



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

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- **Estimates of principal field crops areas, 1999** 3
Seeding was hampered in the Prairie provinces due to prolonged rainfall in May that flooded some areas. As a result, close to 1.5 million more acres of cropland in southwestern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan will be summerfallowed than originally reported in the March intentions survey.
- **Alternative measures for youth in Canada, 1997/98** 5
Alternative measures are formal programs in which youth aged 12 to 17 who would otherwise proceed to court are dealt with through non-judicial, community-based alternatives. Across Canada, in 1997/98, excluding British Columbia, there were about 33,000 cases in which young people reached an agreement to participate in such programs as an alternative to formal court proceedings.

(continued on following page)

Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours

1986 - 1998

The Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours has just released its most recent *Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours 1986-1998* in electronic format. Once again, it has been produced using easy to load, user-friendly Adobe Acrobat software.

Clients will find that accessing this data will be very simple. Users can browse the information on screen and print pages, import the data into the spreadsheet of their choice or, if preferred, download the product immediately from the Internet.

Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours 1986-1998 contains data tables for over 200 industries at the national, provincial and territorial levels, with information such as employment, average weekly and hourly earnings, average weekly hours and total weekly payrolls. Also included is the *Help-Wanted Index 1981-1998* supplement.

Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours 1986-1998 (diskette: 72F0002XDB, \$120; CD-ROM: 72F0002XCB, \$140; Internet version: 72F0002XIB, \$113; diskette and paper: 10-3000XKB, \$150; CD-ROM and paper: 10-3009XKB, \$170) is now available. For more information on this electronic product, or to order, contact the Client Services Section (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca or order@statcan.ca), Labour Division.



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MAJOR RELEASES

Estimates of principal field crops areas

1999 (preliminary)

Seeding was hampered in the Prairie provinces due to prolonged rainfall in May that flooded some areas. As a result, an estimated 850,000 more acres of cropland in southwestern Manitoba and 600,000 more acres in southeastern Saskatchewan will be summerfallowed than originally reported in the March intentions survey.

Seeding of major grains and oilseeds

	1998	1999	1998 to 1999
	millions of acres		% change
Total wheat	26.8	26.1	-3
Spring wheat	18.6	20.7	11
Canola	13.5	13.9	3
Barley	11.4	11.0	-4
Oats	5.1	4.7	-8
Durum wheat	7.3	4.5	-38
Corn for grain	2.8	2.8	0
Soybeans	2.4	2.5	4
Flaxseed	2.2	2.2	0
Field peas	2.7	2.1	-22

Farmers planted 3% fewer acres of wheat this year, but the proportions of durum wheat (for pasta products) and spring wheat (for bread) changed dramatically. Producers switched to other crops because of continued sluggish demand in world markets for Canadian wheat and declining price expectations. Less land sown this year for field peas, oats and barley will offset an increase in canola acreage.

Spring wheat acreage rebounded up

Seeded area of spring wheat (20.7 million acres) rose 11% from last year's 26-year record low of 18.6 million acres. This was 1 million acres short of the recent five-year average of 21.6 million acres. Farmers are expressing confidence in rising world demand for spring wheat despite the almost 40% drop in Canadian exports of wheat (excluding durum) compared with last year for the August to May period.

Durum wheat plantings dropped

In sharp contrast to spring wheat, durum wheat plantings declined to 4.5 million acres, a drop

Note to readers

The June planting survey of 29,300 farms was conducted by telephone interviews during the last week of May and the first week of June. Farmers were asked to report their planted areas of cereals, oilseeds and specialty crops.

of 2.8 million acres (-38%) from the 1998 record of 7.3 million acres. This is 1.3 million acres less than the five-year average of 5.8 million acres. International demand for Canadian durum fell this year as exports to date dropped 16% compared with last year.

Canola seeded acreage attains highest level since 1994 record

Canola producers seeded 13.9 million acres this year, an increase of 410,000 acres (+3%) from the 13.5 million acres seeded last year. This is the highest acreage since the 1994 record of 14.3 million acres. Farmers are planning to take advantage of the world demand for canola that registered a 44% increase in Canadian exports to date compared with last year.

