

Agri-Food Statistics Update



Issue No: CR11-2

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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[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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July 31 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Alberta, 2011

On August 24, 2011, Statistics Canada released its report entitled "July 31 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Canada, 2011". The Alberta estimates were generated from a Statistics Canada survey of 4,153 farms in the province, during the period from July 25 to August 2, 2011.

Based on the Statistics Canada report, total production of principal field crops in Alberta in 2011 is projected at 19.7 million tonnes. If realized, this would be up 3.3 per cent from a year ago, and 22.0 per cent above the 10-year average (2001-2010). The higher production stems from an overall increase in seeded and harvested areas, along with relatively strong yields.

Overall, provincial average yields are projected to be above average. Just to caution, these estimates reflect yield potentials at the time the survey was conducted.

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 2011, will be released on December 6, 2011.

Total Alberta Crop Production Could Increase in 2011

On August 24, 2011, Statistics Canada released its report entitled "July 31 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Canada, 2011". Based on the report, total 2011 production of principal field crops in Alberta could reach 19.7 million tonnes, or 3.3 per cent higher than last year, and 22.0 per cent above the 10-year average (see Table 1). Crop growing conditions in the province this year have been mainly favorable, despite some adverse weather factors. Provincial average yields are mostly projected to be above their 10-year averages (see Table 2). Just to caution, these production estimates reflect yield potentials at the time the survey was conducted (July 25 to August 2, 2011). Total seeded area and total harvested area of principal field crops in the province is estimated to be higher than in 2010.

Table 1: Alberta Crop Production ('000 tonnes)

Crops	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011p	10-year Average	% change	
								11 vs 10	11 vs Avg
Winter Wheat	167.4	175.5	386.5	266.7	264.0	215.0	188.9	-18.6%	13.8%
Spring Wheat	6,678.7	5,230.6	7,272.0	6,180.6	7,484.3	7,688.4	5,953.8	2.7%	29.1%
Durum Wheat	657.3	670.0	1,077.7	993.4	421.8	579.7	825.9	37.4%	-29.8%
All Wheat	7,503.4	6,076.1	8,736.2	7,440.7	8,170.1	8,483.1	6,968.6	3.8%	21.7%
Oats	706.3	627.4	541.3	308.4	647.7	641.6	627.8	-0.9%	2.2%
Barley	4,404.6	5,114.3	5,447.5	3,840.7	4,528.7	4,824.8	4,691.1	6.5%	2.9%
Fall Rye	57.2	36.8	76.2	38.1	50.8	32.5	54.8	-36.0%	-40.7%
Flaxseed	36.3	16.3	33.0	28.4	30.5	47.6	29.3	56.1%	62.5%
Canola	3,424.6	3,401.9	4,322.7	3,470.0	4,490.6	4,762.7	3,079.0	6.1%	54.7%
Mixed Grains	65.9	24.1	30.6	23.0	24.5	31.0	36.4	26.5%	-14.8%
Dry Peas	552.6	527.5	731.4	666.7	937.6	743.0	589.5	-20.8%	26.0%
Lentils	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.1	106.8	73.9	17.6	-30.8%	319.6%
Mustard Seed	25.6	28.1	37.1	47.7	52.5	29.9	34.1	-43.0%	-12.3%
Total	16,776.5	15,852.5	19,956.0	15,893.8	19,039.8	19,670.1	16,122.0	3.3%	22.0%

Production by Crop Type, Alberta

Total production of spring wheat could increase 2.7 per cent, to 7.7 million tonnes. The increased production is anticipated from higher seeded and harvested areas, as yield is expected to remain flat. The provincial average yield is projected at 46.7 bushels per acre. For durum wheat, production could jump by 37.4 per cent, to 579,700 tonnes. The marked increase is the result of much higher seeded and harvested areas, expected to be up by 45.8 per cent and 48.6 per cent, respectively. The provincial average yield is projected at 41.0 bushels per acre, down 7.4 per cent from a year ago, but still above the 10-year average. Winter wheat production could decline for the second time on a "year-over-year" basis to 215,000 tonnes, but remains above the 10-year average. The decline is anticipated due to lower seeded and harvested areas, along with a lower projected yield. Overall, total production of all wheat could reach 8.5 million tonnes, an increase of 3.8 per cent over 2010, and 21.7 per cent above the 10-year average.

