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. 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^s 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

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Highlights

Stocks of grain

- Except for flaxseed, total commercial and on-farm stocks of major and special crops fell from the generally robust levels reported as of July 31, 2006, according to a survey of Canadian grain farmers and commercial grain holders.

Analysis section

Stocks of Canadian grain at July 31, 2007

Except for flaxseed, total commercial and on-farm stocks of major and special crops fell from the generally robust levels reported as of July 31, 2006, according to a survey of Canadian grain farmers and commercial grain holders.

In the Prairie provinces, on-farm stocks of most major crops as of July 31, 2007 were down to levels below their five-year averages. Farm stocks of canola and flaxseed fell, but remained above the five-year average.

Farm stocks of corn in Eastern Canada remained high, above the five-year average. Stocks of soybeans declined from the record levels reported in July 2006.

Wheat stocks down in wake of export demand

Total stocks of wheat, which include on-farm and commercial stocks, were estimated at 6.8 million tonnes, a decrease of 29.2% or 2.8 million tonnes from the same period in 2006. Lower wheat stock levels are the result of strong above-average export demand, brought on by a tight world supply and demand situation.

On-farm Prairie inventories of wheat were down 54.8% from July 2006 to 1.9 million tonnes. The five-year average is 2.3 million tonnes. Farmers reported decreases in all three Prairie provinces. The largest decrease, 1.7 million tonnes, occurred in Saskatchewan, where stocks hit 880,000 tonnes.

Total stocks of durum wheat amounted to 1.2 million tonnes, down a sharp 62.2% from the record set in July 2006. The five-year average for July is 2.1 million tonnes. Export demand for durum wheat has increased considerably, the result of strong global requirements after several years of oversupply.

Durum producers in Saskatchewan and Alberta reported they held much less durum on their farms in 2007. On-farm stocks in Saskatchewan were down 83.0% to 230,000 tonnes, while Alberta farmers reported a similar decline of 75.9% to an estimated 70,000 tonnes. Commercial stocks also declined by 42.3% to 932,000 tonnes.

Feed grain stocks fall below the five-year average

Total stocks of barley on July 31 tumbled 54.6% to 1.5 million tonnes, a level well below the five-year average of 2.4 million tonnes. Generally higher world prices brought on by demand for corn for the ethanol industry and a decline in Canadian barley production in 2006 were responsible for the drop.

Prairie on-farm stocks also fell, with declines ranging from 34.6% in Manitoba to 73.1% in Saskatchewan, where stocks had hit record highs as of July 2006.

Total stocks of oats fell 36.2% to 556,000 tonnes. On-farm stocks fell in all three Prairie provinces to levels well below the five-year average, the result of strong export demand.

Total stocks of field peas dropped 235,000 tonnes to 205,000 tonnes, well below the five-year average of 365,000 tonnes.

Commercial and on-farm stocks of field peas fell to levels below the corresponding five-year average. Commercial stocks tumbled 39.3% to 85,000 tonnes, and Prairie on-farm stocks fell 60.0% to 120,000 tonnes. Lower crop production in 2006, combined with increased domestic feeding, were responsible.

Canola stocks off slightly

Total stocks of canola amounted to an estimated 1.8 million tonnes, off 9.3% from 2006, but still well above the five-year average of 1.3 million tonnes. Commercial stocks were up by 247,000 tonnes to 1.1 million tonnes.

However, significant declines were reported for on-farm stocks in all three Prairie provinces, ranging from 28.6% in Alberta to 46.7% in Saskatchewan.

Continued steady exports along with a strong domestic crush and a minor reduction in the 2006 harvest all combined to produce the stock decrease.

Flaxseed stocks inch up

Total stocks of flaxseed inched up 37,000 tonnes to 373,000 tonnes, the highest level since 2000.

An increase in commercial stocks was tempered by declines in on-farm stocks, which declined 20.0% but remained at a level more than twice the five-year average. In spite of continued robust exports, stocks of flaxseed remain high after two years of strong production.

In Saskatchewan, where most Canadian flaxseed is grown, on-farm stocks fell 65,000 tonnes from the record high in 2006 to 130,000 tonnes. The five-year average level is 75,000 tonnes.