Farmers losing interest in field peas

A decline in the area of field peas put an end to the steady increases observed since 1990. Producers in all three major producing provinces reduced total planted area to 2.1 million acres, 550,000 acres (-22%) 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.

Farmers plant another large grain corn and soybean crop

The area of grain corn in Quebec and Ontario will rise slightly (+1%) from last year despite low prices and record 1998 production. Soybean area will increase to 2.5 million acres, slightly below the 1997 record of 2.6 million acres.

Chick peas take off

Over three years, the area of chick peas in Saskatchewan has grown from relative obscurity to 350,000 acres. There has been strong international demand resulting from extensive market development

and new varieties better suited to the Prairies. Chick peas had been included in the "other crops" category until two years ago, when Statistics Canada first began collecting separate data in the November production survey. There is now sufficient acreage to justify its release as a separate crop.

Statistics Canada also monitors crop and pasture conditions across the Prairies every week using a vegetation index obtained from digital satellite data. As of June 17, the indices show that crop development varies significantly across the Prairies. Crops in Alberta, southwestern Saskatchewan and southeastern Manitoba are healthier and more advanced than normal, while crops in the areas affected by excess water are showing signs of stress. Statistics Canada will continue to track the changing

conditions closely. For more information on the Crop Condition Assessment Program, contact Gordon Reichert (613-951-3872).

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

*Field crop reporting series no. 4: Preliminary estimates of principal field crop areas, Canada, 1999 (22-002-XPB, \$15/\$88) is now available. See *How to order publications*.*

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Burroughs (613-950-5138; burroug@statcan.ca) or Oliver Code (613-951-8791; codeoli@statcan.ca), Crops Section, Agriculture Division. ■

Alternative measures for youth in Canada

1997/98

Alternative measures are formal programs in which youth aged 12 to 17 who would otherwise proceed to court are dealt with through non-judicial community-based alternatives. In 1997/98, excluding data from British Columbia, there were about 33,000 cases in which young people reached an agreement to participate in such programs as an alternative to formal court proceedings.

In general, rates of participation in alternative measures programs were highest in the Prairies. Alberta had the highest participation rate at 359 cases for every 10,000 young people aged 12 to 17 in the population, 2.5 times the national rate of 134. Ontario had the lowest youth participation rate in alternative measures (81).

Young offenders who participated in these programs were most likely to be male, about 15 years old and to have committed some type of property-related offence. Young people in alternative measures were most often required to perform a community service.

The use of alternative measures differs from province to province. Some young people are diverted into alternative measures programs before they are charged, while others are diverted afterward. Consequently, caution should be used when comparing the number of accused youth who agree to participate in an alternative measures program.

Females accounted for more than one-third of alternative measures cases

Females represented about 20% of young people who were charged and brought to court in 1997/98. However, they accounted for over one-third of youth cases in alternative measures (36%).

Almost two-thirds of youth in alternative measures were 15 or older. Males tended to be 16 or older, while females tended to be between 14 and 16.

Based on limited data from selected jurisdictions (Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Yukon), the majority of youth in alternative measures were first-time offenders. Less than 1% had prior findings of guilt. This is not surprising since alternative measures are typically aimed at first-time offenders.

In the majority of alternative measures cases (70%), the most serious offence was a property-related crime. A further 8% of youth committed violent

Note to readers

The Young Offenders Act (1985) includes the option of formally diverting young persons (between the ages of 12 and 17) from the traditional court process into alternative measures. Alternative measures are formalized programs to which young persons who would otherwise proceed to court are dealt with through non-judicial, community-based alternatives.

Typical programs include community service, personal services or financial compensation to a victim, educational sessions, personal or written apology, and essays or presentations related to the offence.

This is the first time that information on the level of youth participation in alternative measures is available at the national level. British Columbia is not included in the national figures because complete data was not available (i.e. no information on caution letters).

offences and 17% committed other Criminal Code offences, such as mischief or disturbing the peace. The remaining 5% involved federal statute offences or other offences.

Theft under \$5,000 accounted for the largest proportion of crimes committed by youth in alternative measures (57%). The next largest proportion of offences, at 7% each, were common assault, mischief, other property offences such as arson or possession of stolen goods, and "other" Criminal Code offences such as disturbing the peace.

