



The Daily

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Farm Input Price Index, first quarter 1997** 2
Western Canadian farmers, particularly those who raise livestock, paid more to do business over the past 12 months than their eastern counterparts.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED



MAJOR RELEASES

Farm Input Price Index

First quarter 1997 (preliminary)

Western Canadian farmers, particularly those who raise livestock, paid more to do business over the past 12 months than their counterparts in the East.

In the first quarter of 1997, farm input prices for Western Canada rose 2.9% from the same period a year earlier, compared with only a 1.8% increase for Eastern Canada.

For western farmers, the price of virtually all inputs into animal production increased 8.9% over the 12-month period, while in the East, it went up only 2.5%.

For Canada as a whole, farmers paid 2.4% more to do business on a year-over-year basis, despite a 13.2% decline in interest costs.

First quarter figures are the only ones to reflect changes in the farm rent and property tax indexes. At the national level, the index for farm rent declined 1.8%, while the property tax index increased 3.6%.

Higher cattle, poultry prices for Western producers

In the West, farmers faced price increases in seven of nine input categories; in particular, building and fencing materials and animal production.

The increase in the cost of animal production was due to higher prices for feeder cattle (+27.3%), weanling pigs (+12.3%) and poultry (+2.4%).

While higher prices for building materials contributed most to a 6.3% increase in the building and fencing index, western farmers also paid more for machinery and motor vehicles and supplies and services, including heating fuel and electricity.

Farm wages rose 3.4% annually. Higher prices for legume and grass seed and crop insurance resulted in a 1.8% increase in the crop production index.

However, farmers in the West benefited from lower prices for farm rent and lower interest costs, which declined 13.2% as a result of lower rates for non-mortgage loans.

In the East, farmers experienced price increases in eight of nine input categories. They too paid more on an annual basis for feeder cattle, weanling pigs and poultry. But due to lower feed prices, the overall increase in the animal production index was more moderate than in the West.

Higher prices for building materials contributed to a 4.3% increase in building and fencing. Farmers in the East also paid more for property taxes, estimated at 4.2%, compared with the same period a year earlier. Eastern farmers also benefited from lower costs for non-mortgage loans, which helped push the annual cost of interest down 13.4%.

Higher prices for animal production inputs contribute most to annual increase

On a national basis, farmers paid more in seven of the nine input categories. Again, higher prices for inputs into animal production (+5.1%) contributed most to the year-over-year increase.

Farmers also faced higher prices for machinery and motor vehicles, due in large part to higher prices for gasoline and diesel fuel. Farmers saw higher prices for building materials, which contributed to a 5.1% increase in building and fencing.

Increased prices for crop insurance and legume and grass seed helped push the crop production index up. Also, farm wages rose 3.4%. Higher prices for heating fuel and custom work contributed to a 3.8% annual increase in supply and services.

On the other hand, farmers continued to pay less for interest (-13.2%), as a result of lower costs for non-mortgage loans.

Higher prices for cattle also pushed up quarterly increase

Nationally, farmers paid 0.9% more to do business in the first three months of 1997 compared with the last quarter of 1996. But western farmers again experienced the highest price increases. Input prices rose 1.3% in the West compared with 0.2% in the East.

Eastern farmers benefited from lower prices for farm wages, building and fencing and for inputs into crop production.

Western farmers, on the other hand, benefited from lower estimated prices for farm rent. However, this was offset by a quarter-over-quarter increase in machinery and motor vehicles, animal production and farm wage costs.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 550-582 (level 7) and 2050-2063.

The first quarter 1997 issue of *Farm input price indexes* (62-004-XPB, \$25/\$83) will be available in June. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact the Client Services Unit, Prices Division (613-951-9606).

Farm input price indexes
(1986=100)