Crop categories

Definitions of the crop categories referenced in Report No. 6, Field Crop Reporting Series are listed below.

Stocks on farms: farm held stocks of grains include marketable grain, reserves for on-farm feed, seed use and dockage.

Commercial stocks: stocks of grain held at facilities such as elevators, terminals, mills, etc. Commercial stocks exclude dockage.

Dockage: dockage is material that must be removed from grain in order that the grain can be assigned the highest grade for which it qualifies.

Major crops: wheat, oats, barley, flaxseed, canola, corn for grain and soybeans.

Coarse grains: oats, barley, corn for grain and mixed grains.

Oilseeds: canola, flaxseed and soybeans.

Major special crops: dry peas, lentils, mustard seed, sunflower seed and canary seed.

Table 1 Stocks of Canadian grain for the crop years 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007

	Crop years		
	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
	'000 metric tonnes		
All wheat			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	16,075	19,039	16,962
Commercial stocks	4,541	4,755	4,584
Total stocks	20,616	23,794	21,546
March 31			
Stocks on farms	11,053	13,871	11,263
Commercial stocks	4,305	4,722	4,675
Total stocks	15,358	18,593	15,938
July 31			
Stocks on farms	3,105	4,265	1,979
Commercial stocks	4,817	5,373	4,849
Total stocks	7,922	9,638	6,828
Wheat (excluding durum)			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	12,430	13,891	13,862
Commercial stocks	3,352	3,510	3,612
Total stocks	15,782	17,401	17,474
March 31			
Stocks on farms	8,028	9,871	9,113
Commercial stocks	3,170	3,515	3,650
Total stocks	11,198	13,386	12,763
July 31			
Stocks on farms	2,100	2,625	1,679
Commercial stocks	3,335	3,757	3,916
Total stocks	5,435	6,382	5,595
Durum wheat			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	3,645	5,148	3,100
Commercial stocks	1,189	1,245	972
Total stocks	4,834	6,393	4,072
March 31			
Stocks on farms	3,025	4,000	2,150
Commercial stocks	1,135	1,207	1,025
Total stocks	4,160	5,207	3,175
July 31			
Stocks on farms	1,005	1,640	300
Commercial stocks	1,482	1,616	932
Total stocks	2,487	3,256	1,232

Table 1 Stocks of Canadian grain for the crop years 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 (continued)

	Crop years		
	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
	'000 metric tonnes		
Oats			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	2,482	2,443	2,139
Commercial stocks	198	235	233
Total stocks	2,680	2,678	2,372
March 31			
Stocks on farms	1,663	1,604	1,317
Commercial stocks	232	234	231
Total stocks	1,895	1,838	1,548
July 31			
Stocks on farms	845	735	467
Commercial stocks	129	137	89
Total stocks	974	872	556
Barley			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	9,200	8,875	6,962
Commercial stocks	570	549	511
Total stocks	9,770	9,424	7,473
March 31			
Stocks on farms	6,305	6,118	4,061
Commercial stocks	568	352	511
Total stocks	6,873	6,470	4,572
July 31			
Stocks on farms	2,805	3,027	1,200
Commercial stocks	630	262	292
Total stocks	3,435	3,289	1,492
Flaxseed			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	225	630	715
Commercial stocks	107	91	155
Total stocks	332	721	870
March 31			
Stocks on farms	112	530	550
Commercial stocks	125	96	186
Total stocks	237	626	736
July 31			
Stocks on farms	15	250	200
Commercial stocks	9	86	173
Total stocks	24	336	373

Table 1 Stocks of Canadian grain for the crop years 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 (continued)

