



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 6, 1999

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MAJOR RELEASES

Field crop reporting series: grain stocks

March 31, 1999

On March 31, 1999, total stocks of wheat, oats and flax were up from a year ago, reflecting decreased international market demand. Despite a five-fold increase in exports, corn stocks were also up following record production in 1998. On the other hand, stocks of canola and soybeans were down because of greatly renewed interest from the export market.

Total stocks of grain at March 31

	1998	1999	1998 to 1999
	'000 tonnes		% change
All wheat	12,892	14,813	15
Wheat excl. durum	10,363	10,901	5
Barley	6,509	6,297	-3
Corn for grain	3,773	4,217	12
Canola	2,141	1,987	-7
Durum wheat	2,529	3,912	55
Oats	1,539	2,071	35
Soybeans	1,226	1,111	-9
Flax	358	463	29

Record production and sinking exports inflate stocks of durum wheat

Total stocks of durum wheat (stocks held on farms plus stocks in commercial positions) were 3.9 million tonnes, 55% greater than the 2.5 million tonnes recorded last year and the highest since 1992 when stocks peaked at 4.0 million tonnes. More durum was left in the elevators because the production in 1998 reached a record level while exports to traditional markets for the August 1998 to March 1999 period sunk 19%.

Plummeting export sales leave wheat (excluding durum) sitting in the bin

Production of wheat (excluding durum) declined 8% in 1998 but supplies are accumulating from a loss of export sales. Total stocks of wheat (excluding durum) on March 31 were 10.9 million tonnes, 5% higher than the 10.4 million tonnes in storage last year and 20% less than the five-year average of 13.7 million tonnes. Canada has chosen, until now, not to sell its entire

Note to readers

The March Farm Stocks Survey of 12,000 farm operators was conducted by telephone from March 23 to March 31. Farmers were asked to report the amounts of grain in storage. Commercial stocks of western grains originate from the Canadian Grain Commission. Commercial stocks of corn and soybeans are estimated by a Statistics Canada sample survey of Eastern Canada grain elevators.

stock to the export market at current world prices, as seen by the 42% drop in exports from August 1998 to March 1999. World wheat prices have declined sharply due to rising U.S. stocks, weak export demand and rising U.S. and European Union subsidy levels.

Large sales to China draw down stocks of canola

On March 31, total stocks of canola amounted to 2.0 million tonnes, 7% below last year's level and 9% below the five-year average of 2.2 million tonnes. Production in 1998 increased 19% while exports during the August 1998 to March 1999 period soared 57%. Exports to China accounted for the increased export sales while exports to Japan remained at the same level as last year.

Thriving exports reduce stocks of soybeans but leave corn stocks up

Total stocks of soybeans amounted to 1.1 million tonnes, 9% lower than the 1.2 million tonnes in storage last year but still 19% above the five-year average of 935 000 tonnes. Compared with the same period last year, exports of soybeans grew 49% in the August 1998 to March 1999 period. Production in 1998 remained the same as in 1997.

Total stocks of corn for grain were 4.2 million tonnes, 12% more than the 3.8 million tonnes reported last year and 18% higher than the five-year average of 3.6 million tonnes. Although exports of corn to the United States were five times higher in the August 1998 to March 1999 period, production of corn in 1998 was a record, leaving stocks above the levels of March 31, 1998.

Field crop reporting series no. 3: Stocks of Canadian grain at March 31, 1999 (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 Dave Roeske (613-951-0572;

roesdav@statcan.ca) or Oliver Code (613-951 8719;
codeoli@statcan.ca), Crops Section, Agriculture
Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Department store sales and stocks

March 1999

Department store sales fell for a second consecutive month in March (-0.6%) to \$1,449.7 million (seasonally adjusted). Diminishing sales in February and March came after two strong monthly increases in December 1998 and January 1999. Before December, sales in department stores had remained essentially flat since the spring of 1998, following more than two years of increasing sales.

On a year-over-year basis, seasonally adjusted sales were 0.7% higher in March compared with the same month in 1998. This was the lowest year-over-year percentage increase since March 1995. In comparison, year-over-year percentage increases had been higher than 9.0% during the period of strong growth from March 1997 to April 1998.