	First quarter 1996	Fourth quarter 1996	First quarter 1997	First quarter 1996 to first quarter 1997	Fourth quarter 1996 to first quarter 1997
	% change				
Canada, total farm input	125.4	127.3	128.4	2.4	0.9
Building and fencing	129.1	136.5	135.7	5.1	-0.6
Machinery and motor vehicles	133.1	137.1	139.1	4.5	1.5
Crop production	126.8	128.6	128.8	1.6	0.2
Animal production	116.8	118.9	122.8	5.1	3.3
Supplies and services	128.0	131.5	132.9	3.8	1.1
Hired farm labour	140.9	145.1	145.7	3.4	0.4
Property taxes	143.7	143.7	148.9	3.6	3.6
Interest	103.0	94.9	89.4	-13.2	-5.8
Farm rent	145.4	145.4	142.8	-1.8	-1.8
Eastern Canada, total farm input	129.2	131.2	131.5	1.8	0.2
Building and fencing	135.8	143.3	141.6	4.3	-1.2
Machinery and motor vehicles	138.8	143.0	144.3	4.0	0.9
Crop production	129.0	131.8	130.5	1.2	-1.0
Animal production	121.3	120.5	124.3	2.5	3.2
Supplies and services	134.8	138.1	139.1	3.2	0.7
Hired farm labour	146.6	158.9	151.5	3.3	-4.7
Property taxes	158.7	158.7	165.3	4.2	4.2
Interest	103.9	95.7	90.0	-13.4	-6.0
Farm rent	162.0	162.0	166.3	2.7	2.7
Western Canada, total farm input	122.4	124.3	125.9	2.9	1.3
Building and fencing	121.5	128.9	129.1	6.3	0.2
Machinery and motor vehicles	130.1	134.0	136.3	4.8	1.7
Crop production	125.6	126.8	127.9	1.8	0.9
Animal production	110.7	116.7	120.6	8.9	3.3
Supplies and services	121.1	125.0	126.7	4.6	1.4
Hired farm labour	133.4	129.1	137.9	3.4	6.8
Property taxes	139.7	139.7	144.6	3.5	3.5
Interest	102.5	94.5	89.0	-13.2	-5.8
Farm rent	139.7	139.7	134.9	-3.4	-3.4



OTHER RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours

February 1997 (preliminary), December 1996 (revised), January 1997 (final)

Employees' average weekly earnings increased for the third consecutive month in February and were 3.6% higher — or \$20.84 more on average — than they were in February 1996.

Employees' average weekly earnings rose 0.3% in February, led by higher earnings for employees in wholesale trade; finance, insurance and real estate; and mining, quarrying and oil wells. Employees in these industries, as well as those in business services, have all contributed to the earnings growth over the past year.

The year-over-year earnings difference (+4.3%) for employees in public administration was attributable to the Ontario public servants' strike in February 1996, which suppressed average earnings, and is not indicative of the trend in this industry.

The number of hours worked by employees paid by the hour expanded slightly to 31.3 hours per week on average for full- and part-time employees. The number of hours worked per week continued the upward trend that began in the summer of 1996. Recent increases in average hours worked were notable for hourly-paid employees in mining, quarrying, and oil wells; manufacturing; business services; and health and social services. The higher average hours were due in part to increases in overtime hours. Recent growth in hours worked, compared with the previous year, is one factor contributing to higher weekly earnings.

Note to readers

In addition to the February 1997 preliminary results, this month's release of the Survey of Employment, Earnings and Hours (SEPH) contains revised estimates for December 1996 and January 1997. Previously published estimates for December and January were affected by a processing error that has been corrected in this release. The error mainly affected the employment figures with some small impacts on average earnings and hours. The impact of these revisions on the monthly gross domestic product and the fourth quarter labour income estimates is very small.

In the January 1997 release, employment, for all industries, was reported to have increased by 133,000 in December and 9,000 in January. The corrected estimates reflect a more modest growth in December (+31,000) and a gain of 17,000 in January. Average weekly earnings were virtually unaffected. The monthly increase in average weekly earnings between November and December was unchanged at 0.5%. Similarly, average weekly hours at the all-industries level were not affected by the revisions.

The employment, earnings and hours program is in the final phase of a major, multi-year re-engineering project designed to improve estimates of the level of business payrolls and paid employment through the use of administrative records, as well as to reduce reporting burden on businesses. Significant methodological improvements in obtaining paid employment levels have already been incorporated — most recently in May 1996 — when the program expanded its use of administrative records. With the change in methodology, there is a risk that employment estimates from the administrative records show a different seasonal pattern than the previous questionnaire data, which can only be assessed within the context of a longer time period. Statistics Canada will monitor these impacts and help users correctly interpret its data. In the interim, it is recommended that data from SEPH, particularly employment, be used in the context of longer time periods or for obtaining the detailed industrial distribution of employment. Users are reminded that the Labour Force Survey remains the Agency's foremost and up-to-date source of national and provincial estimates of employment.

Statistics Canada regrets any inconvenience that this error may have caused.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285-4466, 9438-9452, 9639-9664 and 9899-9911.