Community service used most often in alternative measures

Although the nature and range of alternative measures varies considerably throughout Canada, in about one-fifth (22%) of cases, young people agreed to perform community service such as helping out a non-profit agency in the community for a designated number of hours.

In 18% of cases, they were required to apologize to their victim through written or personal contact. Participation in other alternative measures programs accounted for 13%. Personal service and counselling tended to be given the least frequently, at 2% and 1% respectively.

Among the provinces and territories, there was some variation in the type of alternative measure administered. For instance, in Yukon, the most common type was supervision (accounting for 32%). Unique to Quebec, 40% of youth were asked to take social skills improvement courses. Another form of alternative measures, the caution letter, was unique to Manitoba (where it is called a "parental action letter"), Alberta and British Columbia.

Most alternative measures successfully completed

In 1997/98, young people finished their agreements in the vast majority of alternative measures programs. Of all cases that were closed, 89% successfully completed all measures in their agreements and a further 1% partially completed them.

Among the provinces and territories, the proportion of youth who successfully completed alternative measures ranged from 71% in British Columbia to 98% in Newfoundland. The lower figure for British Columbia is due, in part, to the exclusion of caution letters from these data.

Aboriginal youth disproportionately represented

Aboriginal youth are disproportionately represented at all levels of the criminal justice system, including in alternative measures programs. While representing 4%

of the youth population, Aboriginal youth accounted for 13% of those involved in alternative measures.

Aboriginal participation in alternative measures was substantial in Western Canada, which has the highest proportion of Aboriginal people. For instance, in Saskatchewan, where Aboriginal youth represent 15% of the youth population, they accounted for 36% of alternative measures cases.

Juristat: Alternative measures for youth in Canada, vol. 19, no. 8 (85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93; 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70) 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 Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231 or 613-951-9023; fax: 613-951-6615), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours

April 1999 (preliminary)

In April, employees' average weekly earnings were estimated at \$607.42, virtually unchanged from March and about the same as in April 1998.

While average weekly earnings for all employees remained virtually at the same level in the past year, average earnings for the "other" category of employees (including commissioned sales and substitute teachers) have declined 6.5% since April 1998. The declines for "other" employees were sharpest in transport and storage, health and accommodation, education and food industries.

Average weekly earnings for hourly rated employees have increased 2.1% in the past year due to increases in average hourly earnings (+1.1%) and average weekly hours (+0.8%). Average weekly earnings for salaried employees remained practically unchanged over the same period.

Hourly rated employees in all industries worked an average of 31.3 hours (including overtime hours) in April, down from 31.4 hours in March, mainly due to a slight decline in overtime hours. Average hourly earnings paid to hourly rated employees were \$15.27 in April.

Employment remained virtually unchanged in April as modest additions to payroll employment in retail trade and business services were offset by strikes in the manufacturing and telecommunications sectors. The return to work of 4,500 striking nurses in Newfoundland boosted employment in that province in the health and social services industry.

Note: Beginning with the May 1998 release, the Labour Division completed the third phase of its redesign in the use of administrative records for the production of employment, earnings and hours estimates. With the change in methodology, employment estimates derived from administrative records may show a different seasonal pattern than the previous data, which was derived from survey questionnaires. The impacts on seasonal patterns due to this change in methodology can only be assessed over a longer time period. Statistics Canada will continue to monitor these impacts and will help users interpret its data. To minimize impacts, data from the Survey on Employment, Payrolls and Hours, particularly employment data, should be used over longer periods for detailed industry distributions.

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

Detailed industry data and other labour market indicators will be available in July through standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$32/\$320). Annual averages for 1998 are now available through CANSIM, on diskette, CD-ROM, via the Internet and by custom tabulations from Labour Statistics Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division. □

