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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Farm cash receipts,** January to September 2002 — 3
  Many Canadian farmers faced difficulties from January to September, as cash receipts from crops and livestock declined. Farm cash receipts from agricultural commodities and program payments totalled $25.2 billion, a $1.5 billion drop from the same period of 2001 and the first decrease since 1998.

- **Net farm income,** 2001 — 7
  Net cash income reached $8.7 billion in 2001, up 26.7% from 2000. This was mainly due to a booming livestock sector and marginal growth in crop receipts as farmers substantially reduced their grain and oilseed stocks.

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2001 Census profiles and topic-based tabulations (various levels of geography)

Additional profiles for marital status, common-law status, families, dwellings and households are now available for various levels of geography, as well as some additional topic-based tabulations for the "Housing" topic.

These profiles and topic-based tabulations are now available (costs vary depending on geography level) in Beyond 20/20 format from the Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre nearest you.

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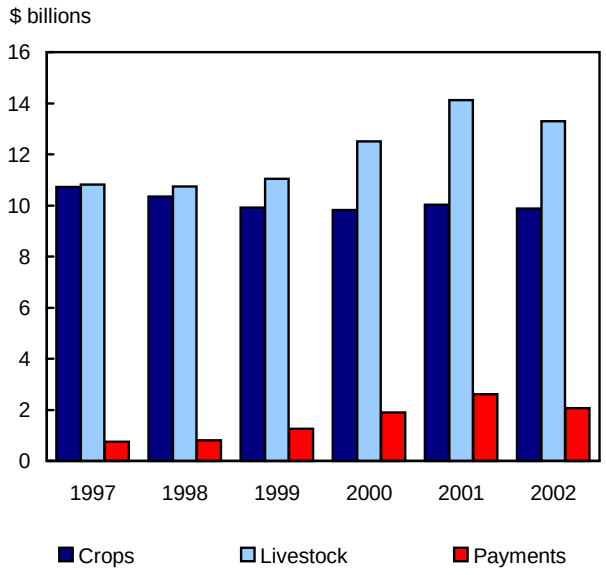
MAJOR RELEASES

Farm cash receipts

January to September 2002

Many Canadian farmers faced difficulties from January to September, as cash receipts from crops and livestock declined. Farm cash receipts from agricultural commodities and program payments totalled $25.2 billion, down $1.5 billion (-5.7%) from the same period of 2001 and the first decrease since 1998.

Farm cash receipts, January to September



However, this total tells only half the story. Cash receipts provide an overall measure of farm businesses' gross revenue. They do not account for expenses incurred by farmers. As well, cash receipts can vary widely from farm to farm because of several factors, including commodities, prices and weather.

Crop receipts dropped 1.5% from the same period of 2001. Lower deliveries for most of the major grains and oilseeds more than offset the increase in prices for all of them. At $9.9 billion, crop receipts remained 2.9% below the previous five-year average (1997 to 2001).

Livestock revenues fell for the first time since 1998 for the January-to-September period as prices for the major commodities slumped after peaking in 2001. Receipts for livestock stood at $13.3 billion, down 5.8% from the same period of 2001 but up 12.3% from the previous five-year average.

Program payments decreased for the first time since 1997, falling 20.6% to $2.1 billion in the first nine months of 2002. Most of this decrease can be attributed to the completion of one-time emergency assistance payments implemented in 2001, coupled with reduced payments delivered through income disaster and provincial stabilization programs.

Note to readers

Statistics Canada does not forecast farm cash receipts, operating expenses or net income. These data are based on survey and administrative data from a wide variety of sources.

***Farm cash receipts** measure the gross revenue of farm businesses in current dollars. They include sales of crops and livestock products (except sales between farms in the same province) and program payments. Receipts are recorded when the money is paid to farmers before any expenses are paid.*

***Deferments** represent sales from grains and oilseeds delivered by western producers, for which payments were deferred until the next year. Because these receipts are based on physical deliveries, any deferred payments are deducted from the farm cash receipts of the current calendar year and included when they are liquidated.*

***Program payments** include payments tied to current agricultural production and paid directly to farmers. Examples of these payments come under the Net Income Stabilization Account, the* Crop Insurance Act*, provincial stabilization programs and the* Canadian Dairy Commission Act*. The program payments series does not cover all payments made to farmers nor does it represent total government expenditure under all assistance programs.*

Farm cash receipts released today take into account the impact of the poor weather conditions experienced in many parts of Canada in 2001. The financial outcome that may result from the extreme weather seen on farms during the 2002 growing season is just beginning to be reflected in the cash receipts released here. The effect of this year's crop production and marketings will continue to be seen more in the fourth quarter of 2002 and the first half of 2003. The final 2002 field crop production estimates will be published on December 5.

