



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, April 23, 1999
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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- **March intentions of principal field crops areas, 1999** 2
Farmers intend to plant 1% fewer acres in wheat this year, but the proportions of durum wheat (for pasta products) and spring wheat (for bread) will change dramatically. Major increases in flaxseed and canola acreage again this year will be offset by less land sown in field peas, oats, and barley.

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MAJOR RELEASES

March intentions of principal field crops areas

1999

Farmers reported that they intend to plant 1% fewer acres in wheat this year, but the proportions of durum wheat (for pasta products) and spring wheat (for bread) will change dramatically. Producers are switching to other crops because of continued sluggish demand in world markets for Canadian wheat and no appreciable increases in forecast prices. Major increases in flaxseed and canola acreage again this year will be offset by less land sown in field peas, oats, and barley.

Seeding Intentions of major grains and oilseeds

	1998	1999	1998 to 1999
	millions of acres		% change
Total wheat	26.9	26.7	-1
Spring wheat	18.6	20.5	10
Barley	11.4	11.0	-4
Canola	13.5	14.0	4
Oats	5.1	4.5	-12
Durum wheat	7.3	5.3	-28
Corn for Grain	2.8	2.8	0
Soybeans	2.4	2.4	0
Field Peas	2.7	2.3	-15
Flaxseed	2.2	2.7	23

Spring wheat acreage to rebound up

Intended area of spring wheat (20.5 million acres) rose 10% from last year's 26-year record low of 18.6 million acres. This was 1.1 million acres short of the recent five-year average of 21.6 million acres. Compared with last year, farmers are expressing confidence in rising world demand for spring wheat despite a 45% drop in exports of wheat (excluding durum) for the August 1998 to January 1999 period.

Durum wheat plantings to plummet

In sharp contrast to spring wheat, durum wheat plantings are expected to decline to 5.3 million acres, a drop of 2.0 million acres (-28%) from the 1998 record of 7.3 million acres. This is 500,000 acres less than the five-year average of 5.8 million acres. International demand for Canadian durum fell off this year with exports diving 23% for the August 1998 to January 1999 period.

Note to readers

Data in this release come from the March Intentions Survey of 12,000 farm operators, conducted by telephone interviews during the last week of March. This report contains producers' seeding intentions for field crops in the coming year 1999-2000. Since these seeding intentions reflect producers' plans in March, they may differ from what will actually be seeded later in the year. Changes in market outlook, expected prices and spring weather conditions, as well as the published seeding intentions themselves, may alter prospective cropping patterns. Estimates of actual seeded areas will be released June 29.

Increase in canola and flaxseed acreage reflects producer confidence in the export market

Canola producers are planning to seed 14.0 million acres this year, an increase of 500,000 acres (+4%) from the 13.5 million acres seeded last year. This would be the highest acreage since the record 14.3 million acres set in 1994. Exports for the August 1998 to January 1999 period increased 63%.

Survey indications pointed to farmers' intentions to plant 2.7 million acres of flaxseed, 500,000 acres (+23%) more than the record 2.2 million acres seeded last year. Producers in Saskatchewan, who plant three quarters of the flax, reported almost the entire increase.

Farmers losing interest in field peas

An expected decline in field pea area will put an end to the growth trend observed since 1990. Producers in all three Prairie provinces indicated that they would reduce planted acreage to 2.3 million acres, 400,000 acres (-15%) less than the record 2.7 million acres sown last year. An abundance of world supplies this year lowered market prices, making field peas less profitable for export to major markets in Western Europe and Asia.

The area of grain corn will remain unchanged from last year despite low prices and record 1998 production. Soybean area will remain at 2.4 million acres, below the record of 2.6 million acres set in 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1025-1043, 1046-1051 and 3541-3565.

Field crop reporting series no. 2: March intentions of principal field crop areas, Canada, 1998 (22-002-XPB, \$15/\$88) is now available. See How to order publications.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138;

burroug@statcan.ca), or David Roeske at (613-951-0572; *roesdav@statcan.ca*), Crops Section, Agriculture Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Internet use by households

1998

Canadians have been making much more use of the Internet as a means of communication, whether it is from a computer in the home, workplace, school or library.

