



# Farm debt outstanding

## Agriculture economic statistics

May 2004

Statistics Canada  
Agriculture Division  
Farm Income and Prices Section

Catalogue No. 21-014-XIE is a semi-annual publication available free on the Internet at <http://www.statcan.ca>

### Highlights

#### Farm debt outstanding increasing steadily

At December 31, 2003, farm debt outstanding rose 7.2% to \$47.7 billion, continuing the steady upswing since 1993. Both mortgaged and non-mortgaged debt rose, by 7.0% and 7.3%, respectively. Since 1994, non-mortgaged debt has been larger than mortgaged debt. In 2003, non-mortgaged debt rose to \$25.0 billion, while mortgaged debt rose to \$22.7 billion.

Most non-mortgaged debt was owed to chartered banks (59.1%) and credit unions (22.8%). Major holders of mortgaged farm debt were Farm Credit Canada (37.9%), chartered banks (26.2%), private individuals (15.0%), credit unions (8.5%) and provincial government agencies (6.0%).

Farm debt in Canada was 22.4% over the previous five-year average. In 2003, all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador increased their debt load. Increases ranged from 4.9% in Quebec to 16.7% in New Brunswick. In Newfoundland and Labrador debt decreased 1.4% in 2003.

---

#### Note of Appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada.

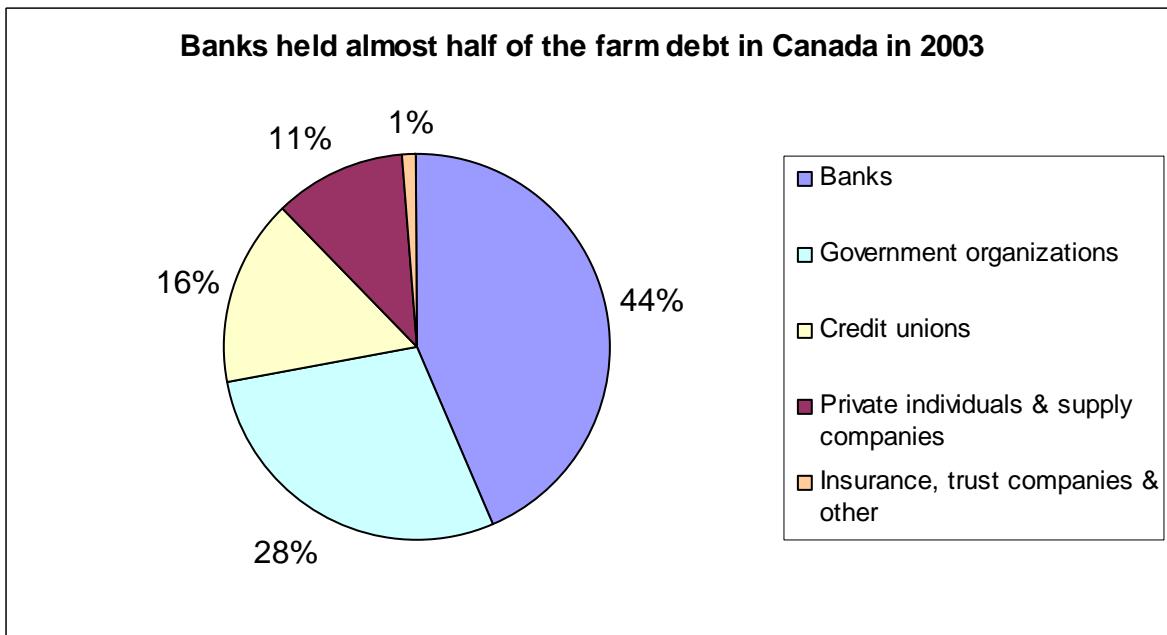
© Minister of Industry, 2004.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from Licence Services, Marketing Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0T6.

June 2004

La version française de cette publication est disponible (n° 21-014-XIF au catalogue).





## Symbols

The symbols described in this document apply to all data published by Statistics Canada from all origins including surveys, censuses and administrative sources, as well as straight tabulations and all estimations.

- . not available for any reference period
  - .. not available for a specific reference period
  - ... not applicable
  - 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
  - 0<sup>s</sup> value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
  - P preliminary
  - r revised
  - x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
  - E use with caution
  - F too unreliable to be published
- 

## Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner and in the official language of their choice. To this end, the agency has developed standards of service which its employees observe in serving its clients. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll free at 1 800-263-1136.