The largest percentage declines in cash receipts were in Saskatchewan (-12.2%), Alberta (-5.2%) and Manitoba (-4.6%). Increases in cash receipts occurred in New Brunswick (+5.8%), resulting mainly from rising potato prices, and in Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.7%).

Crop receipts down as a result of declines in deliveries

Farm stocks of major grains and oilseeds dwindled to low levels by the end of 2001, primarily as a result of the drought in the summer of 2001. In turn, this led to reduced deliveries in the first part of 2002. That trend continued with the new crop year, as a drought hit

large parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta for a second consecutive summer. At the end of September, on-farm stocks were the lowest on record and 35.0% below the five-year average for the period.

Wheat receipts (excluding durum) fell 17.5% to $1.6 billion, the largest decrease in crop receipts, as the timing of final Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) payments and declining deliveries offset a 14.9% increase in prices. The early completion of the 2001 harvest encouraged farmers to sell the major part of their crop during the fall. As a result, low stocks led to reduced deliveries in the first part of 2002 and the small 2002 crop did not reverse the trend.

Canola producers experienced the next largest decline. Revenues reached $1.1 billion during the first nine months of 2002, down 16.2% from the same period of 2001. Despite an increase in prices of more than 25%, marketings dropped 34.6%.

Barley receipts fell 27.1% to $396 million and receipts for durum decreased 14.4% to $489 million. As in the case of wheat (excluding durum), the timing of final CWB payments, along with very low marketings resulting from lower production and stocks, contributed to these drops.

Though prices for soybeans increased 7.9%, a 30.9% decrease in deliveries led receipts to fall to $281 million. This represented a drop of 25.5% from the first nine months of 2001. The decrease in deliveries came largely from a major decline in production stemming from the drought in 2001.

The decline in receipts for most of the major grains and oilseeds was partly softened by higher liquidations of deferments. An increase in total revenues for grain and oilseed producers led them to defer a larger portion of their crop receipts in 2001. As a result, liquidations were up 36.3% to $785 million in the first three quarters of 2002, the highest value in three years for this period.

Higher prices led to a 34.1% rise in potato receipts. After a slight decline in 2001, potato receipts reached a record $659 million. The increase in price can be attributed to a large decline in potato production in 2001, which placed strong upward pressure on growers' prices. Much of the 41.8% increase in prices came largely from table potatoes which more than offset a decline in deliveries.

Corn was the only major grain or oilseed crop that experienced an increase in marketings during the first three quarters of 2002. Increased production in 2001 compared with 2000 led to a 22.6% rise in deliveries in the first nine months of 2002. A 12.7% price increase also contributed to the 38.5% growth in corn receipts.

Livestock receipts drop as prices fall

Cattle and calf receipts fell to $5.4 billion in the first three quarters of 2002, after six consecutive years of increases. This was 6.6% below the first nine months of 2001, as prices fell 7.6% but marketings rose only 1.0%.

The drop in cattle and calf receipts was largely due to a 7.6% decrease in slaughter cattle receipts, as prices declined by 8.0%. Dry conditions in portions of the Prairies had an impact on farmers' decisions to ship more cattle south of the border for feeding, finishing and slaughter as international exports continued to grow (+16.6%), but interprovincial exports fell 0.9%. Favourable exchange rates and general growth in American demand for beef also contributed to the sale of cattle abroad.

Hog receipts fell 13.7% to $2.6 billion in the first nine months of 2002, as prices slumped, reaching levels lower than the previous five-year average. Nearly all of the decline was due to a 21.1% decrease in slaughter hog prices, which more than offset a 6.9% rise in marketings. The softening of prices was due to an abundant supply of pigs on the North American market, along with the fear of the impact of this year's drought on the cost of production, as feed grain prices continued to rise.

