



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Stocks of grain, at March 31, 2008

2

With the exception of corn for grain and oats, total stocks of major grains and oilseeds, including commercial and on-farm inventories, had declined as of March 31, 2008, compared with the same date in 2007. Corn for grain and oats were also the only major field crops with current inventory levels above the five-year average.

Study: Trade liberalization and productivity dynamics

4

Farm Input Price Index, 2007

4

Farm product prices, March 2008

5

Employment services industry, 2006

5

New products

6



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Releases

Stocks of grain

At March 31, 2008

Except for corn for grain and oats, total stocks of major grains and oilseeds, including commercial and on-farm inventories, had declined as of March 31, 2008, compared with the same date in 2007, according to a survey of grain farmers and commercial grain holders.

Total corn for grain stocks hit a record high, and total oat storage levels remained well above the five-year average.

Total stocks of major and special crops at March 31

Crop	2007	2008	Five-year average	2007 to 2008
	thousands of tonnes			% change
Total wheat	15,977	10,825	15,010	-32.2
Wheat excluding durum	12,802	8,766	11,247	-31.5
Durum wheat	3,175	2,058	3,763	-35.2
Corn for grain	5,451	5,998	5,204	10.0
Barley	4,572	4,460	5,426	-2.4
Canola	4,755	3,699	3,689	-22.2
Oats	1,548	2,017	1,567	30.3
Soybeans	1,886	940	1,347	-50.2
Dry field peas	1,010	820	1,189	-18.8
Flaxseed	736	342	460	-53.5
Lentils	501	187	419	-62.7
Canary seed	198	147	185	-25.8
Chick peas	69	134	93	94.2
Mustard seed	172	72	186	-58.1
Sunflower seed	81	38	62	-53.1

Stocks of wheat tumble

Total stocks of wheat excluding durum amounted to an estimated 8.8 million tonnes, down 4.0 million tonnes from March 2007. The decline was mainly the result of a 25.3% drop in production in 2007. Prairie on-farm stocks alone were down 36.6% to 5.6 million tonnes, well below the five-year average of 7.6 million tonnes.

Commercially held stocks and on-farm stocks in all Prairie provinces tumbled to levels below the five-year average.

Total stocks of durum wheat fell 35.2% to 2.1 million tonnes, an estimate below the five-year average of 3.8 million tonnes. Just two years ago, a record 5.2 million tonnes of durum was reported.

On-farm durum stock amounts in the Prairie provinces tumbled to levels not seen since 1989.

Note to readers

The March Farm Survey of 16,000 farm operators was conducted by telephone interviews during the last two weeks of March. Farmers were asked to report the amounts of grain, oilseeds and special crops in on-farm storage.

Commercial stocks of western major crops originate from the Canadian Grain Commission. Commercial stocks of corn and soybeans are estimated by a Statistics Canada sample survey of grain elevators in Eastern Canada. Commercial stocks of special crops originate from a survey of handlers and agents of special crops.

On-farm stocks of durum were down in all Prairie provinces and in commercial positions to estimates dramatically below the five-year average.

Stocks of canola down

Total stocks of canola were 3.7 million tonnes, 22.2% below March 2007. On-farm stock levels in the Prairie provinces, where the majority of Canadian canola is grown, were all down.

Total Prairie province on-farm stocks of canola were 2.5 million tonnes, compared with the five-year average of 2.8 million tonnes. Lower production in 2007, as well as increased exports and record crushings, led to the draw-down in total stocks.

Oats stocks rise

Total stocks of oats at the end of March were the highest since the year 2000, primarily as a result of very strong production levels in 2007. The total stock estimate for oats was 2.0 million tonnes, an increase of 30.3% from 2007 and substantially above the five-year average of 1.6 million tonnes.

Total stocks of barley down marginally

Total stocks of barley were down just 2.4% from March 2007 to 4.5 million tonnes. The five-year average is 5.4 million tonnes.

Stock levels remained unchanged in Manitoba, but declined in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Record stocks of grain corn

Despite increasing demand for ethanol and animal feed, record high supplies from imports and production have kept total stocks of grain corn at 6.0 million tonnes, 10.0% higher than March 2007. This level easily exceeds the previous record of 5.8 million tonnes set in 2006.

In Ontario, on-farm stocks of corn for grain rose 18.2% to a record 2.7 million tonnes, surpassing the record of 2.5 million tonnes set in March 2006. Quebec farmers reported a robust increase of 40.7% to 1.9 million tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0040 to 001-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3403, 3443, 3464 and 3476.

The publication *Field Crop Reporting Series: Stocks of Canadian Grain at March 31, 2008*, Vol. 87, no. 3 (22-002-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; dave.burroughs@statcan.ca), or Dave Roeske (613-951-0572; dave.roeske@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Study: Trade liberalization and productivity dynamics

The new study "Trade liberalization and productivity dynamics: Evidence from Canada," investigates the mechanism by which the Canadian-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA) contributed to the growth of productivity in the Canadian manufacturing sector.

Using data from Statistics Canada's Annual Survey of Manufactures, the study found that tariff concessions by Canada under the FTA increased exit rates among moderately productive non-exporting plants.

This led to the reallocation of market shares toward highly productive plants, which explains why aggregate productivity gains were observed when Canadian tariffs were reduced.

This study also found that US tariff concessions led to growth in productivity within Canadian firms that were exporters and, especially, new entrants into the export market.