Farm debt outstanding - Agriculture economic statistics

May 1994

At December 31	'000 OF DOLLARS										
	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
<b>1971</b>											
Chartered banks	..	14,000	11,000	13,000	77,000	458,000	128,000	269,000	353,000	65,000	1,388,000
Federal gov't agencies	..	12,400	7,725	13,588	127,515	273,259	132,136	376,559	334,001	87,049	1,364,232
Provincial gov't agencies	..	7,013	23,564	9,378	177,074	117,375	66,293	2,800	57,955	2,414	463,866
Credit unions	..	0	200	1,982	82,909	7,279	21,713	82,572	27,321	9,207	233,183
Insurance, trust co. & other	..	399	712	625	8,210	17,219	5,561	13,156	12,858	5,260	64,000
Private indiv. & supply co.	..	3,248	4,180	7,035	141,002	396,303	61,255	134,493	147,463	156,036	1,051,015
Advance payment programs	..	0	0	0	0	0	7,849	25,236	14,487	0	47,572
<b>Total debt outstanding</b>	..	<b>37,060</b>	<b>47,381</b>	<b>45,608</b>	<b>613,710</b>	<b>1,269,435</b>	<b>422,807</b>	<b>903,816</b>	<b>947,085</b>	<b>324,966</b>	<b>4,611,868</b>
<b>1972</b>											
Chartered banks	..	14,000	11,000	13,000	79,000	505,000	136,000	314,000	420,000	75,000	1,567,000
Federal gov't agencies	..	11,987	7,418	13,629	131,614	283,942	133,055	388,009	334,650	88,245	1,392,549
Provincial gov't agencies	..	6,656	25,030	10,595	180,273	114,022	69,706	3,167	78,257	2,353	490,059
Credit unions	..	0	399	2,324	45,969	9,338	25,337	98,668	38,010	12,137	232,182
Insurance, trust co. & other	..	505	762	754	9,383	21,359	6,710	15,665	17,265	6,297	78,700
Private indiv. & supply co.	..	3,402	4,277	7,410	144,991	407,203	62,175	130,333	150,371	160,115	1,070,277
Advance payment programs	..	0	0	0	0	0	2,236	7,188	4,127	0	13,551
<b>Total debt outstanding</b>	..	<b>36,550</b>	<b>48,886</b>	<b>47,712</b>	<b>591,230</b>	<b>1,340,864</b>	<b>435,219</b>	<b>957,030</b>	<b>1,042,680</b>	<b>344,147</b>	<b>4,844,318</b>
<b>1973</b>											
Chartered banks	..	16,000	13,000	15,000	96,000	630,000	179,000	397,000	563,000	94,000	2,003,000
Federal gov't agencies	..	11,704	7,831	14,086	143,207	328,192	142,845	433,331	354,902	96,461	1,532,559
Provincial gov't agencies	..	6,853	27,440	11,779	191,355	111,808	70,671	3,534	149,748	3,298	576,486
Credit unions	..	0	396	2,001	16,665	12,023	34,246	145,837	50,385	13,104	274,657
Insurance, trust co. & other	..	567	710	809	9,490	23,539	7,195	16,568	20,424	6,698	86,000
Private indiv. & supply co.	..	2,963	4,284	6,098	126,140	425,743	64,039	126,555	150,622	177,879	1,084,323
Advance payment programs	..	0	0	0	0	0	1,221	3,926	2,253	0	7,400
<b>Total debt outstanding</b>	..	<b>38,087</b>	<b>53,661</b>	<b>49,773</b>	<b>582,857</b>	<b>1,531,305</b>	<b>499,217</b>	<b>1,126,751</b>	<b>1,291,334</b>	<b>391,440</b>	<b>5,564,425</b>