Receipts in the supply-managed sectors were steady in the first nine months of 2002. A drop in revenues for poultry and dairy was offset by an increase in egg receipts. Poultry receipts fell to $1.3 billion, as the price of chicken decreased 3.8%. Revenue for milk and cream was $3.1 billion, down slightly because of a volume decrease. Receipts for eggs rose 3.7% to $437 million as the price and quantity of eggs for consumption increased.

Program payments lower in the first nine months of 2002

Farmers received $2.1 billion from program payments in the first nine months of 2002, dropping 20.6% from the same period of 2001. Despite this considerable decrease, program payments still remained 41.5% above the previous five-year average. Disbursements from recently announced federal and provincial farm aid packages are just beginning to be reflected in program payments.

Program payments approached record levels in 2001, mainly the result of additional federal and provincial support that was delivered through one-time emergency assistance programs designed to address the challenges facing the farming sector. The majority

of these programs were to be completed by the end of 2001. In the absence of this additional assistance, program payments declined in 2002.

Crop insurance payments hit a record level of $803 million in the first nine months of 2002. This represented an 88.5% increase from the same period of 2001 and more than triple the previous five-year average. This increase was in response to poor growing conditions and to an increase in the acreage of crops insured.

Payments from income disaster programs decreased to $241 million in the first three quarters of 2002, down almost half from the same period of 2001. Most of this decrease was due to the larger payments that were delivered through the Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance program (AIDA) during the first quarter of 2001.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0001 and 002-0002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 3473.

The January–September 2002 issue of *Farm cash receipts* Vol. 63, no. 3 (21-001-XIB, $15/$48) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kimberley Boyuk (613-951-2510, *kimberley.boyuk@statcan.ca*) or Paul Murray (613-951-0065, *paul.murray@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. □

Provincial farm cash receipts

	January to September 2001[r]	January to September 2002[p]	January–September 2001 to January–September 2002	July to September 2001[r]	July to September 2001[p]	July–September 2001 to July–September 2002
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**26,757**	**25,245**	**-5.7**	**8,789**	**8,467**	**-3.7**
Newfoundland and Labrador	59	60	1.7	21	21	-
Prince Edward Island	255	255	-	71	64	-9.9
Nova Scotia	299	288	-3.7	105	100	-4.8
New Brunswick	293	310	5.8	96	93	-3.1
Quebec	4,263	4,080	-4.3	1,428	1,346	-5.7
Ontario	6,171	5,905	-4.3	2,015	2,012	-0.1
Manitoba	2,713	2,589	-4.6	839	891	6.2
Saskatchewan	4,809	4,220	-12.2	1,508	1,374	-8.9
Alberta	6,263	5,935	-5.2	2,205	2,073	-6.0
British Columbia	1,631	1,603	-1.7	501	493	-1.6

[r] *Revised data.*
[p] *Preliminary data.*
\- *Nil or zero.*
Note: *Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.*

Farm cash receipts

	January to September 2001[r]	January to September 2002[p]	January–September 2001 to January–September 2002	July to September 2001[r]	July to September 2002[p]	July–September 2001 to July–September 2002
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**26,757**	**25,245**	**-5.7**	**8,789**	**8,467**	**-3.7**
All wheat[1]	2,521	2,098	-16.8	981	848	-13.6
Wheat excluding durum[1]	1,950	1,609	-17.5	780	654	-16.2
Durum wheat[1]	571	489	-14.4	201	194	-3.5
Barley[1]	543	396	-27.1	166	143	-13.9
Deferments	-375	-284	-24.3	-212	-155	-26.9
Liquidations of deferments	576	785	36.3	16	14	-12.5
Canola	1,337	1,121	-16.2	416	488	17.3
Soybeans	377	281	-25.5	81	80	-1.2
Corn	351	486	38.5	114	153	34.2
Other cereals and oilseeds	286	316	10.5	144	135	-6.3
Special Crops	417	411	-1.4	156	158	1.3
Other crops	3,995	4,265	6.8	1,358	1,418	4.4
Total crops	**10,028**	**9,876**	**-1.5**	**3,220**	**3,282**	**1.9**
Cattle and calves	5,803	5,418	-6.6	1,955	1,717	-12.2
Hogs	2,978	2,571	-13.7	1,055	815	-22.7
Dairy products	3,086	3,067	-0.6	1,029	998	-3.0
Poultry and eggs	1,764	1,757	-0.4	613	590	-3.8
Other livestock	489	485	-0.8	153	141	-7.8
Total livestock	**14,120**	**13,298**	**-5.8**	**4,805**	**4,261**	**-11.3**
Net Income Stabilisation Account	324	361	11.4	127	132	3.9
Crop insurance	426	803	88.5	180	404	124.4
Income disaster assistance programs	472	241	-48.9	85	67	-21.2
Provincial stabilization	479	334	-30.3	89	108	21.3
Dairy subsidy	34	9	-73.5	9	0	-
Other programs	875	324	-63.0	273	214	-21.6
Total payments	**2,609**	**2,072**	**-20.6**	**764**	**924**	**20.9**