In 1998, there were 4,272,000 households with at least one member using computer communications from one location or another in a typical month, up 25% from 1997. These households accounted for 36% of all households in 1998, compared with 29% the year before.

These data came from the Household Internet Use Survey, conducted in October 1998, which surveyed 38,030 households in all 10 provinces. It was a follow-up to the same survey conducted in October 1997, the first to collect detailed data on how Canadian households use computer communications.

The latest results show that communication by computer still occurs primarily from the workplace, followed by homes and schools. However, from 1997 to 1998, the increase in computer communication from homes was so large that the gap between home use and work use was virtually eliminated.

In 1998, there were 2,689,000 households with at least one person who used the Internet as a vehicle for communicating from homes, up 44% from 1997. They accounted for 23% of all households, virtually the same proportion as those in which at least one member used computer communications from the workplace. In contrast, a year earlier, about 16% of households communicated by computer from home, compared with about 20% from the workplace.

Communication from schools was a distant third. Of course, not all households have members in school. About 12% of all households had someone who used the Internet from school in 1998, up from 9% in 1997.

The proportion of households regularly using computer communications, from any location, increased in every province between 1997 and 1998. The increases were strongest in Alberta, where 45% of all households used computers for communication in 1998, followed by British Columbia, where the

proportion was 42%. Quebec had the lowest proportion (26%) of any province. However, this represented a significant increase from only 20% a year earlier.

Overall, among regular home-user households, there were no significant changes in the proportion where someone used the Internet from home for a work-related task. In 1998, about 32% of regular home users communicated by computer from home for an employer-related purpose; 23% did so for self-employment. Of course, the vast majority of these households do not use the Internet solely for business purposes — 95% of regular home-use households reported using the Internet for personal non-business reasons. These were almost the same proportions as in 1997.

With respect to type of services, e-mail was used by 86% of home-user households and general browsing was done by 78% of regular home-user households.

For duration of use, there was no single computer communication service, including e-mail or surfing the web, where more than 80% of regular home-user households spent even half their total home-use time.

Proportions of households from all points of use continued to show differences with respect to income group, family type, and the age and education level of the household head. However, the various interrelationships among these factors require more analysis. A more detailed breakdown of these and other data will be available in an analytical article in the next issue of *Services indicators* (63-016-XPB, \$35/\$116; 63-016-XIB, \$26/\$87), scheduled for mid-July. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jonathan Ellison (613-951-5882; ellijon@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.

To purchase custom tabulations or the public-use microdata for the *1998 Household Internet Use Survey* (56M0002GPE), or the companion *1997 Household Internet Use Survey* (56M0002GPE), contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1-888-297-7355; fax 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division. □

Households with at least one regular user by point of use

	Home		Work		School		Library		Other		Any location	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	% of households											
All Provinces	16.0	22.6	19.9	23.3	9.4	12.1	3.7	4.3	2.8	2.6	29.4	35.9
Newfoundland	12.4	15.4	15.7	17.2	12.9	14.5	4.3	4.7	-	3.7 ¹	26.6	28.9
Prince Edward Island	10.5	17.1	16.6	21.0	11.4	14.5	2.0 ¹	4.5 ¹	2.2 ¹	2.6 ¹	26.0	35.4
Nova Scotia	14.3	23.7	20.7	22.9	14.3	17.4	5.0	5.6	3.1	3.4	32.2	37.9
New Brunswick	12.1	18.2	18.0	19.8	10.7	12.3	2.6	2.3	4.9	2.1 ¹	29.1	31.2
Quebec	10.2	15.6	13.1	16.4	5.6	7.6	2.1	2.8	1.8	1.7	20.1	26.2
Ontario	19.3	25.5	23.3	25.5	10.6	12.6	4.4	4.7	3.1	2.4	33.2	39.0
Manitoba	13.7	19.9	20.4	22.3	9.4	12.5	3.3	2.4	3.1	2.8	29.3	33.5
Saskatchewan	12.3	18.3	18.2	21.5	8.9	13.9	2.8	3.7	3.3	2.6	27.2	33.8
Alberta	18.7	27.7	25.8	31.7	11.8	17.6	4.3	4.8	3.4	3.7	34.5	45.1
British Columbia	19.9	27.9	21.2	26.7	9.6	13.1	4.5	6.5	3.1	4.2	33.6	42.0

¹ Low reliability estimate due to sample size

- Not included due to unreliable estimate.

