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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, February 17, 2000
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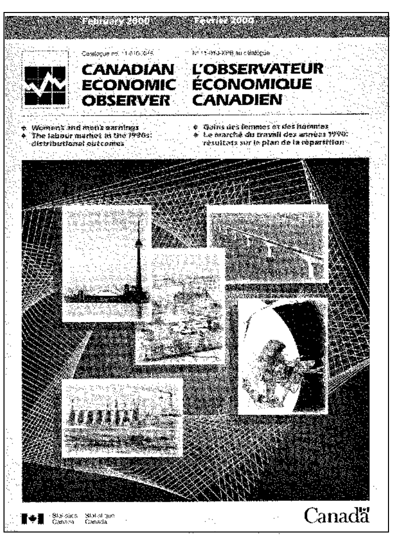
MAJOR RELEASES

(continued on following page)



Canadian economic observer

February 2000

The February issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in January and presents feature articles on women's and men's earnings as well as part two of a look at the labour market in the 1990s. A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The February 2000 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, $23/$227) 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 Cyndi Bloskie (613-951-3634; *ceo@statcan.ca*), Current Economic Analysis Group.

OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

Livestock estimates
January 1, 2000

Canada's cattle herd continued contracting during 1999 as increased slaughter and declining births more than offset falling exports.

As of January 1, 2000, total cattle and calf inventories had reached 12.7 million head, down 1.7% from January 1999. This level was also 5.6% lower than the peak of 1997.

In 1999, calvings, or births, fell 1.9% from 1998 while 4.0 million head of cattle and calves were slaughtered, up 5.4% from the previous year. Exports fell 21.1%, partially as a result of countervailing duties imposed at the U.S. border from July to November.

At the same time, the hog industry remained relatively stable. As of January 1, 2000, farmers had an estimated 12.3 million head of hogs, down 1.2% from January 1, 1999. However, that was only 0.1% less than the level of October 1, 1999. Inventories in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick were at record highs.

Sheep production grew in most provinces, as the breeding herd expanded. As of January 1, 2000, farmers had an estimated 684,000 head of sheep and lambs, up 4.1% from January 1, 1999.

Livestock inventories at January 1

	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	'000 head					
Canada	**12,870**	**12,655**	**12,409**	**12,257**	**657**	**684**
Atlantic provinces	308	302	378	378	31	32
Quebec	1,274	1,231	3,658	3,688	125	131
Ontario	2,044	1,995	3,441	3,440	179	191
Manitoba	1,176	1,160	2,003	1,871	47	54
Saskatchewan	2,334	2,250	923	962	72	74
Alberta	5,100	5,105	1,854	1,770	152	155
British Columbia	634	612	153	148	52	46

Note: *Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.*

More cattle on feeding operations in Western Canada

The cattle herd in Western Canada declined during 1999. Even so, cattle on feeding operations skyrocketed, while cow-calf operations, which primarily produce weaned calves, reported an increase in the breeding herd over the last two years. Producers have responded to better cattle prices and have taken advantage of low grain costs, by feeding more cattle on high-energy rations at feeding operations, rather than raising them on roughage.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *In Western Canada, cow-calf operations primarily produce weaned calves. Calves that are not kept on these operations as breeding cattle will be purchased by a backgrounding-stocker operation or a feeding operation. Calves on stocker operations are fed a low-energy roughage ration (forage or silage) in winter and spend the next summer as yearlings on pasture where they continue to grow. Typically, yearlings are sold to feeding operations, such as feedlots, during the second year of their lives. Feeding operations specialize in "finishing" cattle, mostly steers and heifers, to market weight on a high-energy ration.*
>
> *Data for this release come from the January Livestock Survey, a telephone survey of 10,000 farm operators conducted from mid-December to early January. Farmers were asked to report the number of livestock they had on their farm as of January 1, 2000.*

As of January 1, 2000, farmers in the three Prairie Provinces and British Columbia reported 9.1 million head of cattle, down 1.3% from January 1, 1999.