<b>1974</b>											
Chartered banks	..	19,000	16,000	18,000	106,000	689,000	195,000	445,000	669,000	137,000	2,294,000
Federal gov't agencies	..	14,016	8,144	15,484	193,336	423,702	158,681	481,797	407,606	113,972	1,816,738
Provincial gov't agencies	..	6,900	33,602	14,345	213,396	111,630	77,893	31,252	211,230	6,601	706,849
Credit unions	..	0	358	3,202	23,788	14,748	50,567	190,070	51,593	21,097	355,423
Insurance, trust co. & other	..	517	622	731	8,470	21,385	6,501	14,928	18,804	6,042	78,000
Private indiv. & supply co.	..	3,852	5,081	8,255	157,610	498,765	74,742	146,618	178,985	204,795	1,278,703
Advance payment programs	..	0	0	0	0	0	5,308	17,065	9,797	0	32,170
<b>Total debt outstanding</b>	..	<b>44,285</b>	<b>63,807</b>	<b>60,017</b>	<b>702,600</b>	<b>1,759,230</b>	<b>568,692</b>	<b>1,326,730</b>	<b>1,547,015</b>	<b>489,507</b>	<b>6,561,883</b>
<b>1975</b>											
Chartered banks	..	25,000	20,000	24,000	132,000	790,000	250,000	545,000	741,000	190,000	2,717,000
Federal gov't agencies	..	15,802	8,809	18,454	255,632	521,700	176,202	541,044	461,544	125,079	2,124,266
Provincial gov't agencies	..	6,778	39,602	16,636	229,452	118,890	70,579	46,000	239,568	9,076	776,581
Credit unions	..	0	148	3,503	96,265	17,122	57,407	244,012	77,420	21,618	517,495
Insurance, trust co. & other	..	480	552	672	7,680	19,776	5,976	13,680	17,640	5,544	72,000
Private indiv. & supply co.	..	5,018	6,472	10,808	198,372	637,473	94,487	181,602	227,230	259,886	1,621,348
Advance payment programs	..	0	0	0	0	0	1,446	4,487	11,017	0	16,950
<b>Total debt outstanding</b>	..	<b>53,078</b>	<b>75,583</b>	<b>74,073</b>	<b>919,401</b>	<b>2,104,961</b>	<b>656,097</b>	<b>1,575,825</b>	<b>1,775,419</b>	<b>611,203</b>	<b>7,845,640</b>
<b>1976</b>											
Chartered banks	..	24,000	20,000	25,000	151,000	963,000	333,000	683,000	892,000	247,000	3,338,000
Federal gov't agencies	..	18,280	8,665	21,100	295,355	595,509	193,942	602,554	496,391	131,376	2,363,172
Provincial gov't agencies	..	9,484	43,782	16,914	271,400	123,890	69,039	51,820	275,856	10,219	872,404
Credit unions	..	50	25	875	118,991	20,157	72,000	292,659	98,640	27,500	630,897
Insurance, trust co. & other	..	464	558	656	7,600	19,192	5,834	13,396	16,878	5,422	70,000
Private indiv. & supply co.	..	5,526	7,137	11,899	218,173	701,222	103,949	199,744	249,953	285,872	1,783,475
Advance payment programs	..	0	0	0	0	0	5,363	41,077	17,590	0	64,030
<b>Total debt outstanding</b>	..	<b>57,804</b>	<b>80,167</b>	<b>76,444</b>	<b>1,062,519</b>	<b>2,422,970</b>	<b>783,127</b>	<b>1,884,250</b>	<b>2,047,308</b>	<b>707,389</b>	<b>9,121,978</b>