Annual Survey of Manufacturers 1997

The Annual Survey of Manufacturers provides information on over 200 different industries. Principal statistics for each industry are released on CANSIM as they become available. Data for the industries listed in the following table are now available. To date, data for 125 industries have been released.

The industries listed in the table appear in *Manufacturing industries of Canada, national*

and provincial areas (31-203-XPB, \$68) and *Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers* (31-211-XPB, \$67). See *How to order publications*. In addition, a CD-ROM on *Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers 1988-1996* (31-211-XCB, \$430 for single use) is available from the Manufacturing Dissemination Unit (613-951-9497).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact the name listed in the table below (fax: 613-951-9499; desrosi@statcan.ca).

Value of shipments

Industry (Standard Industry Classification)	1996	1997	1996 to 1997	Matrix	Contact
	\$ millions		% change		
Plastic bag (1691)	1,074.0	1,142.9	6.4	5417	R. Sheldrick 613-951-7199
Hygiene products of textile materials (1994)	287.3	266.3	-7.3	5436	Y. Sheikh 613-951-2518
Men's and boys' shirt and underwear (2434)	658.1	694.7	5.5	5443	Y. Sheikh 613-951-2518
Wooden household furniture (2611)	1,229.1	1,393.7	13.4	5474	É. Saint-Pierre 613-951-9837
Custom coating of metal products (3041)	1,410.5	1,680.0	19.1	5524	É. Saint-Pierre 613-951-9837
Metal dies, moulds and patterns (3062)	1,664.4	1,915.5	15.1	5532	É. Saint-Pierre 613-951-9837
Turbine and mechanical power (3194)	1,342.5	1,594.2	18.7	5546	R. Kowaluk 613-951-0600
Truck and bus body (3241)	644.6	772.0	19.8	5551	A. Shinnan 613-951-3515
Shipbuilding and repair (3271)	718.7	495.9	-31.0	5564	A. Shinnan 613-951-3515
Concrete pipe (3541)	202.5	234.7	15.9	6852	É. Saint-Pierre 613-951-9837
Glass products (except glass containers) (3562)	888.6	1,032.9	16.2	6857	É. Saint-Pierre 613-951-9837
Gypsum products (3593)	559.4	668.1	19.4	6862	É. Saint-Pierre 613-951-9837
Industrial inorganic chemical, not elsewhere classified (3711)	3,037.7	3,487.2	14.8	6870	R. Sheldrick 613-951-7199
Soap and cleaning compounds (3761)	1,542.3	1,562.5	1.3	6878	R. Sheldrick 613-951-7199

Hog inventories

April 1, 1999

In reaction to the rapid decline of market prices during the fourth quarter of 1998, the April 1, 1999 hog inventory slumped to 12.1 million head, down 2.9% from January 1, 1999, and down 0.6% from April 1, 1998.

The number of sows remains at a level comparable to both the previous quarter and a year ago. Producers continue to take advantage of improved technologies and management techniques, constantly achieving new levels of efficiencies. Sows now produce on average 17.5 pigs per year, compared with 15.0 pigs per year five years ago.

Although market prices are slowly recovering, they are still considered to be poor for many producers. The number of hog farms continues to decline. Average farm size is still increasing, however, as many large-scale operations build and stock to meet their previous expansion plans.

Note: These data come from the April Hog Survey, a telephone survey of 1,800 hog farm operators conducted during the third week of March. Farmers were asked to report the number of hogs on their farm as of April 1, 1999.

Available on CANSIM: 9500-9510

Data are available in *Livestock statistics updates* (23-603-UPE, \$45/\$149) which will be available in May. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Pat MacGregor, (613-951-6480; macgpat@statcan.ca), or call the information line (1-800-465-1991), Agriculture Division. ■

Red meat consumption

1998

Canadians consumed more pork in 1998, responding to increased supplies and lower retail prices. Beef consumption fell modestly from the previous year.