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (1980 S.I.C.)	April 1998	March 1999 ^r	April 1999 ^p	March to April 1999	April 1998 to April 1999
	seasonally adjusted				
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	608.17	606.20	607.42	0.2	-0.1
Logging and forestry	779.67	755.85	757.51	0.2	-2.8
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1,120.39	1,108.16	1,093.95	-1.3	-2.4
Manufacturing	761.98	745.12	744.58	-0.1	-2.3
Construction	699.62	697.09	699.99	0.4	0.1
Transportation and storage	739.95	736.67	737.95	0.2	-0.3
Communication and other utilities	811.05	816.11	814.40	-0.2	0.4
Wholesale trade	669.30	658.63	666.29	1.2	-0.4
Retail trade	366.15	369.25	372.44	0.9	1.7
Finance and insurance	808.64	793.65	802.44	1.1	-0.8
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	634.06	648.52	652.60	0.6	2.9
Business services	683.35	694.50	697.11	0.4	2.0
Education-related services	671.99	658.72	658.43	0.0	-2.0
Health and social services	515.47	522.27	524.13	0.4	1.7
Accommodation, food and beverage services	233.83	236.89	238.00	0.5	1.8
Public administration	741.44	731.38	735.24	0.5	-0.8
Miscellaneous services	410.22	411.33	409.80	-0.4	-0.1
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	528.12	539.14	549.18	1.9	4.0
Prince Edward Island	490.51	484.42	481.27	-0.7	-1.9
Nova Scotia	510.60	513.65	520.02	1.2	1.8
New Brunswick	527.87	518.26	523.58	1.0	-0.8
Quebec	576.10	567.71	569.11	0.2	-1.2
Ontario	650.76	645.15	646.67	0.2	-0.6
Manitoba	536.65	540.10	545.74	1.0	1.7
Saskatchewan	534.96	538.79	539.62	0.2	0.9
Alberta	616.28	620.42	622.19	0.3	1.0
British Columbia	617.98	625.43	626.02	0.1	1.3
Yukon	686.56	673.00	675.92	0.4	-1.5
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	730.93	723.44	729.82	0.9	-0.2

^p Preliminary estimates.

^r Revised estimates.

Number of employees

Industry group (1980 S.I.C.)	Feb. 1999	March 1999 ^r	April 1999 ^p	Feb. to March 1999	March to April 1999
seasonally adjusted					
	thousands			% change	
Industrial aggregate	11,772	11,787	11,788	0.1	0.0
Logging and forestry	64	66	68	3.1	3.0
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	137	137	135	0.0	-1.5
Manufacturing	1,901	1,897	1,885	-0.2	-0.6
Construction	525	525	525	0.0	0.0
Transportation and storage	500	501	503	0.2	0.4
Communication and other utilities	385	383	377	-0.5	-1.6
Wholesale trade	754	761	760	0.9	-0.1
Retail trade	1,434	1,440	1,449	0.4	0.6
Finance and insurance	522	527	527	1.0	0.0
Real estate operators and insurances agencies	194	194	198	0.0	2.1
Business services	831	836	843	0.6	0.8
Education-related services	923	925	928	0.2	0.3
Health and social services	1,216	1,210	1,214	-0.5	0.3
Accommodation, food and beverage services	850	846	841	-0.5	-0.6
Public administration	675	675	677	0.0	0.3
Miscellaneous services	694	694	695	0.0	0.1
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	153	150	155	-2.0	3.3
Prince Edward Island	49	49	49	0.0	0.0
Nova Scotia	329	330	332	0.3	0.6
New Brunswick	268	270	270	0.7	0.0
Quebec	2,805	2,801	2,783	-0.1	-0.6
Ontario	4,628	4,643	4,638	0.3	-0.1
Manitoba	456	457	460	0.2	0.7
Saskatchewan	353	354	357	0.3	0.8
Alberta	1,208	1,206	1,213	-0.2	0.6
British Columbia	1,488	1,493	1,495	0.3	0.1
Yukon	17	16	17	-5.9	6.3
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	27	27	27	0.0	0.0

^p Preliminary estimates.

^r Revised estimates.

Family incomes (census families) 1997

Another report from the Survey of Consumer Finances is now available. *Family incomes, census families, 1997* presents data on average family income and on the distribution of families by income group and various characteristics for 1997. Historical data for the period from 1980 to 1997 by family type (for example, two-parent and lone-parent families) are presented as well.

This report uses a narrower concept of the family — the census family — than the "economic family" concept used in the survey's main report, *Income distributions by size in Canada, 1997* (13-207-XPB), released April 14, 1999. Census families consist of married couples and parents with never-married

children, whereas economic families include everyone sharing a common dwelling unit related by blood, marriage or adoption.