	Crop years		
	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
	'000 metric tonnes		
Canola			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	4,578	6,558	5,919
Commercial stocks	699	926	1,247
Total stocks	5,277	7,484	7,166
March 31			
Stocks on farms	2,982	4,105	3,833
Commercial stocks	757	1,031	922
Total stocks	3,739	5,136	4,755
July 31			
Stocks on farms	925	1,113	679
Commercial stocks	662	894	1,141
Total stocks	1,587	2,007	1,820
Corn for grain			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	6,127	6,555	6,337
Commercial stocks	1,690	1,908	2,126
Total stocks	7,817	8,463	8,463
March 31			
Stocks on farms	4,265	4,470	4,174
Commercial stocks	1,003	1,304	1,367
Total stocks	5,268	5,774	5,541
August 31			
Stocks on farms	1,370	1,580	..
Commercial stocks	432	421	..
Total stocks	1,802	2,001	..
Soybeans			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	1,277	1,368	1,584
Commercial stocks	860	915	1,103
Total stocks	2,137	2,283	2,687
March 31			
Stocks on farms	796	1,011	1,036
Commercial stocks	630	650	870
Total stocks	1,426	1,661	1,906
August 31			
Stocks on farms	90	200	..
Commercial stocks	180	295	..
Total stocks	270	495	..

Table 1 Stocks of Canadian grain for the crop years 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 (continued)

	Crop years		
	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
	'000 metric tonnes		
Dry peas			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	1,927	1,845	1,366
Commercial stocks	120	250	195
Total stocks	2,047	2,095	1,561
March 31			
Stocks on farms	1,341	1,200	750
Commercial stocks	340	340	260
Total stocks	1,681	1,540	1,010
July 31			
Stocks on farms	320	300	120
Commercial stocks	275	140	85
Total stocks	595	440	205
Lentils			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	575	925	655
Commercial stocks	40	40	45
Total stocks	615	965	700
March 31			
Stocks on farms	430	710	455
Commercial stocks	42	45	36
Total stocks	472	755	491
July 31			
Stocks on farms	195	445	115
Commercial stocks	50	30	24
Total stocks	245	475	139
Mustard seed			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	265	253	190
Commercial stocks	33	43	29
Total stocks	298	296	219
March 31			
Stocks on farms	208	202	130
Commercial stocks	41	46	42
Total stocks	249	248	172
July 31			
Stocks on farms	143	150	55
Commercial stocks	51	40	36
Total stocks	194	190	91

Table 1 Stocks of Canadian grain for the crop years 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 (concluded)

	Crop years		
	2004/2005	**2005/2006**	**2006/2007**
	'000 metric tonnes		
Sunflower seed			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	40	65	120
Commercial stocks	4	5	8
Total stocks	44	70	128
March 31			
Stocks on farms	23	50	75
Commercial stocks	5	7	6
Total stocks	28	57	81
July 31			
Stocks on farms	11	20	15
Commercial stocks	4	7	8
Total stocks	15	27	23
Canary seed			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	269	289	207
Commercial stocks	18	23	25
Total stocks	287	312	232
March 31			
Stocks on farms	223	239	160
Commercial stocks	19	26	34
Total stocks	242	265	194
July 31			
Stocks on farms	148	170	95
Commercial stocks	20	20	26
Total stocks	168	190	121
Chick peas			
December 31			
Stocks on farms	85	70	85
Commercial stocks	15	12	18
Total stocks	100	82	103
March 31			
Stocks on farms	75	40	55
Commercial stocks	15	10	14
Total stocks	90	50	69
July 31			
Stocks on farms	40	10	5
Commercial stocks	7	3	5
Total stocks	47	13	10

Table 2 Farm stocks of grain for the 2006/2007 crop year, Canada and provinces

	All wheat	Wheat (excluding durum)	Durum wheat	Oats	Barley
	'000 metric tonnes				
Canada					
December 31, 2006	16,962	13,862	3,100	2,139	6,962
March 31, 2007	11,263	9,113	2,150	1,317	4,061
July 31, 2007	1,979	1,679	300	467	1,200
Maritimes					
December 31, 2006	22	22	…	17	60
March 31, 2007	10	10	…	7	35
July 31,2007	0	0	…	0	0
Quebec					
December 31, 2006	85	85	…	150	200
March 31, 2007	50	50	…	80	120
July 31, 2007	8	8	…	30	40
Ontario					
December 31, 2006	385	385	…	65	225
March 31, 2007	175	175	…	40	150
July 31, 2007	60	60	…	15	90
Eastern Canada					
December 31, 2006	492	492	…	232	485
March 31, 2007	235	235	…	127	305
July 31, 2007	68	68	…	45	130
Manitoba					
December 31, 2006	2,225	2,225	0	435	775
March 31, 2007	1,425	1,425	0	220	500
July 31, 2007	210	210	0	55	170
Saskatchewan					
December 31, 2006	8,295	5,950	2,345	850	2,350
March 31, 2007	5,670	3,950	1,720	525	1,340
July 31, 2007	880	650	230	185	350
Alberta					
December 31, 2006	5,930	5,175	755	600	3,325
March 31, 2007	3,930	3,500	430	430	1,900
July 31, 2007	820	750	70	180	550
British Columbia					
December 31, 2006	20	20	…	22	27
March 31, 2007	3	3	…	15	16
July 31, 2007	1	1	…	2	0
Western Canada					
December 31, 2006	16,470	13,370	3,100	1,907	6,477
March 31, 2007	11,028	8,878	2,150	1,190	3,756
July 31, 2007	1,911	1,611	300	422	1,070