Detailed industry data and other labour market indicators are available through standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$31/\$310), the historical publication *Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours*

1983-1995 (diskette: 72F0002XDE, \$120) and by custom tabulations. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Peter Lys (613-951-4071; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division.

Average weekly earnings for all employees

	Feb. 1996	Dec. 1996 ^r	Jan. 1997 ^r	Feb. 1997 ^p	Jan. 1997 to Feb. 1997	Feb. 1996 to Feb. 1997
	seasonally adjusted					
	\$				% change	
Industrial aggregate	577.88	595.78	596.96	598.72	0.3	3.6
Logging and forestry	735.79	796.09	796.88	795.06	-0.2	8.1
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	994.46	1059.42	1064.59	1075.57	1.0	8.2
Manufacturing	702.77	733.59	726.81	725.95	-0.1	3.3
Construction	681.70	691.57	693.74	685.91	-1.1	0.6
Transportation, communication and other utilities	733.09	745.13	745.01	748.06	0.4	2.0
Wholesale trade	625.31	627.98	635.01	639.57	0.7	2.3
Retail trade	345.45	353.35	354.95	357.26	0.7	3.4
Finance, insurance and real estate	690.89	726.26	732.63	737.73	0.7	6.8
Business services	627.00	673.39	676.04	671.95	-0.6	7.2
Education-related services	673.80	675.07	678.86	680.10	0.2	0.9
Health and social services	507.59	520.08	522.38	519.77	-0.5	2.4
Accommodation, food and beverage services	235.07	239.58	241.07	238.37	-1.1	1.4
Public administration	718.33	743.74	744.96	749.07	0.6	4.3
Provinces and territories						
Newfoundland	540.26	539.92	527.39	529.22	0.3	-2.0
Prince Edward Island	468.54	487.66	484.86	488.19	0.7	4.2
Nova Scotia	485.84	498.98	498.44	497.93	-0.1	2.5
New Brunswick	505.64	516.04	517.78	521.16	0.7	3.1
Quebec	554.67	562.32	560.92	562.64	0.3	1.4
Ontario	614.29	635.87	638.45	641.87	0.5	4.5
Manitoba	510.91	520.30	522.77	523.57	0.2	2.5
Saskatchewan	491.84	523.79	527.32	529.57	0.4	7.7
Alberta	556.77	593.99	591.50	594.90	0.6	6.8
British Columbia	597.59	619.50	614.18	615.07	0.1	2.9
Yukon	697.84	702.25	724.04	697.92	-3.6	0.0
Northwest Territories	720.86	729.92	730.91	728.29	-0.4	1.0

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Number of employees

Industry group (1980 SIC)	Dec. 1996 ^f	Jan. 1997 ^r	Feb. 1997 ^p	Dec. 1996 to Jan. 1997	Jan. 1997 to Feb. 1997
	seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change	
Industrial aggregate	11,070	11,087	11,159	0.2	0.6
Logging and forestry	66	65	66	-1.5	1.5
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	136	136	139	0	2.2
Manufacturing	1,772	1,768	1,778	-0.2	0.6
Construction	479	472	482	-1.5	2.1
Transportation, communication and other utilities	841	849	856	1.0	0.8
Wholesale trade	697	681	691	-2.3	1.5
Retail trade	1,384	1,387	1,389	0.2	0.1
Finance, insurance and real estate	681	686	697	0.7	1.6
Business services	702	709	713	1.0	0.6
Education-related services	943	943	941	0	-0.2
Health and social services	1,196	1,199	1,204	0.3	0.4
Accommodation, food and beverage services	801	800	803	-0.1	0.4
Public administration	682	680	682	-0.3	0.3
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	143	142	142	-0.7	0.0
Prince Edward Island	46	45	45	-2.2	0.0
Nova Scotia	310	309	313	-0.3	1.3
New Brunswick	248	245	245	-1.2	0.0
Quebec	2,677	2,665	2,687	-0.4	0.8
Ontario	4,334	4,359	4,375	0.6	0.4
Manitoba	422	421	423	-0.2	0.5
Saskatchewan	325	324	327	-0.3	0.9
Alberta	1,116	1,120	1,141	0.4	1.9
British Columbia	1,427	1,433	1,443	0.4	0.7
Yukon	14	14	14	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	25	25	26	0.0	4.0

^p Preliminary estimates.

^r Revised estimates.

Note: Statistics Canada is monitoring the impact of using more administrative data in SEPH. In the interim, users are reminded that employment data from SEPH are best used in the context of longer time periods and the distribution of industry employment. For additional information please see Note to reader.

