. The provincial average yield is projected at 45.5 bushels per acre, up 11 per cent from 2009, while harvested area is expected to increase three per cent, to 5.71 million acres. For durum wheat, production could decline 52 per cent, to 481,700 tonnes, due to a large reduction in harvested area (down 56 per cent). The provincial average yield is projected at 44.8 bushels per acre, up 10 per cent from 2009. With a much smaller harvested area, total production of winter wheat is expected to be 253,100 tonnes, or down five per cent from last year. Overall, total production of all wheat could reach 7.81 million tonnes, an increase of five per cent over 2009.

In 2010, total barley production is projected at 4.92 million tonnes, up 28 per cent from 2009. The provincial average yield for barley is projected at 67.1 bushels per acre, or 15 per cent higher than in 2009, while harvested area is expected to increase 11 per cent.

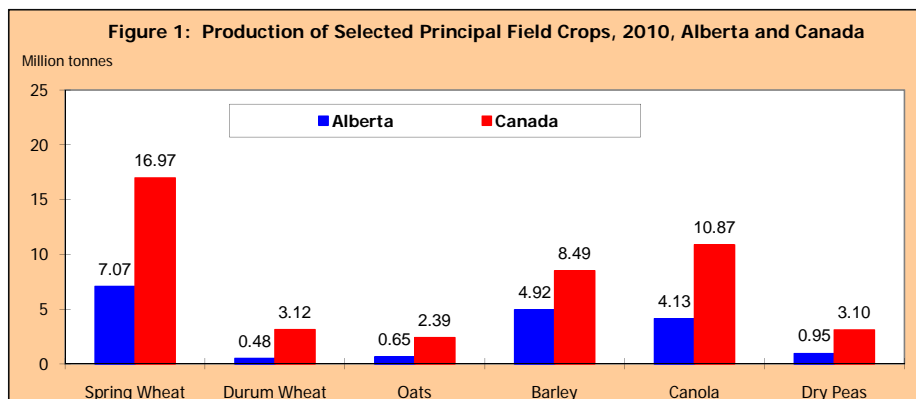
Total oat production could more than double from last year (up 111 per cent), and reach 649,300 tonnes. This stems from both higher yields and an increase in harvested acreage. The provincial average yield is projected at 75.2 bushels per acre, or 13 per cent higher than in 2009, while the harvested area is expected to be up 87 per cent.

Total canola production could increase 31 per cent from 2009, to 4.13 million tonnes. This is attributed to a combination of higher yields and a larger harvested area. In 2010, seeded and harvested acreage are estimated to be 5.50 million acres and 5.40 million acres, respectively (both record highs). Regarding yield, the provincial average is projected at 33.7 bushels per acre, or nine per cent above 2009.

In 2010, total production of dry peas is expected to jump 42 per cent, to a record 947,100 tonnes. This stems from higher yields and a record harvested area. The provincial average yield is projected at 39.5 bushels per acre, or 21 per cent higher than in 2009, while harvested area could increase by 17 per cent.

**Table 2: Alberta Crop Area and Yield**

Crops	2009r	2009r	2009r	2010p	2010p	2010p	10-year Avg Yld	Yield % change	
	Seeded	Harvested	Yield	Seeded	Harvested	Yield		10 vs 09	10 vs avg
	('000 acres)		(bu/acre)	('000 acres)		(bu/acre)			
Winter Wheat	260.0	260.0	37.7	175.0	175.0	53.1	45.1	41%	18%
Spring Wheat	5,875.0	5,525.0	41.1	5,825.0	5,710.0	45.5	40.6	11%	12%
Durum Wheat	930.0	900.0	40.6	400.0	395.0	44.8	36.5	10%	23%
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>7,065.0</b>	<b>6,685.0</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>6,400.0</b>	<b>6,280.0</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Oats	835.0	300.0	66.7	900.0	560.0	75.2	67.8	13%	11%
Barley	3,960.0	3,030.0	58.2	3,900.0	3,370.0	67.1	58.1	15%	16%
Fall Rye	40.0	40.0	37.5	45.0	45.0	38.9	37.3	4%	4%
Flaxseed	50.0	40.0	28.0	50.0	47.0	28.7	24.1	3%	19%
Canola	5,000.0	4,520.0	30.8	5,500.0	5,400.0	33.7	30.8	9%	9%
Dry Beans	55.0	53.0	34.7	50.0	44.0	30.0	36.2	-13%	-17%
Dry Peas	800.0	750.0	32.7	910.0	880.0	39.5	33.9	21%	17%
Mustard Seed	120.0	115.0	18.3	130.0	130.0	21.5	14.8	17%	45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,925.0</b>	<b>15,533.0</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>17,885.0</b>	<b>16,756.0</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>



**2010 Crop Production, Canada**

The July 31 estimate suggests that in 2010, production for most principal field crops in Canada could be down significantly from last year, mainly due to smaller harvested acreage.

Projections of 2010 Canadian production are 16.97 million tonnes for spring wheat, 3.12 million tonnes for durum, 8.49 million tonnes for barley, 2.39 million tonnes for oats, 10.87 million tonnes for canola, and 3.10 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding. 10-year average refers to 2000 to 2009.