Red meat consumption statistics for 1998 are now available. These data will be included in the *Livestock statistics, update* (23-603-UPE, \$45/\$149) which will be available in May. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Conrad Ogrodnik (613-951-2860 or 1-800-465-1991; ogrocon@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1175-1179 and 1182-1183. ■

Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries

1998

Total greenhouse sales continued the annual growth experienced by the industry over the past two decades. In 1998, total sales increased 7.7% to reach \$1,189 million.

For the first time in several years, sales of greenhouse vegetables declined slightly in proportion to the sales of flowers and plants. In 1998, the vegetable share of total greenhouse sales decreased to 24.0% from 24.5% in 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1058.

These data will also appear in the 1998 edition of *Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries* (22-202-XIB, \$26) which is published annually in April on the Internet. A print-on-demand service is also available at a different price. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Bill Parsons, (613-951-8727), Agriculture Division. ■

Production and value of wildlife pelts

1996 (revised) and 1997 (preliminary)

Preliminary data for 1997 on the production and value of wildlife pelts are now available, as are revised data for 1996. Data are tabulated by province and territory, including preliminary data for Nunavut for 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5692-5699 and 9511-9515.

These data will be available in *Livestock statistics updates* (23-603-UPE, \$45/\$149) which will be available in May. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251), Agriculture Division. ■

Factors associated with local economic growth

1981-1991

In collaboration with the Rural Secretariat, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Statistics Canada publishes today the sixth in its series of analysis bulletins to profile trends in rural Canada.

The bulletin, *Factors associated with local economic growth*, indicates that during the 1980s a higher education level in a community provided only a weak boost to employment growth. Communities that were relatively specialized in primary sector and traditional manufacturing employment were relatively disadvantaged in the 1980s. Also, communities in regions influenced by metropolitan centres benefited relative to other communities.

A higher unemployment rate in a community in 1981 did not indicate an excess supply of labour

that would attract employers. In fact, wage rates grew less in these communities and thus these communities fell further behind during the 1980s. Communities with a higher share of population with low incomes experienced higher economic growth in the 1980s, relative to the average community.

There was a wide variability in community growth patterns in the 1980s. Many communities achieved economic growth despite the factors identified here that constrained growth for the average community.

Factors associated with local economic growth (21-006-XIE, free) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Ray Bollman (613-951-3747; fax: 613-951-3868; bollman@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division or call 1-800-465-1991. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat - A weekly review, April 23, 1999
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE
(Canada: \$3/\$109; outside Canada: US\$3/US\$109).

Infomat - A weekly review, April 23, 1999
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

**Rural and small town Canada analysis bulletin:
Factors associated with local economic
growth**, 1981-1991
Catalogue number 21-006-XIE
(Free).

Field crop reporting series, no. 2, 1999
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB
(Canada: \$15/\$88; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$88).

Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries, 1998
Catalogue number 22-202-XIB
(Canada: \$26; outside Canada: US\$26).

Canadian international merchandise trade,
February 1999
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB
(Canada: \$26; outside Canada: US\$26).

Canadian international merchandise trade,
February 1999
Catalogue number 65-001-XPB
(Canada: \$26; outside Canada: US\$26).

**A five-year strategic plan for the development of
an information system for science and
technology**, 1998
Catalogue number 88-523-XIE
(Canada: \$15; outside Canada: US\$15).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 60 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.

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- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
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RELEASE DATES: APRIL 26 TO APRIL 30, 1999

April 26 to April 30, 1999
(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
26	1996 Census of Agriculture, agriculture population	1996-Census
27	National Survey on the Preparedness for the Year 2000	Winter 1999
27	Employment Insurance	February 1999
28	Industrial Product Price Index	March 1999
28	Raw Materials Price Index	March 1999
29	Health reports - Living with heart disease	1996-97
29	Children and low income	1999
29	Employment, earnings and hours	February 1999
30	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	February 1999

Use the command "DATES" to retrieve this calendar from CANSIM.