[r] *Revised data.*
[p] *Preliminary data.*
[1] *Includes Canadian Wheat Board payments.*
\- *Nil or zero.*
Note: *Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.*

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Net farm income

2001

Net cash income — the difference between a farmer's cash receipts and operating expenses — reached $8.7 billion in 2001. Despite the sharply higher cost of inputs such as feed and fertilizer, this increase was mainly due to a booming livestock sector and marginal growth in crop receipts, as farmers substantially reduced their grain and oilseed stocks.

Farmers' net cash income rose 26.7% from 2000, as both cash receipts and operating expenses hit record highs. Net cash income increased for the second straight year, rebounding from annual declines during the late 1990s.

Net farm income

	2000[r]	2001[r]	2000 to 2001
	$ millions		% change
+ Total farm cash receipts including payments	33,027	36,254	9.8
- Total operating expenses after rebates	26,196	27,597	5.3
= Net cash income	6,831	8,657	26.7
+ Income-in-kind	153	154	0.7
- Depreciation	4,042	4,129	2.1
= Realized net income	2,941	4,682	59.2
+ Value of inventory change	-79	-1,192	...
= Total net income	2,862	3,490	21.9

[r] *Revised data.*
... *Not appropriate or not applicable.*

Net cash income can vary widely from one farm to another because of factors such as commodities produced, prices and weather. This is especially true for crop producers, who have been hit hard by low prices, as well as by drought or extremely wet conditions in many areas.

Strong livestock sector drives up net cash income in 2001

Cash receipts reached $36.3 billion in 2001, up 9.8% from 2000. Livestock receipts rose 10.9%, as a record number of cattle, pigs, chickens and eggs were sold at higher prices. Program payments jumped 32.6%, the result of higher payments delivered through crop insurance and income disaster programs coupled with the additional federal and provincial support that was delivered through one-time emergency assistance programs.

Crop receipts grew 3.4% to $13.6 billion, following three years of declines. However, they remained 1.1% below the previous five-year average (1996 to 2000), as lower deliveries for some major grains and oilseeds during the last half of 2001 offset higher prices. Farmers drew heavily on their crop inventories to support sales in 2001, as adverse weather conditions substantially reduced production.

Operating expenses rose 5.3% to $27.6 billion in 2001. Rising feed and fertilizer prices contributed most of this increase. Tight supplies of feed grains, combined with strong demand for beef, pork and chicken, resulted in a 13.8% hike in commercial feed expenses and a 5.2% rise in livestock and poultry purchases.

Fertilizer expenses jumped 13.4% as a result of higher prices. Increases in natural gas prices, a major input in fertilizer production, contributed to this and to a 25.5% hike in heating fuel expenses.

Declining interest rates moderated the increase in farm operating expenses. Interest expenses, which accounted for almost one-tenth of total expenses, decreased 3.8% in 2001.

Total net income highest since 1996

Total net income rose 21.9% in 2001, with the increase in net cash income more than offsetting a large decline in the total value of inventory. Total net income measures agriculture economic production by adjusting net cash income for the value of inventory change, depreciation and income in kind. Although this

Note to readers

Statistics Canada does not forecast farm cash receipts, operating expenses or net income. These data are based on survey and administrative data from a wide variety of sources.