Cattle and calves inventory per farm type, Western Canada
Inventories at January 1

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1999 to 2000
	'000 head					% change
Dairy herd	**526**	**530**	**524**	**505**	**492**	**-2.6**
Beef herd						
Cow/calf	6,664	6,592	6,274	6,161	6,002	-2.6
Feeders/stockers	1,137	1,218	1,318	1,217	935	-23.2
Feeding operations	1,082	1,135	1,281	1,362	1,698	24.7
Total cattle and calves	**9,409**	**9,474**	**9,396**	**9,244**	**9,127**	**-1.3**

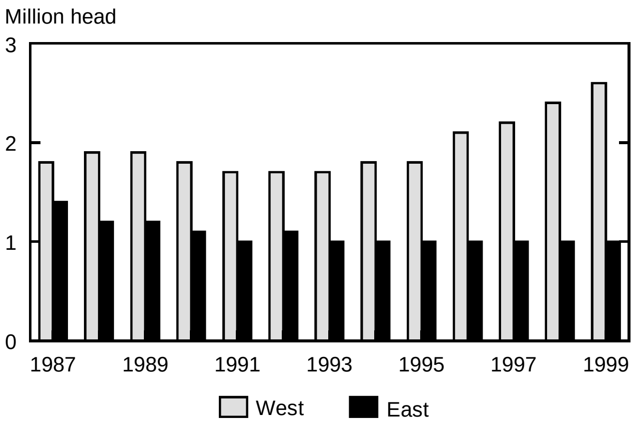
Of those cattle, 6.0 million were on western Canadian cow-calf operations, a 2.6% decrease from January 1999. The number of beef cows rose 0.9% over January 1999, the second consecutive annual increase, while the number of beef heifers for breeding increased 1.9%. Feeder prices paid to producers for their weaned calves in 1999 were extremely attractive. Producers reported that they expected calvings for the next six months to increase, which is consistent with the expanding breeding herd.

The number of cow-calf operations decreased to 55,500 farms on January 1, 2000, down for the fourth consecutive year from 62,000 farms at January 1996.

On western Canadian backgrounding-stocker operations, total cattle inventory as of January 1, 2000 stood at 935,300 head, down a substantial 23.2% from a year ago. Over the last three years, 3,000 of these operations have ceased to stock calves, largely because of competition from feeding operations. As of January 2000, there were about 12,300 stocker operations in the West.

Cattle inventory reported on the 1,660 feeding operations in Western Canada reached 1.7 million head, a 24.7% surge since January 1999. The number of steers on feeding operations climbed 21.8% over last year, and has steadily increased over the last four years. Heifers for slaughter rose 7.4% from a year ago, but have remained unchanged from two years ago. The number of calves less than one-year-old on feeding operations jumped 43.2% to 626,500 as of January 1, 2000.

Cattle slaughtered in Canada



Strong demand for beef, low feed prices and access to large cost-efficient slaughter plants have allowed beef production in Western Canada to be highly competitive. Beef production has reached record levels over the past four years in the wake of this demand, which has supported higher cattle prices. Seven of every 10 head of cattle slaughtered for beef in Canada are slaughtered in the West.