Full-time postsecondary enrolment in community colleges and related institutions

1996/97 (preliminary data)

Preliminary 1996/97 data indicate a further increase in full-time enrolment in postsecondary programs at community colleges and related institutions.

The total enrolment reached 394,543, with 290,158 or 74% registered in career programs and the remainder, 104,385, registered in university transfer programs. The increase follows a trend that has continued since 1989/90. However, in this current year,

enrolment increased only 1%, down from 2% between 1993/94 to 1995/96 and considerably lower than the 5% increases registered between 1990/91 to 1992/93.

The increase in enrolments took place in both career and university transfer programs. Compared with last year, some of the largest provincial increases in career programs occurred in Alberta (+13%) and British Columbia (+8%). The greatest increase in university transfer enrolments at the national level was mainly due to Alberta, which experienced an increase of 16% in registrations over last year.

Preliminary data on the number of students in community colleges and related institutions

are obtained before the regular annual survey of enrolments. These preliminary figures traditionally represent a slight overestimate of final enrolment counts at the national level.

For further information on this release, contact Karl Skof (613-951-1529) or Bernard Bourgoin (613-951-1506).

For general inquiries, contact Sheba Mirza (613-951-1503), Culture, Tourism and Centre for Education Statistics.

Note: The population consists of colleges of applied arts and technology, technical institutes, general and

vocational colleges in Quebec (CEGEP) and similar institutions providing training in specialized fields (e.g., agriculture, arts and forestry). Included are former colleges, which have become degree-granting institutions and maintain a significant college enrolment. Schools of nursing and other training programs at the postsecondary level, that are administered in hospitals, clinics or regional schools, are also included. A career program is at least 24 weeks in duration, and the normal prerequisite is secondary school completion or equivalent. University transfer programs require secondary school completion for entrance and provide a student with a standing equivalent to the first or second year of a university degree program.

Full-time postsecondary enrolment at community colleges and related institutions 1996/97 (preliminary data)

	Career programs	University transfer programs	Total
Canada	290,158	104,385	394,543
Newfoundland	6,056	-	6,056
Prince Edward Island	1,510	-	1,510
Nova Scotia	6,773	217	6,990
New Brunswick	3,897	-	3,897
Quebec	84,574	80,711	165,285
Ontario	138,738	-	138,738
Manitoba	3,228	77	3,305
Saskatchewan	2,984	-	2,984
Alberta	24,780	7,008	31,788
British Columbia	17,145	16,204	33,349
Yukon	130	135	265
Northwest Territories	343	33	376

- Nil or zero.

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending April 21, 1997

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending April 21, 1997, decreased 0.4% to 4.8 million tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 1.1%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 320 000 tonnes, a 4.6% increase from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures show an increase of 13.9%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 0.1% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 75.0 million tonnes, a 0.5% decrease from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528; fax: 613-951-0579), Railway Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Footwear statistics

First quarter 1997

Manufacturers produced 3,904,280 pairs of footwear in the first quarter of 1997, a 3.6% decrease from the 4,048,498 (revised) pairs produced in the same quarter a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 8.

The first quarter 1997 *Footwear statistics* (33-002-XPB, \$8/\$25) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Sharon Boyer (613-951-5669; Internet: boyers@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Sawmills and planing mills, February 1997
Catalogue number 35-003-XPB
 (Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

Service bulletin: aviation, Vol. 29, no. 4
Catalogue number 51-004-XPB
 (Canada: \$11/\$109; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$109).

Electric lamps (light bulbs and tubes), March 1997
Catalogue number 43-009-XPB
 (Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Cement, March 1997
Catalogue number 44-001-XPB
 (Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

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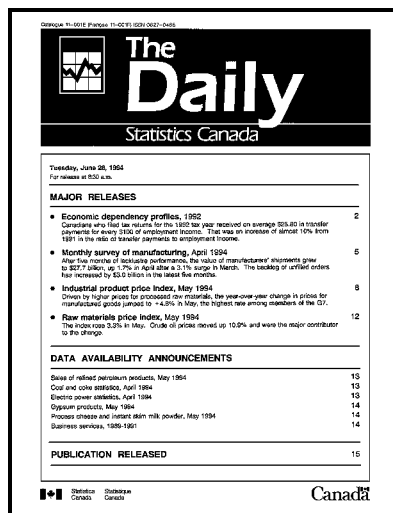
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