Table 2 Farm stocks of grain for the 2006/2007 crop year, Canada and provinces (concluded)

	Dry peas	Flaxseed	Canola	Corn for grain	Soybeans
	'000 metric tonnes				
Canada					
December 31, 2006	1,366	715	5,919	6,337	1,584
March 31, 2007	750	550	3,833	4,174	1,036
July 31, 2007	120	200	679	2,000	255
Maritimes					
December 31, 2006	…	…	…	10	4
March 31, 2007	…	…	…	4	1
July 31, 2007	…	…	…	0	0
Quebec					
December 31, 2006	…	…	5	2,200	275
March 31, 2007	…	…	1	1,400	180
July 31, 2007	…	…	0	600	55
Ontario					
December 31, 2006	…	…	4	3,800	1,125
March 31, 2007	…	…	2	2,500	720
July 31, 2007	…	…	0	1,200	130
Eastern Canada					
December 31, 2006	…	…	9	6,010	1,404
March 31, 2007	…	…	3	3,904	901
July 31, 2007	…	…	0	1,800	185
Manitoba					
December 31, 2006	60	160	1,200	325	180
March 31, 2007	40	115	850	270	135
July 31, 2007	10	35	100	200	70
Saskatchewan					
December 31, 2006	1,035	500	2,525	…	…
March 31, 2007	520	390	1,625	…	…
July 31, 2007	80	130	325	…	…
Alberta					
December 31, 2006	270	55	2,175	2	…
March 31, 2007	190	45	1,350	0	…
July 31, 2007	30	35	250	0	…
British Columbia					
December 31, 2006	1	…	10	…	…
March 31, 2007	0	…	5	…	…
July 31, 2007	0	…	4	…	…
Western Canada					
December 31, 2006	1,366	715	5,910	327	180
March 31, 2007	750	550	3,830	270	135
July 31, 2007	120	200	679	200	70

Table 3 Farm stocks of grain for the 2005/2006 crop year, Canada and provinces

	All wheat	Wheat (excluding durum)	Durum wheat	Oats	Barley
	'000 metric tonnes				
Canada					
December 31, 2005	19,039	13,891	5,148	2,443	8,875
March 31, 2006	13,871	9,871	4,000	1,604	6,118
July 31, 2006	4,265	2,625	1,640	735	3,027
Maritimes					
December 31, 2005	25	25	…	18	105
March 31, 2006	12	12	…	9	53
July 31, 2006	0	0	…	0	2
Quebec					
December 31, 2005	80	80	…	150	220
March 31, 2006	60	60	…	75	145
July 31, 2006	19	19	…	25	45
Ontario					
December 31, 2005	355	355	…	55	200
March 31, 2006	135	135	…	35	140
July 31, 2006	15	15	…	10	80
Eastern Canada					
December 31, 2005	460	460	…	223	525
March 31, 2006	207	207	…	119	338
July 31, 2006	34	34	…	35	127
Manitoba					
December 31, 2005	1,483	1,475	8	310	600
March 31, 2006	940	935	5	220	450
July 31, 2006	215	215	0	75	260
Saskatchewan					
December 31, 2005	10,525	6,275	4,250	1,140	3,600
March 31, 2006	7,925	4,675	3,250	700	2,500
July 31, 2006	2,575	1,225	1,350	300	1,300
Alberta					
December 31, 2005	6,540	5,650	890	750	4,100
March 31, 2006	4,795	4,050	745	550	2,800
July 31, 2006	1,440	1,150	290	320	1,330
British Columbia					
December 31, 2005	31	31	…	20	50
March 31, 2006	4	4	…	15	30
July 31, 2006	1	1	…	5	10
Western Canada					
December 31, 2005	18,579	13,431	5,148	2,220	8,350
March 31, 2006	13,664	9,664	4,000	1,485	5,780
July 31, 2006	4,231	2,591	1,640	700	2,900

