

PAPUA NEW GUINEA RURAL STATISTICS

From the Rural Statistics Section, Planning, Economics and Marketing Branch

As a regular feature of *Harvest* it is intended to include extracts of statistics on the rural industries in Papua New Guinea. These data will be published twice a year in *Harvest* and will include export and import information thought appropriate to field officers and other readers, major commodity price indices and an annual production summary. In addition each issue containing these data will highlight a different crop or commodity and include background information to production and marketing in Papua New Guinea. In this way it is hoped that easily digested statistics on Papua New Guinea's rural industries can become available to a wider reading public than currently appears to be the case.

As an introduction to this first publication of rural statistics in *Harvest*, some brief commodity notes on major products for 1975-76 have also been included.

Coffee

International prices for coffee fluctuated widely about a steadily increasing trend throughout 1975-76. With the failure of other world harvests, PNG coffee received premium prices and DPI producer-paid parchment prices rose from 62 toea/kg for Arabica coffee and 56 toea/kg for Robusta coffee in July, 1975 to K1.15 toea/kg respectively in June, 1976. Very little movement in these prices has occurred since then, despite large upward movements in world prices. However a new purchase price is to be announced in early 1977.

Rising prices and increased plantings during the early 1970s have led to a steady increase in coffee production over the last 3 years. Production for 1975-76 stood at 42 000 tonnes of green bean coffee, an increase of 9% over the previous year. Indications are for a continued increase in production during 1976-77 though movement in world prices

may affect this.

Cocoa

A similar upward trend in cocoa prices was apparent during 1975-76, again due to the failure of Brazilian harvests and those of other major exporters. Papua New Guinea constitutes a minor partner in world trade but is able to take advantage of any shortfalls in world production. DPI purchase prices for wet beans rose steadily through the year from about 19 toea/kg in July, 1975 to 33 toea/kg in June, 1976. World prices have temporarily stabilized but with annual planting increases of about 6%, PNG should continue to increase her world market share during 1976-77.

Copra

Despite some cost increases, prices for hot-air copra have risen slowly. DPI purchase prices rose from 12 toea/kg to 18 toea/kg during the year in line with world prices. PNG copra production is very sensitive to price and although production rose some 4% over 1974-75 figures, 1975-76 production of 137 000 tonnes is expected to fall during 1976-77 as prices stabilize.

Rubber

Rubber prices rose slowly over the year 1975-76 despite world production increases. A greater demand for natural rubber during the first half of 1976 led to a run-down of stocks and higher world prices, reflected in the rise of DPI produce prices for RSS 1 from about 39 toea/kg to about 63 toea/kg though most of this rise occurred during the March-June period.

PNG production has dropped sharply since 1973-74. However a continued world interest in natural rubber may lead to some increase and production may rise by more than 12% to 5 700 tonnes during 1976-77.

Table 1.—Smallholder crop production by province (tonnes) 1975-76

Province	Crop							
	Coffee	Cocoa	Copra	Rubber	Tea	Chillies	Rice	Cardamoms
Western			32	27		5		
Gulf	2		2 056	40		5	5	
Central	23	4	810	147		2	410	
Milne Bay	86	8	3 975			11	5	
Northern	483	315	91	69		58		3.0
Southern Highlands	112				9	29		
Enga	1 522					3		
Western Highlands	9 369				610	0.2		
Chimbu	6 486					0.2		2.6
Eastern Highlands	6 885					0.3		
Morobe	2 535	95	1 217				7	0.7
Madang	305	511	4 749				103	
East Sepik	1 282	357	1 153	2		0.1	881	
West Sepik	217	27	237			8	199	
Manus		3	1 063					
New Ireland	1	240	9 794					
East New Britain	7	4 721	16 712					
West New Britain	2	355	3 225			16		
North Solomons	1	6 220	8 370					
TOTAL	29 318	12 856	53 484	285	619	138	1 610	6.3

Compiled by Rural Statistics Section, Department of Primary Industry.

Table 2.—Exports and imports of selected commodities (by quantity and value) 1975-76

EXPORTS

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Quantity (tonnes)</i>	<i>Value ('000 Kina)</i>
Coffee	35 842.72	42 138
Cocoa	30 410.18	28 613
Copra	99 971.0	12 214
Coconut oil	27 992.0	7 322
Rubber	4 902.65	2 703
Palm oil	27 086.79	6 618
Palm kernels	2 521.10	209
Tea	4 785.62	3 978
Chillies	138.0	120
Logs	376 052.0 ¹	6 622
Sawn timber	29 305.0 ¹	2 615
Plywood and veneer	12 925.0 ¹	2 781
Wood chips	112 697.0 ²	3 897
Crocodile skins	116 000.0 ³	290

¹ Cubic metres

² Dry tonnes

³ Inches

IMPORTS

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Quantity (tonnes)</i>	<i>Value ('000 Kina)</i>
Fresh, chilled or frozen meat	8 871	7 741
Tinned fish	21 417	7 872
Rice	52 365	12 660
Sugar, refined	19 261	6 732

Compiled by Rural Statistics Section, Department of Primary Industry

Table 3.—Price indices¹ for major agricultural exports, Papua New Guinea

Year	Cocoa ²		Coffee ³		Copra ⁴		Rubber ⁵		Tea ⁶		Palm oil ⁷		Palm kernel ⁷	
	Average price Kina per tonne	Price index	Average price Kina per tonne	Price index	Average price Kina per tonne	Price index	Average price Kina per tonne	Price index	Average price Kina per tonne	Price index	Average price Kina per tonne	Price index	Average price Kina per tonne	Price index
1970-71	450	100	891	100	177	100	412	100	953	100				
1971-72	361	80.2	715	80.3	114	64.6	373	90.4	867	91	223	100	104	100
1972-73	558	124	861	96.6	134	75.8	416	100.9	721	75.7	161	72.2	75	72.1
1973-74	931	206.9	921	103.4	425	240.3	627	152	754	79.1	290	130	195	187.5
1974-75	989	219.8	891	100	302	170.3	510	123.6	954	104.9	355	159.2	167	160.6
1975-76	928	206.2	1 373	154.1	139	78.5	611	148.2	954	104.9	227	101.7	64	61.5

Notes: ¹ Base 1970-71 = 100² DIS Rabaul basis³ FOB Lae basis⁴ CMB—FOB basis⁵ PRP price basis⁶ DIS basis—London⁷ FOB Hoskins basis

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Note: Price indices may be an unfamiliar method of recording price movements to some Harvest readers. A price index simply shows how prices have moved since some arbitrary point in the past. In this case 1970-71 prices have been set equal to 100 and the price index shows by what per cent prices since then have varied. For example, coffee prices in 1971-72 were 20% lower than in 1970-71.