Unadjusted for seasonality, department store sales increased in all provinces compared with the same

period in 1998, with the exception of British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories (-4.9%). Nova Scotia (+12.2%) and Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island (+10.4%) posted double-digit year-over-year increases.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

Accounts receivable data for department stores are available through the Client Services Unit, Distributive Trades Division.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3549; 1-877-421-3067, retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; gratpau@statcan.ca), Retail Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division.

Department store sales including concessions

	Mar. 1998	Mar. 1999	Mar. 1998 to Mar. 1999	Jan. to Mar. 1999	Jan.-Mar. 1998 to Jan.-Mar. 1999
	unadjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions	% change
Canada	1,176.0	1,215.0	3.3	3,192.7	4.9
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island ¹	20.5	22.6	10.4	58.5	9.3
Nova Scotia	34.8	39.1	12.2	95.0	7.7
New Brunswick	25.7	26.4	2.5	66.8	2.8
Quebec	211.7	222.2	4.9	584.2	5.1
Ontario	498.5	515.4	3.4	1,361.5	6.0
Manitoba	49.3	51.9	5.3	133.8	5.3
Saskatchewan	38.6	40.0	3.7	107.1	7.1
Alberta	136.6	145.0	6.1	380.2	5.9
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories ¹	160.3	152.4	-4.9	405.6	-1.5

¹ For reasons of confidentiality, data are combined for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, as well as for British Columbia, the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

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 172 industries have now 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 for this release, see the contact name in the table below (fax: 613-951-9499; milsomg@statcan.ca).

Value of shipments

	1996	1997	1996 to 1997	Matrix	Contact	
	\$ millions		% change			
Industry (Standard Industry Classification)						
Poultry products (1012)	2,894.4	3,216.3	11.1	5381	P. Zylstra	613-951-3511
Biscuits (1071)	760.3	804.5	5.8	5391	P. Zylstra	613-951-3511
Potato chip, pretzel and popcorn (1093)	891.5	943.5	5.8	5398	P. Zylstra	613-951-3511
Man-made fibre and filament yarn (1811)	1,108.8	1,236.8	11.5	5425	Y. Sheikh	613-951-2518
Occupational clothing (2492)	231.1	253.6	9.7	5452	Y. Sheikh	613-951-2518
Steel pipe and tube (2921)	2,246.9	2,691.7	19.8	5508	A. Shinnan	613-951-3515
Construction and mining machinery and materials handling (3192)	4,406.0	4,883.1	10.8	5544	R. Kowaluk	613-951-0600
Aircraft and aircraft parts (3211)	8,063.7	8,559.2	6.1	5549	A. Shinnan	613-951-3515
Non-commercial trailer (3243)	401.5	457.8	14.0	5553	A. Shinnan	613-951-3515
Boatbuilding and repair (3281)	476.9	479.9	0.6	5565	A. Shinnan	613-951-3515
Other electrical products, not elsewhere classified (3399)	770.4	740.4	-3.9	5586	R. Kowaluk	613-951-0600
Other non-metallic mineral products (3599)	313.7	327.3	4.3	6864	É. Saint-Pierre	613-951-9837
Other petroleum and coal products (3699)	432.8	504.3	16.5	6868	R. Sheldrick	613-951-7199
Other instruments and related products (3912)	1,327.8	1,451.5	9.3	6885	R. Kowaluk	613-951-0600

Steel primary forms

Week ending May 1, 1999 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending May 1, 1999, totalled 291 868 tonnes, down 9.3% from the week-earlier 321 907 tonnes and down 7.6% from the year-earlier 315 996 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 5 192 660 tonnes, a 5.0%

decrease compared with 5 463 854 tonnes for the same period in 1998.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Field crop reporting series no. 3: Stocks of Canadian grain at March 31, 1999, vol. 78, no. 3
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB
(Canada: \$15/\$88; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$88).

Livestock statistics updates, May 1999
Catalogue number 23-603-UPE
(Canada: \$45/\$149; outside Canada: US\$45/US\$149).

Oil pipeline transport, February 1999
Catalogue number 55-001-XPB
(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

Exports by commodity, February 1999
Catalogue number 65-004-XMB
(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$37/US\$361).

Exports by commodity, February 1999
Catalogue number 65-004-XPB
(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

Labour force information, week ending April 17
Catalogue number 71-001-PPB
(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).
Available at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, May 7.

All prices exclude sales tax.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 3, 1997	
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MAJOR RELEASES	
• Urban transit, 1995 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 4.5 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.	4
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