La. Breweries Show 3rd Largest Production Increase In Nation

New York - Louisiana more than doubled its beer and ale production over the last decade, being exceeded by only two states' rates of increase during the ten-year period, the United States Brewers Foundation reported today in a special economic survey.

The state's four breweries, the USBF disclosed, rolled 2,547,555 barrels of beer and ale off their production lines last year to rank 11th in the nation in actual output. This production, although slightly below the 2,562,997 barrels produced in 1955, exceeded the 1946 output by 1,306,822 barrels, or 105 per cent. California's production increased 206 per cent and Colorado's jumped 135 per cent over the same ten-year period.

In turning out their impressive production, Louisiana's breweries used a whopping 140,636,225 pounds of agricultural products, including 99,504,226 pounds of barley, 17,904,700 pounds of corn, 16,936,100 pounds of rice, 5,306,504 pounds of sugar and syrups, and 984,695 pounds of hops and hop extracts.

Louisiana ranked 20th nationally in total consumption of beer and ale last year with 1,231,390 barrels, or 23 per cent, over the ten-year span. The state's per capita consumption of malt beverages, the Foundation reported, amounted to 12.9 gallons per person last year compared with 12.6 gallons in 1955.

Taxes on beer and ale produced in Louisiana, the USBF revealed, amounted to $34,064,000 last year, including $21,810,000 in federal collections and $12,254,000 in state taxes. The state collections reflect the current tax levy of $10.00 a barrel which was boosted from $1.50 a barrel in 1948. The state revenues on beer and ale in 1956 were $10,748,000, or 714 per cent, greater than 1946 collections.

Last year 98.6 per cent of total sales of Louisiana-produced beer and ale were packaged and 1.4 per cent were draught as compared with the national average of 21.1 per cent draught and 78.9 per cent packaged.