The research paper "Trade liberalization and productivity dynamics: Evidence from Canada" is now available as part of the *Economic Analysis Research Paper Series* (11F0027MIE2008051, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

More studies related to trade and productivity are available online (www.statcan.ca/english/studies/economic.htm).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alla Lileeva (613-951-3278), or Guy Gellatly (613-951-3758), Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

Farm Input Price Index

2007 (preliminary)

In 2007, the Farm Input Price Index for Canada was 149.7 (1992=100), up 7.5% from 2006, the largest increase since 1981 when a rise of 13.5% was measured. The price movements of main components showed greater variability than in 2006. Animal feed prices (+28.7%) were the largest contributor to the annual rise, followed by fertilizers (+22.7%). These increases were partly offset by the decline in prices of motor vehicles during the second half of the year (-2.0%).

Prices of farm inputs rose more in Western Canada (+7.7%) than in Eastern Canada (+7.1%), largely reflecting steeper increases in prices of fertilizers in the West (+31.7%) compared with the East (+7.7%). However, the East witnessed higher growth in costs of animal production (+16.8%) compared with the West (+10.7%).

Available on CANSIM: table 328-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2305.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; toll-free: 1-866-230-2248, fax: 613-951-1539, prices-prix@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Farm Input Price Index (1992=100)

	East			West			Canada		
	2006	2007 ^P	2006 to 2007	2006	2007 ^P	2006 to 2007	2006	2007 ^P	2006 to 2007
	% change			% change			% change		
Farm inputs, total	135.7	145.3	7.1	143.5	154.5	7.7	139.3	149.7	7.5
Building and fencing	141.4	144.2	2.0	134.6	133.1	-1.1	137.7	138.7	0.7
Machinery and motor vehicles	167.7	170.4	1.6	170.7	174.0	1.9	168.7	171.8	1.8
Crop production	154.8	163.2	5.4	165.9	195.7	18.0	161.9	183.2	13.2
Animal production	122.9	143.6	16.8	129.4	143.2	10.7	126.5	143.6	13.5
Supplies and services	135.3	134.0	-1.0	126.6	127.4	0.6	131.1	130.8	-0.2
Hired farm labour	140.6	146.3	4.1	146.4	155.2	6.0	142.7	149.7	4.9
Property taxes	101.9	105.6	3.6	135.9	140.9	3.7	129.9	134.7	3.7
Interest	93.9	102.2	8.8	87.7	95.5	8.9	90.1	98.2	9.0
Farm rent	106.4	111.4	4.7	143.9	159.5	10.8	132.1	144.5	9.4

^P preliminary

Farm product prices

March 2008

Prices received by farmers in March for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, potatoes, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Manitoba non-board wheat price in March was \$263.43 per metric tonne, up 15% from February and up 64% from March 2007 when the price was \$161.13.

The March slaughter calves price in Ontario was \$75.75 per hundredweight, down 10% from February and down 19% from the March 2007 price of \$93.79.

Farm commodity prices are now available on CANSIM. Over 35 commodities are available by province, some series going back 20 years.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nickeisha Patterson (613-951-3249; fax: 613-951-3868; nickeisha.patterson@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Employment services industry

2006

The employment services industry experienced strong growth in 2006, with operating revenues increasing by 8.6% to \$8.0 billion. Employment placement and staffing agencies benefited from a tight labour market and a generally strong economy, particularly in Western Canada.

Growth in operating revenues was very strong in Western Canada, with Manitoba, Saskatchewan,

Alberta, and British Columbia all posting double-digit increases over 2005. In contrast, Central Canada experienced only slight growth.

Ontario continues to account for the majority of industry operating revenues with a 57% share in 2006. However, Ontario's share has steadily declined from 62% in 2001. During the same period, British Columbia saw its share increase from 5% to 7%, and Alberta's share climbed from 13% to 18%. With the 2006 gains, Alberta overtook Quebec and now trails only Ontario in terms of operating revenues generated.

The industry's operating expenses grew at a slightly faster pace than operating revenues, resulting in a slight decline in the operating profit margin from 3.7% in 2005 to 3.5% in 2006.

In 2006, fully 70% of industry operating revenues were generated from temporary staffing services, with 28% from permanent placement and contract staffing services, and the remaining 2% from other services. Although temporary staffing services accounted for the bulk of operating revenues earned, the share declined considerably from 77% in 2005. Revenue gains for the industry in 2006 came almost entirely from permanent placements and contract staffing services.

Available on CANSIM: table 361-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4718.

Data for the 2006 Survey of Service Industries: Employment Services are now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Wayne Rowsome (613-951-5805; wayne.rowsome@statcan.ca) or Luc Provençal (613-951-1960; fax: 613-951-6696 luc.provençal@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

New products

Economic Analysis Research Paper Series: "Trade liberalization and productivity dynamics: Evidence from Canada", no. 51
Catalogue number 11F0027MIE2008051
(free).

Canada Year Book, 2007
Catalogue number 11-402-XIE
(free).

Field Crop Reporting Series, Stocks of Canadian Grain, March 31, 2008, Vol. 87, no. 3
Catalogue number 22-002-XWE
(free).

Industry Price Indexes, March 2008, Vol. 34, no. 3
Catalogue number 62-011-XWE
(free).

Building Permits, March 2008, Vol. 52, no. 3
Catalogue number 64-001-XWE
(free).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, February 2008, Vol. 86, no. 2
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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 The Daily	
Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 5, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
MAJOR RELEASES	
• Urban transit, 1996	2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 25 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996	4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses also noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	
OTHER RELEASES	
Map-based Index: May 1997	3
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	12
Egg production: April 1997	12
PUBLICATIONS RELEASED	11
 	

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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