**Farm debt outstanding - Agriculture economic statistics**

May 2004

At December 31	'000 OF DOLLARS											
	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada	
<b>2001</b>												
Chartered banks	5,567	289,497	135,006	204,597	3,306,950	5,114,916	1,500,375	1,966,633	4,542,881	1,483,674	18,550,096	
Federal gov't agencies	38,342	137,410	132,264	199,568	1,035,857	2,347,322	690,489	1,387,253	1,131,911	427,856	7,528,272	
Provincial gov't agencies	5,641	17,506	172,332	18,566	19,485	93,423	274,206	73,631	2,114,858	6,302	2,795,950	
Credit unions	29	21,235	18,159	298	3,066,460	428,135	863,606	1,451,166	508,550	1,179	6,358,817	
Insurance, trust co. & other	994	9,236	4,140	4,802	61,148	126,953	29,578	91,463	111,838	43,238	483,391	
Private indiv. & supply co.	3,051	26,553	27,620	37,592	588,357	1,543,887	414,922	895,732	965,369	242,990	4,746,073	
Advance payment programs	0	6,368	1,545	6,635	55,156	36,994	174,384	194,657	109,799	11,852	597,390	
<b>Total debt outstanding</b>	<b>53,624</b>	<b>507,805</b>	<b>491,066</b>	<b>472,058</b>	<b>8,133,413</b>	<b>9,691,630</b>	<b>3,947,560</b>	<b>6,060,535</b>	<b>9,485,206</b>	<b>2,217,091</b>	<b>41,059,989</b>	
<b>2002</b>												
Chartered banks	8,382	289,192	155,074	229,119	3,710,604	5,628,774	1,677,875	1,993,612	4,532,078	1,444,565	19,669,275	
Federal gov't agencies	49,497	160,013	153,596	205,874	1,172,487	2,847,972	742,424	1,545,339	1,280,424	512,591	8,670,217	
Provincial gov't agencies	4,424	18,081	170,745	22,829	16,215	92,288	271,054	58,474	2,171,862	4,720	2,830,692	
Credit unions	30	20,943	19,752	333	3,393,024	489,624	981,826	1,534,892	557,781	1,298	6,999,503	
Insurance, trust co. & other	994	9,627	8,213	7,604	44,342	139,417	37,855	45,006	119,797	51,677	464,532	
Private indiv. & supply co.	3,840	47,977	39,981	46,535	894,102	1,862,045	405,598	804,150	1,062,549	298,329	5,465,106	
Advance payment programs	0	5,206	1,571	7,273	54,356	43,720	132,800	88,196	50,904	13,783	397,809	
<b>Total debt outstanding</b>	<b>67,167</b>	<b>551,039</b>	<b>548,932</b>	<b>519,567</b>	<b>9,285,130</b>	<b>11,103,840</b>	<b>4,249,432</b>	<b>6,069,669</b>	<b>9,775,395</b>	<b>2,326,963</b>	<b>44,497,134</b>	
<b>2003</b>												
Chartered banks	9,813	329,437	171,027	305,605	3,817,262	5,845,752	1,871,482	2,164,470	4,774,732	1,441,111	20,730,691	
Federal gov't agencies	47,662	170,846	182,586	214,985	1,253,798	3,317,513	839,868	1,719,495	1,487,494	637,441	9,871,688	
Provincial gov't agencies	3,789	29,212	174,911	24,232	13,200	92,056	315,647	48,280	2,333,345	3,495	3,038,167	
Credit unions	31	21,972	20,914	362	3,736,503	561,471	1,083,252	1,611,346	604,241	1,395	7,641,487	
Insurance, trust co. & other	1,255	11,341	9,827	8,540	49,613	157,184	42,294	45,371	121,503	60,465	507,394	
Private indiv. & supply co.	3,684	38,653	35,882	44,586	813,452	1,679,847	427,438	889,684	1,065,008	288,589	5,286,823	
Advance payment programs	0	8,843	1,699	7,925	56,690	39,263	188,724	182,263	106,754	13,101	605,262	
<b>Total debt outstanding</b>	<b>66,234</b>	<b>610,304</b>	<b>596,846</b>	<b>606,235</b>	<b>9,740,518</b>	<b>11,693,086</b>	<b>4,768,705</b>	<b>6,660,909</b>	<b>10,493,077</b>	<b>2,445,597</b>	<b>47,681,512</b>	

## Concepts and methods

### Introduction

This publication is part of a series of bulletins that also includes:

- [Net farm income - Agriculture economic statistics \(21-010-XIE\)](#),
- [Farm cash receipts - Agriculture economic statistics \(21-011-XIE\)](#),
- [Farm operating expenses and depreciation charges - Agriculture economic statistics \(21-012-XIE\)](#),
- [Value of farm capital - Agriculture economic statistics \(21-013-XIE\)](#),
- [Direct payments to agriculture producers - Agriculture economic statistics \(21-015-XIE\)](#),
- [Balance sheet of the agriculture sector - Agriculture economic statistics \(21-016-XIE\)](#),
- [Agriculture value added account - Agriculture economic statistics \(21-017-XIE\)](#),
- [Farm business cash flows - Agriculture economic statistics \(21-018-XIE\)](#).

This particular publication presents national and provincial estimates of farm debt outstanding, by type of lender from, 1971 to date. The impact of including Newfoundland and Labrador estimates beginning in 1981 was minor as it represented only 0.08% of the total debt outstanding.

All series can be obtained free on the internet at the Statistics Canada web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). Notes on concepts and methods are also included for each data series.

The electronic publication is first available in June. It includes preliminary estimates for the calendar year just ended. The following January, the publication is re-issued with revisions to the preliminary estimates. Revisions to the June issue can extend back two years, while those in January generally apply to three years. The date provided at the top right corner of each table is the last time that a revision was made to that table.

Most data appearing in this publication are available through the Canadian Socio-Economic Information Management System (CANSIM), Statistics Canada's corporate computerized data base network and information retrieval service.

The Client Services, Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada can be contacted at 1 (800) 465-1991 or by email at [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca) for further information and/or to obtain data in a different medium.

Statistics Canada is committed to ensuring that there is no disclosure of confidential material and therefore all data are subjected to restrictions prior to release.

### Concepts

The farm debt series measures debt outstanding to agricultural producers as of December 31 of each year. This approach presents a problem as some institutions provide data based on a fiscal year ending March 31. For these institutions, the debt outstanding at the fiscal year-end, March 31, is used to represent the debt at December 31 of the previous year. The impact of this procedure is believed to be minor.

The estimates are produced by province and by class of lender. These classes include: chartered banks; federal government agencies; provincial government agencies; credit unions; private individuals and supply companies; insurance, trust and other companies; and advance payment programs. Loans which are merely guaranteed by an institution are not included in the debt outstanding estimate for that institution.