***Net cash income** measures farm business cash flow (farm cash receipts minus operating expenses) generated from the production of agricultural goods. Net cash income represents the amount of money available for debt repayment, investment or withdrawal by the owner.*

***Total net income** measures the financial flows and stock changes of farm businesses (net cash income minus depreciation plus income in kind and value of inventory change). Total net income values agriculture economic production during the year that the agricultural goods were produced. It represents the return to owner's equity, unpaid labour, management and risk.*

***Farm cash receipts** measure the gross revenue of farm businesses in current dollars. They include sales of crops and livestock products (except sales between farms in the same province) and program payments. Receipts are recorded when the money is paid to farmers before any expenses are paid.*

***Farm operating expenses** represent business costs incurred by farm businesses for goods and services used in the production of agricultural commodities. Expenses are recorded when the money is disbursed by the farmer.*

was the largest increase since 1996 and 15.1% above the five-year average, the 2001 level of $3.5 billion was nevertheless 22.2% below its 1996 record.

The poor growing conditions in many parts of the Prairies and the rest of Canada contributed to very low levels of farm crop inventories at the end of 2001. Lower stocks of all major grains and oilseeds, except corn, reduced the value of on-farm crop inventories by $1.1 billion. Adverse weather in many areas of the Prairies reduced crop yields and forced farmers to use grain as feed earlier than usual as good pastureland quickly became scarce. As a result, by the end of 2001, on-farm inventories of grains and oilseeds were at their year-end lowest since the drought-reduced levels in western Canada in 1988.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0003, 002-0005, 002-0007 to 002-0009, 002-0012and 003-0025.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3471, 3472 and 3473.

The following free electronic publications will be released in January 2003: *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), *Farm debt outstanding — Agriculture economic statistics* (21-014-XIE) and *Direct payments to producers — Agriculture economic statistics* (21-015-XIE).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; *bernie.rosien@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division.

Net farm income

	Canada	Nfld. and Lab.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
						$ millions					
2000[r]											
+ Total farm cash receipts including payments	**33,027**	73	321	414	366	5,436	7,919	3,178	5,718	7,528	2,074
- Total operating expenses after rebates	**26,196**	63	280	328	306	4,229	6,331	2,528	4,543	5,982	1,608
= Net cash income	**6,831**	10	41	86	60	1,207	1,588	650	1,175	1,546	467
+ Income-in-kind	**153**	1	2	3	3	53	47	9	12	16	7
- depreciation	**4,042**	4	36	44	36	515	960	357	877	1,005	208
= Realized net income	**2,941**	7	7	46	28	745	675	302	310	557	266
+ Value of inventory change	**-79**	-1	20	1	10	-88	-228	182	160	-128	-7
= Total net income	**2,862**	6	27	47	37	657	447	484	470	429	259
2001[r]											
+ Total farm cash receipts including payments	**36,254**	81	337	419	412	5,729	8,534	3,648	6,550	8,307	2,236
- Total operating expenses after rebates	**27,597**	66	284	341	323	4,494	6,814	2,686	4,706	6,188	1,695
= Net cash income	**8,657**	15	54	78	89	1,235	1,720	961	1,844	2,119	541
+ Income-in-kind	**154**	1	2	3	3	52	47	9	11	17	8
- Depreciation	**4,129**	4	39	46	39	548	969	362	891	1,030	201
= Realized net income	**4,682**	12	17	36	54	739	798	609	964	1,105	348
+ Value of inventory change	**-1,192**	0	-72	-1	-19	89	-102	-73	-702	-330	17
= Total net income	**3,490**	12	-56	35	35	828	697	536	262	775	365

[r] *Revised data.*

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OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance

September 2002 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in September was down 0.8% from August to 553,330. Four provinces recorded decreases: Saskatchewan (-7.6%), Quebec (-3.0%), Manitoba (-2.4%) and New Brunswick (-2,1%). Newfoundland and Labrador registered the largest increase at 5.3%. Ontario reported a small increase (+0.9%).

