



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, August 22, 2003

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Estimates of production of principal field crops, as of July 31, 2003 (estimates)** 2  
Production of most field crops in 2003 is on the rebound from last year's poor showing, according to results from the July 31 pre-harvest survey of Canadian farmers.

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Estimates of production of principal field crops

As of July 31, 2003

Production of most field crops in 2003 is on the rebound from last year's poor showing, according to results from the July 31 pre-harvest survey of Canadian farmers.

In spite of insect damage and hot, dry weather experienced in the west, crop production will easily surpass the drought year of 2002.

Production of most crops should be greatly improved, except in Manitoba, where crops could show a slight decline, as farmers there were generally hit less by the drought of 2002. Hay production across western Canada was improved, as early rains provided favourable conditions this spring.

In eastern Canada, good planting and growing conditions will combine to produce some new records and strong production values for crops.

#### July production

Crop	2002	2003	2002 to 2003
	'000 tonnes		% change
Total wheat	15,690	20,966	34
Spring wheat	10,423	14,542	40
Barley	7,283	12,025	65
Canola	3,577	6,230	74
Durum wheat	3,714	3,778	2
Oats	2,749	4,048	47
Field peas	1,366	2,254	65
Flaxseed	679	793	17
Rye	134	301	125
Soybeans <sup>1</sup>	2,220	2,560	15
Grain corn <sup>1</sup>	8,657	8,788	2

<sup>1</sup> Quebec and Ontario only.

#### Sharp increase anticipated in total wheat production

Total wheat production is expected to reach 21.0 million tonnes, up 34% or 5.3 million tonnes from the 2002 level. The recent five-year average production is 22.8 million tonnes. Reported average yield was 29.8 bushels per acre, up from 27.1 last year.

In Ontario, winter wheat production is anticipated to soar to a record 2.0 million tonnes, easily passing the record 1.4 million tonnes set four years ago. Favourable growing conditions and a large increase in harvested area combined to produce the increase.

In the west, spring wheat production should rise a sharp 42% to 14.2 million tonnes, the result of increases

#### Note to readers

The July Crops Survey of 17,000 farm operators was conducted by telephone interviews between July 25 and August 3. Farmers were asked to report their seeded areas, harvested areas, and yields of major grains and oilseeds.

in yield and harvested area. This good news should be tempered by the fact that the 10-year average for spring wheat in the west is 18.3 million tonnes, with a maximum of 26.5 million tonnes reported in 1991. Alberta growers anticipate an 83% increase, and Saskatchewan farmers, a 54% increase. In Manitoba, farmers expect an 11% decline.

Durum production in the west is expected to be little changed this year at 3.8 million tonnes, up just 2% from last year. While harvested acreage rose, yield is off an estimated 9% to an average 23.1 bushels per acre. Durum is grown mainly in the southern part of the Prairies, an area that was generally hit less by last year's drought. In spite of the increase, production is still well below the 10-year average of 4.4 million tonnes and the record of 6.0 million tonnes.

#### Barley production on rebound

Western Canadian barley production should rise to near average levels this year, the result of improved yields and an average cut for silage. Production is estimated at 11.0 million tonnes, up 4.8 million tonnes from 2002 and in line with the 10-year average of 11.4 million tonnes.

Yields will continue below average at 47.4 bushels per acre, lagging considerably behind the 10-year average of 53.6 bushels per acre.

Farmers can expect improved export opportunities later this year, the result of declines in barley production in the European Union and Eastern Europe.

#### Canola production returning to normal

After last year's hot and dry weather, conditions this year have improved enough to return canola production to the 10-year average of 6.2 million tonnes.

This would represent an increase of 2.7 million tonnes from last year, the result of an improvement in yield and a decrease in abandonment. Increases were reported in all western provinces.

### **Field pea production set to rise above average**

Field pea production should increase 65% to 2.3 million tonnes in western Canada. An improvement in yield and harvested area combined to raise production, surpassing the 10-year average of 1.8 million tonnes.

Overall yield was reported at 26.1 bushels per acre, a much better result than last year, but far short of the record set four years ago at 40.1 bushels per acre.

### **Corn production up in the east; possible record in Quebec**

Corn production should increase in Ontario and Quebec, brought on by an improvement in yield.

Quebec farmers reported that production could reach record territory at 3.2 million tonnes, up 1% over the record set just last year.

In Ontario, production is set to rise 2% to 5.6 million tonnes, which would be well above the 10-year average of 5.2 million tonnes.

**Available on CANSIM: 001-0010 and 001-0017 to 001-0020.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3401.**

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Karen Gray (204-983-2856; [karen.gray@statcan.ca](mailto:karen.gray@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

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Thursday, June 5, 1997  
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**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, only Canadian took an average of about 4.1 per cent on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 22 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

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