Table 3 Farm stocks of grain for the 2005/2006 crop year, Canada and provinces (concluded)

	Dry peas	Flaxseed	Canola	Corn for grain	Soybeans
			'000 metric tonnes		
Canada					
December 31, 2005	1,845	630	6,558	6,555	1,368
March 31, 2006	1,200	530	4,105	4,470	1,011
July 31, 2006	300	250	1,113	2,220	300
Maritimes					
December 31, 2005	…	…	…	8	3
March 31, 2006	…	…	…	4	1
July 31, 2006	…	…	…	0	0
Quebec					
December 31, 2005	…	…	13	2,725	250
March 31, 2006	…	…	8	1,875	200
July 31, 2006	…	…	3	900	60
Ontario					
December 31, 2005	…	…	5	3,650	1,075
March 31, 2006	…	…	2	2,450	780
July 31, 2006	…	…	0	1,200	225
Eastern Canada					
December 31, 2005	…	…	18	6,383	1,328
March 31, 2006	…	…	10	4,329	981
July 31, 2006	…	…	3	2,100	285
Manitoba					
December 31, 2005	40	90	850	170	40
March 31, 2006	30	75	550	140	30
July 31, 2006	10	30	150	120	15
Saskatchewan					
December 31, 2005	1,400	500	3,225	…	…
March 31, 2006	885	420	2,020	…	…
July 31, 2006	210	195	610	…	…
Alberta					
December 31, 2005	400	40	2,460	2	…
March 31, 2006	280	35	1,525	1	…
July 31, 2006	80	25	350	0	…
British Columbia					
December 31, 2005	5	…	5	…	…
March 31, 2006	5	…	0	…	…
July 31, 2006	0	…	0	…	…
Western Canada					
December 31, 2005	1,845	630	6,540	172	40
March 31, 2006	1,200	530	4,095	141	30
July 31, 2006	300	250	1,110	120	15

Methodology and data quality

Survey frame and sample selection

The target population for the July 31 farm stock estimates includes all farms in Canada enumerated in the Census of Agriculture except those on Indian reserves and farms from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Atlantic region. Institutional farms are also excluded from the target population.

Every five years, the Census of Agriculture collects information on agricultural operations across Canada, including institutional farms, community pastures, Indian reserves, etc. The Census of Agriculture provides a list of farms and their crop areas from which probability sample for the July 31 farm stock estimates is selected.

Probability surveys can use two types of sampling frames, list and area. In the July 31 Farm Stocks Survey, only the list frame is used in sample selection. This list frame is stratified into homogenous groups on the basis of Census characteristics (such as farm size and crop area) and sub-provincial geographic boundaries. A sample of approximately 17,300 farms was drawn from the list frame for the July 31 Farm Stocks Survey.

Data collection

Data collection for the July 31 Crop Production Survey was carried out from July 27 to August 5, 2007.

Data collection for field crop surveys is undertaken using the Computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) system.

Edit and imputation

With the introduction of the CATI system, it is now possible to implement edit procedures at the time of the interview. Computer programmed edit checks in the CATI system inform interviewers during the interview of possible data errors, which can then be corrected immediately by the interviewer and respondent. CATI significantly reduces the need for subsequent telephone follow-up, thereby reducing respondent burden and survey processing time.

Response rate

Usually by the end of the collection period, 85% of the questionnaires have been fully completed. The refusal rate to the survey is approximately 2 to 5%. The remainder of the sample unaccounted for, can be explained by non-contact. Initial sample weights are adjusted (a process called raising factor adjustment) in cases of total and partial non-response; no imputation is performed for missing values.

Sampling and non-sampling errors

The statistics contained in this publication are based on a random sample of agricultural operations and, as such, are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. The overall quality of the estimates depends on the combined effect of these two types of errors.