Table 2: Alberta Crop Area and Yield

Crops	2010		2010		2011p		2011p		10-year Avg Yld	Yield % change	
	Seeded	Harvested	Yield	Seeded	Harvested	Yield	Avg Yld	11 vs 10		11 vs Avg	
	('000 acres)		(bu/acre)		('000 acres)		(bu/acre)				
Winter Wheat	175.0	175.0	55.4	160.0	160.0	49.4	47.3	47.3	-10.8%	4.5%	
Spring Wheat	6,000.0	5,885.0	46.7	6,215.0	6,050.0	46.7	41.3	41.3	0.0%	13.0%	
Durum Wheat	360.0	350.0	44.3	525.0	520.0	41.0	38.1	38.1	-7.4%	7.7%	
All Wheat	6,535.0	6,410.0	46.8	6,900.0	6,730.0	46.3	41.1	41.1	-1.1%	12.8%	
Oats	950.0	530.0	79.2	785.0	530.0	78.5	68.6	68.6	-0.9%	14.5%	
Barley	3,750.0	3,125.0	66.6	3,680.0	3,260.0	68.0	59.1	59.1	2.1%	15.1%	
Fall Rye	45.0	45.0	44.4	30.0	30.0	42.7	38.2	38.2	-3.8%	11.8%	
Flaxseed	40.0	38.0	31.6	60.0	60.0	31.3	25.2	25.2	-0.9%	24.1%	
Canola	5,460.0	5,400.0	36.7	6,150.0	5,950.0	35.3	31.9	31.9	-3.8%	10.6%	
Mixed Grains	180.0	20.0	60.0	120.0	20.0	76.0	54.8	54.8	26.7%	38.7%	
Dry Peas	910.0	895.0	38.5	710.0	675.0	40.4	34.2	34.2	4.9%	18.1%	
Lentils	140.0	135.0	29.1	100.0	95.0	28.6	14.3	14.3	-1.6%	100.0%	
Mustard Seed	110.0	110.0	21.0	70.0	70.0	18.8	15.7	15.7	-10.6%	19.9%	
Total	18,120.0	16,708.0	---	18,605.0	17,420.0	---	---	---	---	---	

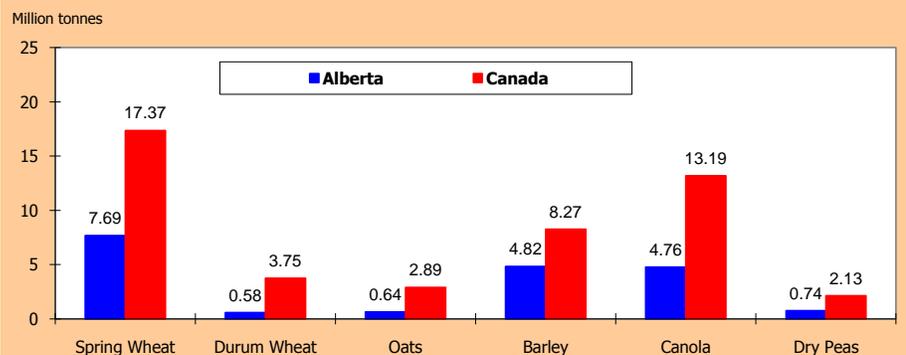
Total barley production is projected at 4.8 million tonnes, up 6.5 per cent from 2010. The provincial average yield is projected at 68.0 bushels per acre, or 2.1 per cent higher than in 2010 and above the 10-year average. Seeded area is expected to decline 1.9 per cent, while harvested area is expected to increase 4.3 per cent.

Total oat production is expected to be 642,000 tonnes, down marginally 0.9 per cent from 2010, due to a reduction in seeded area. The provincial average yield is projected at 78.5 bushels per acre, a 0.9 per cent decline from 2010, but still above the 10-year average.

Total canola production could increase 6.1 per cent from 2010, to a record 4.8 million tonnes. This stems from increased seeded and harvested areas. The seeded and harvested acreages in 2011 are estimated at 6.2 million acres and 6.0 million acres, respectively (both record highs). Regarding yield, the provincial average is projected at 35.3 bushels per acre, and is above the 10-year average.

Total production of dry peas is expected to decline by 21 per cent, to 743,000 tonnes from the record of 937,600 tonnes set in 2010. This is due to lower seeded and harvested areas more than offsetting an expected yield increase. The provincial average yield is projected at 40.4 bushels per acre, or 4.9 per cent higher than in 2010, while seeded and harvested areas could fall by 22.0 per cent and 24.6 per cent, respectively.

Figure 1: Production of Selected Principal Field Crops, 2011, Alberta and Canada



2011 Crop Production, Canada

The July 31 estimates suggest that in 2011, production for most principal field crops in Canada could see an increase from last year. Projections of Canadian production are 17.37 million tonnes for spring wheat, 3.75 million tonnes for durum, 2.89 million tonnes for oats, 8.27 million tonnes for barley, 13.19 million tonnes for canola, and 2.13 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding. 10-year average refers to 2001 to 2010.

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