Also on a seasonally adjusted basis, regular benefit payments in September totalled $755.7 million and initial and renewal claims received were reported at 226,440.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	Sept. 2002[p]	Aug. to Sept. 2002	Sept. 2001 to Sept. 2002
	Seasonally adjusted		
		% change	
Canada	**553,330**	**-0.8**	**3.0**
Newfoundland and Labrador	36,680	5.3	3.2
Prince Edward Island	8,140	1.0	6.5
Nova Scotia	30,390	0.9	2.5
New Brunswick	36,110	-2.1	-2.7
Quebec	178,950	-3.0	-0.4
Ontario	134,210	0.9	0.6
Manitoba	14,090	-2.4	4.9
Saskatchewan	12,050	-7.6	11.0
Alberta	33,760	4.2	33.8
British Columbia	66,880	2.2	9.0
Yukon	970	4.3	16.9
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	1,170	2.6	17.0
	Unadjusted		
Northwest Territories	700	-2.8	34.6
Nunavut	270	-15.6	-6.9

[p] *Preliminary figures.*

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits for the week containing the fifteenth day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

Although job creation, training and self-employment benefit payments are included in the regular benefit payments series, the regular benefits comprise the vast majority of this dollar amount.

Employment insurance statistics

	Sept. 2002	Aug. 2002	Sept. 2001	Aug. to Sept. 2002	Sept. 2001 to Sept. 2002
	Seasonally adjusted				
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	553,330[p]	557,820[p]	537,240	-0.8	3.0
Regular benefits paid ($ millions)	755.7	732.4	739.7	3.2	2.2
Claims received ('000)	226.4	246.9	246.4	-8.3	-8.1
	Unadjusted				
				% change	
All beneficiaries ('000)	643.1[p]	756.7[p]	608.8	-15.0	5.6
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	390.2[p]	508.4[p]	382.9	-23.2	1.9
Claims received ('000)	207.6	169.3	207.8	22.6	-0.1
Payments ($ millions)	1,097.8	1,062.2	1,029.8	3.4	6.6
	Year-to-date (January to September)				
			2002	2001	2001 to 2002
					% change
Claims received ('000)			1,968.7	1,997.5	-1.4
Payments ($ millions)			11,307.7	9,610.4	17.7

[p] *Preliminary figures.*

Note: *All beneficiaries includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (e.g., because of layoff) or special benefits (e.g., because of illness).*

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0012, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2604.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091) or Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Department store sales and stocks

October 2002

After sagging sales in September (-3.0%), consumers increased their spending at department stores in October. Sales rebounded 3.3% to $1.76 billion (seasonally adjusted).

Following a 5.0% growth in January, the trend in department store sales has levelled off. However, month-to-month sales have been relatively volatile, fluctuating around a monthly average of $1.76 billion. Before that, sales had been generally moving upward since the spring of 2000.

In October, average department store sales per location totalled $2.39 million, virtually unchanged since the start of 2002. There were 738 locations in October, compared with 745 in January.

Department store sales including concessions

	Oct. 2001	Oct. 2002	Oct. 2001 to Oct. 2002	Jan. to Oct. 2002	Jan.–Oct. 2001 to Jan.–Oct. 2002
	Unadjusted				
	$ millions		% change	$ millions	% change
Canada	**1,731.1**	**1,830.1**	**5.7**	**15,684.2**	**7.2**
Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island[1]	42.9	46.1	7.4	371.4	12.4
Nova Scotia	54.2	57.5	6.1	473.5	13.7
New Brunswick	42.1	46.1	9.5	353.3	6.6
Quebec	314.7	347.8	10.5	2,948.9	10.4
Ontario	736.6	771.1	4.7	6,591.6	5.9
Manitoba	68.6	71.5	4.3	620.8	4.6
Saskatchewan	59.5	63.5	6.7	556.6	7.2
Alberta	210.4	225.3	7.1	1,953.7	8.4
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut[1]	202.1	201.3	-0.4	1,814.4	4.1

[1] *For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island are combined, as are data for British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.*

Department store sales at the national level in October (unadjusted for seasonality) advanced 5.7% from October 2001. Year-over-year sales increased in all provinces, except for a slight decline in the region formed by British Columbia and the territories (-0.4%). Quebec (+10.5%) and New Brunswick (+9.5%) posted the strongest gains from October 2001. The remaining provinces had more moderate year-over-year sales increases ranging from 4.3% to 7.4%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 076-0001 to 076-0003.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2408.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Elton Cryderman (613-951-0669; *elton.cryderman@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills

September 2002 and third quarter 2002

Following a 2.6% increase in August, sawmill shipments in September remained unchanged from August at 6 087.4 thousand cubic metres. Production rose 5.5%, resulting in a 0.4% increase in stocks.