Sampling errors arise because estimates are derived from sample data and not the entire population. These errors depend on factors such as sample size, sampling design and the method of estimation. An important feature of probability sampling is that sampling errors can be measured from the sample itself.

Non-sampling errors are errors which are not related to sampling and may occur throughout the survey operation for many reasons. For example, non-response is an important source of non-sampling error. Coverage, differences in the interpretation of questions, incorrect information from respondents, mistakes in recording, coding and processing of data are other examples of non-sampling errors.

Estimation

The survey data collected are weighted in order to produce unbiased level indicators which are representative of the population. These level indicators then undergo a validation process, based on subject matter analysis and consultation with provincial statisticians, before a final estimate is published.

Estimates of farm stocks of grains are obtained by a survey of farm operations but a major tool used in the verification of these estimates is the farm supply-disposition (or supply-demand) balance sheet. This table reflects activity on-farms only before grain enters the commercial system. The total supply and disposition must be equal.

The supply is composed of opening farm stocks and production. The disposition is comprised of deliveries, seed use, closing farm stocks and feed, waste and dockage. The production and farm stock data are estimated from large surveys of Canadian farmers. Seed use data are based on average seeding rates.

A major portion of the deliveries are licensed grain deliveries obtained from the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC). Statistics Canada (STC) adjusts these deliveries during the estimation process to account for CGC quality problems and data lags which are often substantial. The adjustments are calculated mainly from commercial supply-demand tables using data available in the CGC publication Grain Statistics Weekly. However, the deliveries published in the STC farm supply-disposition tables reflect the CGC published data plus STC estimates for unlicensed deliveries to both domestic and export markets.

The feed, waste and dockage (fwd) component is a residual in the balance sheet. Indicators such as the number of grain consuming animal units, harvest conditions affecting grain quality, established ratios of dockage to delivered grain and grain inspections are used to ensure data accuracy. An unusual estimate in this component may indicate a problem with another data series such as deliveries or may show a change in feeding patterns. Farm stocks are estimated from survey indicators in conjunction with the other components of the balance sheet. Therefore, any apparent fwd anomalies are unlikely to reflect problems with the level of the farm stocks.

National supply and disposition tables provide further information to aid in estimating farm stocks. More detailed information on s & d tables may be obtained in the October issue of Statistics Canada catalogue 22-007XIB, Cereals and Oilseeds Review.

Revisions

Stocks data are subject to revision for two years after first being published. Any revisions are published in the July 31 stocks report.

The following table contains some statistics which indicate the magnitude and direction of past revisions to the July farm stocks data. The magnitude is measured by the average percent change between the preliminary and final estimates. The direction of revisions is indicated by counting the number of years that the preliminary estimate is above or below the final revised estimate.

The data indicate, for example, that the preliminary estimates of oats farm stocks are revised by a magnitude of, on average, 1.3 % and usually in a downwards direction.

Text table 1
Magnitude and direction of past revisions to July 31 farm stocks estimates, Canada, 1996 to 2006

		Years preliminary farms stocks data are revised:	
Crop	Average change	Upwards	Downwards
	%	number	
Wheat	3.6	2	5
Oats	1.3	1	3
Barley	2.3	2	3
Flaxseed	6.0	2	2
Canola	4.7	6	0
Corn for grain	0.2	1	0
Soybeans	1.8	2	2

Data quality

The July 31 farm stocks estimates are based on level indicators obtained from a probability survey of farming operations. The potential error introduced by sampling can be estimated from the sample itself by using a statistical measure called the coefficient of variation (c.v.). Over repeated surveys, 95 times out of 100, the relative difference between a sample estimate and what should have been obtained from an enumeration of all farming operations would be less than twice the coefficient of variation. This range of values is referred to as the confidence interval. While published estimates may not exactly equal the level indicators (due to the validation and consultation process), these estimates do remain within the confidence interval of the survey level indicators. For the July 31 Farm Stocks Survey, c.v.'s at the Canada level range from 5% to 20% for the major crops.

Data confidentiality

Data confidentiality is ensured under the *Statistics Act*, which prohibits the divulging of individual or aggregated data where individuals or businesses might be identified.