Historical data on average census family income by family type are available free on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca), under *Canadian statistics*, then *The people - Families, households and housing* followed by *Income*.

The publication *Family incomes, census families, 1997* (13-208-XIB, \$21) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1 888 297-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Stocks of frozen meat products

June 1999

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of June amounted to 63,499 tonnes as compared with 66,163 tonnes in May and 43,577 tonnes a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: Matrices 87 and 9518-9525.

Data for stocks of frozen meat (23-009-XIE, free) are now available at www.statcan.ca under *Products and services* followed by *Downloadable publications* then *Index of downloadable publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact Jamie Duffy (613-951-6356; duffjam@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard

April 1999

Oriented strandboard production in April totalled 653 116 cubic metres, up 26.0% from 518 292 (revised figures) cubic metres in April 1998. Particleboard production reached 206 488 cubic metres, an increase of 8.7% from 190 010 (revised figures) cubic metres in April 1998. Fibreboard production in April was 81 053 cubic metres, up 10.3% from 73 488 (revised figures) cubic metres in April 1998.

Year-to-date production of oriented strandboard totalled 2 558 976 cubic metres, a 27.1% increase from 2 012 827 cubic metres (revised) for the same period last year. Particleboard production reached 783 505 cubic metres, up 4.8% from 747 639 cubic metres (revised) in 1998. Year-to-date fibreboard production reached 302 835 cubic metres, a 15.5% increase from 262 255 cubic metres (revised) during the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 31 (series 2, 3, 5) and 122 (series 8).

The April 1999 issue of *Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard* (36-003-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; simales@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Construction-type plywood

April 1999

Canadian firms produced 162 905 cubic metres of construction-type plywood during April, an increase of 12.7% from the 144 582 cubic metres produced during the same period last year.

January to April production totalled 634 767 cubic metres, a 1.5% increase from the 625 192 cubic metres produced last year in the same period.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122.

The April 1999 issue of *Construction-type plywood* (35-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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 Gilles Simard, (613-951-3516, simales@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Absence from Work Survey

March 1999

A microdata file from the March Absence from Work Survey is now available. This file pertains to absences from work of two weeks or more due to illness, accident or pregnancy in the provinces for 1998.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1 888 297-7355; fax 613-951-3012; ssd@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division. ■

Survey on the Importance of Nature to Canadians

1996

The microdata file for the Survey on the Importance of Nature to Canadians in 1996 is now available. This file pertains to the nature-related activities of Canadians in 1996 and focuses on outdoor activities in natural areas including trips taken to watch, feed, photograph or study wildlife; wildlife encounters around the residence; fishing for recreation; and hunting.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services

(613-951-7355 or 1 888 297-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; ssd@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division.

The publication *The Importance of nature to Canadians: survey highlights* (EN47-311/1999E) is available from the Enquiry Center, Environment Canada (819-997-2800 or 1-800-668-6767; fax: 819-953-2225; enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca). ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Field Crop reporting series No. 4: Preliminary estimates of principal field crop areas, Canada, 1999, vol. 78, no. 4,
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB
(Canada: \$15/\$88; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$88).

Juristat: Alternative measures for youth in Canada, vol. 19, no. 8
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE
(Canada: \$8/\$70).

Juristat: Alternative measures for youth in Canada, vol. 19, no. 8
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE
(Canada: \$10/\$93; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$93).

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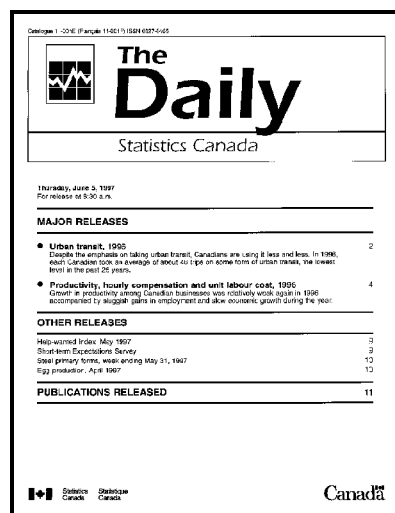
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