After having absorbed the shock of the imposed countervailing and anti-dumping duties at the beginning of the summer, Canadian producers, contrary to expectations, started to boost production. Although several mills shut down, the pace of production accelerated in other mills since July.

Similarly, despite a slight 1.0% decrease in September over August, lumber exports, as measured by the International Trade Division, posted solid increases of more than 15% in July and more than 8% in August.

The strong construction sector in the United States pushed up the demand for lumber. After diminishing slightly during the last three months, housing starts averaged 1 843 000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in September, up 13.3% from August. This was the highest level in 17 years.

Low interest rates continued to push up the residential construction sector in Canada. Housing starts decreased 8.2% in September from August, averaging 181 000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) after four months of growth.

The third quarter is the first complete quarter during which penalties imposed on exports to the United States made their full impact. Lumber shipments decreased 3.7% from the second quarter to 18 105.2 thousand cubic metres.

This decrease is partly due to the strong increase of 9.0% in shipments in the second quarter from the first, which resulted from the temporary dropping of penalties in April and the beginning of May.

Lumber prices continued their slow downward trend in the third quarter as a result of a surplus of lumber on

the market. Despite the imposition of penalties by the United States, production accelerated with increases of 2.5% in August and 5.5% in September, which contributed to the price softening.

The 3.7% decrease in shipments in the third quarter compared with the second was widespread throughout the country. The most affected provinces were Quebec (-10.1%), Alberta (-5.8%), Ontario (-5.3%) and New Brunswick (-4.2%).

Lumber shipments in British Columbia remained practically unchanged, with a slight 0.1% decrease resulting from a 0.6% drop in the interior region; shipments from the coastal region were up 2.6%.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

The September 2002 issue of *Sawmills and planing mills*, Vol. 56, no. 9 (35-003-XIB, $9/$86) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; *simales@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Monthly railway carloadings

September 2002

The freight loaded by railways in Canada in September totalled 19.5 million metric tonnes (excluding intermodal traffic), down 0.6% from September 2001. The intermodal tonnage, represented by containers on flat cars and trailers on flat cars, rose 13.1% from September 2001 to reach 2.1 million metric tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

The September 2002 issue of *Monthly railway carloadings*, Vol. 79, no. 9 (52-001-XIE, $8/$77) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; *laroque@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard

September 2002

Oriented strandboard production in September totalled 705 166 cubic metres, down 0.2% from 706 816 cubic metres in September 2001. Particleboard production reached 234 833 cubic metres, an increase of 0.8% from 232 992 cubic metres in September 2001. Fibreboard production totalled 91 712 cubic metres, down 7.3% from 98 980 cubic metres in September 2001.

Year-to-date production of oriented strandboard at the end of September totalled 6 250 308 cubic metres, a 5.7% increase from 5 911 171 cubic metres in the same period of 2001. Particleboard production reached 2 211 977 cubic metres, up 2.8% from 2 151 433 cubic metres in the same period of 2001. Year-to-date fibreboard production reached 759 878 cubic metres, down 2.6% from 780 547 cubic metres in the same period of 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0002.

The September 2002 issue of *Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard*, Vol. 38, no. 9 (36-003-XIB, $5/$47), is now available. See *How to order products*.

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Monthly railway carloadings, September 2002, Vol. 79, no. 9
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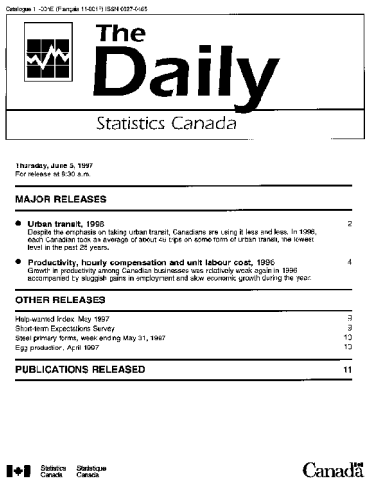
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