### Methods and Data Quality

Data on farm debt outstanding provided by the Bank of Canada, Farm Credit Canada and the provincial and federal agencies are considered to be of very good quality at the provincial and national levels.

Data on farm debt outstanding provided by credit unions are considered to be of good quality at the national level. Except for the Atlantic provinces, the mortgage component of farm debt outstanding to credit unions is considered to be of good quality. The non-mortgage component of farm debt outstanding to credit unions is considered weak in the Atlantic provinces, Ontario and British Columbia. The Farm Financial Survey, which is conducted every two years until 2001 and annually since 2002, was used to estimate debt outstanding to private individuals and supply companies, and insurance, trust and other companies. Advance payments are considered loans made to farmers since no transaction occurs at the time of the advance. These data are supplied by the Canadian Wheat Board and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and are considered of good quality at both the national and provincial levels.

Revisions to this series are minor (historically, at the Canada level, any revision to the total debt outstanding in this publication has been less than 1%), and are primarily due to amended data being received from one or more of the agencies. To comply with our publishing schedule, there is occasionally need for an organization to provide us with preliminary year end figures, which are revised in the subsequent issues. Revisions are also made to the private individuals and supply companies, and insurance, trust and other company data once the results of the Farm Financial Survey (FFS) become available.

The Bank of Canada provides information on debt outstanding for **chartered banks**. The Bank of Canada supplies non-mortgage debt at the provincial level, and mortgage debt at the Canada level. Provincial estimates are then calculated based on the distribution pattern of non-mortgage loans.

There are several sources of information on debt outstanding for **federal government** agencies. Farm Credit Canada (FCC) provides estimates of loans outstanding made under the Farm Credit Corporation Act. Loan information is also provided by the Business Development Bank of Canada and Veterans Affairs Canada.

Information is also gathered from many **provincial government** agencies. Newfoundland Farm Development Loan Board, Prince Edward Island Lending Agency, Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board and New Brunswick Agriculture Development Board information is obtained from the administrative data held by these agencies. In Quebec, Farm Credit Act ("Loi du crédit agricole") loan information regarding debt outstanding is mainly obtained from their annual report. The rest of the farm credit programs offered by the Quebec government are all of a guarantee nature; the province simply guarantees the borrower an interest rate or the lender against defaults. The lenders are commercial banks and near banks. Information about the Ontario Junior Farmers Establishment Program and the Ontario Tile Drainage Debenture Program is obtained from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation and the Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan both report loan information directly. Alberta Agriculture Financial Services Corporation and British Columbia Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations loan information is obtained from the administrative data of these two agencies. Alberta Treasury information is obtained directly from that agency.

Estimates of agriculture debt outstanding to **credit unions** are based on provincial data supplied by the Industrial Organization and Finance Division (IOFD) of Statistics Canada. IOFD conducts quarterly surveys and publishes this information at the Canada level in Quarterly Financial Statistics for Enterprises, Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 61-008-XIE.

The category "**private individuals and supply companies**" includes credit owed to machinery and finance companies, dealers, stores and private individuals. Information regarding this type of credit is based on the Farm Financial Survey (FFS) (formerly FCC survey).

**Insurance, trust and other unclassified** company estimates are based on information from the Farm Financial Survey (formerly FCC survey).

**Advance payments** estimates are derived from data supplied by the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. These payments are a type of loan made to farmers since no transaction occurs at the time of the advance. Prior to 1971 the estimates are included in cash receipts under the category "CWB net cash advances".

## How to obtain more information

Inquiries about this product and related statistics or services should be directed to Client Services and Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada at 1 800 465-1991 or by email: [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)

You can also visit our World Wide Web site: <http://www.statcan.ca>

Toll-free access is provided for all users who reside outside the local dialling area of any of the Regional Reference Centres.

<b>National Enquiries Line (Canada and United States)</b>	<b>1 800 263-1136</b>
<b>National Telecommunications Device for the Hearing Impaired</b>	<b>1 800 363-7629</b>
<b>Order Only Line (Canada and United States)</b>	<b>1 800 267-6677</b>
<b>Fax Order Line (Canada and United States)</b>	<b>1 877 287-4369</b>
<b>E-mail inquiries</b>	<b><a href="mailto:infostats@statcan.ca">infostats@statcan.ca</a></b>

This publication was prepared under the direction of:

- Paul Murray, Chief  
Farm Income and Prices Section
- Marco Morin, Head  
Farm Expenses Unit
- Steve Partridge  
Farm Expenses Unit