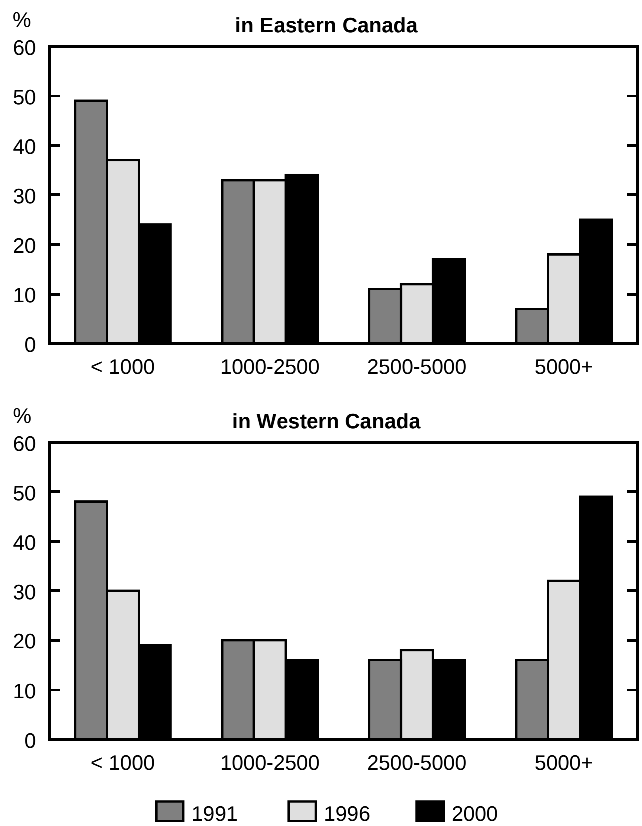
Hog inventories relatively stable

Farmers reported total hog inventories of 12.3 million head as of January 1, 2000, down a slight 1.2% from last January. However, compared with numbers in the third quarter of 1999, inventories were relatively stable. Hog numbers reached record highs in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick.

At January 1, 2000, the total breeding herd in Canada was 3.0% higher than it was a year ago. With better herd management, each sow is producing more pigs, and more are surviving to the feeding and finishing stages. Total slaughter as of January 1, 2000 increased 2.9% over the third quarter of 1999, while exports rose 5.5%. Farrowing, or birth intentions for the first quarter of 2000 are unchanged from the last quarter of 1999.

The current stability in the hog sector is the result of many smaller farms going out of hog farming, while larger integrated operations continue to specialize and expand production. The growth potential for the industry has been mounting in the West over the last few years, with planned expansions and business restructuring. More recently, eastern producers have been strengthening their position. Quebec remains the top hog producer in Canada, with Ontario a close second.

Percentage of hog inventory by farm size (number of hogs)



The hog industry in Canada continues to be driven by strong export markets, providing incentive for more expansion and business restructuring. Domestic market prices throughout the last quarter of 1999 were more than double the meager prices for the same period in 1998. This was partially due to the increased demand for hogs, resulting from the growth in domestic processing capacities, as well as premium prices paid for hogs under contractual arrangements. Feed grain prices have remained low, making it profitable for larger operations to produce more hogs.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1150, 1151, 1166, 5645, 9500-9510.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Pat MacGregor for hog data, (613-951-6480; *pat.macgregor@statcan.ca*), or Robert Plourde for cattle or sheep data (613-951-8716; plourob@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Travel between Canada and other countries

December 1999 and 1999

In December, travel between Canada and other countries declined to all destinations. The arrival of the new millenium may explain these decreases. For this unique occasion, many individuals may have preferred to celebrate New Year's at home with family and friends instead of travelling internationally. (Unless otherwise specified, the data are unadjusted.)

Americans made 1.3 million overnight trips to Canada in December, down slightly (-0.4%) from November. Meanwhile, Canadians travelled for at least one night to the United States on 1.2 million occasions, down 0.9% from the previous month. Despite this decrease, overnight air travel by Canadians to the United States increased 2.7% over November to a record high of 444,000 overnight air trips. Similarly, overnight air travel by Americans to this side of the border increased 2.7% from the previous month to 332,000 — the highest level in nine months.

As was the case with overnight trips by car between Canada and the United States, the number of same-day car trips between the two countries decreased in December. Americans made 2.2 million same-day car trips to Canada in December, down 5.7% from November, while the number of such trips by Canadians south of the border decreased 2.1% to 2.3 million.

Overnight travel between Canada and overseas countries also decreased in December. Canadians made 0.6% fewer trips to these countries in December, down to 361,000 trips. The number of such trips by overseas residents to Canada decreased 10.0% to 359,000 from the record high of 399,000 set in November.

From January to December 1999, the number of foreigners travelling for at least one night to Canada rose for the seventh consecutive year, up 3.6% from 1998 to 19.6 million. Americans increased their trips to Canada by 2.9% over 1998 to 15.3 million. Meanwhile, the number of such trips by overseas residents increased 6.4% to 4.2 million, recovering part of the ground lost in 1998 due to the Asian economic crisis.

Among travellers from Canada's most important overseas markets in 1999, those from South Korea (+51.7%), Taiwan (+25.1%) and Mexico (+14.1%) made substantially more overnight trips to Canada in 1999 than in 1998. On the other hand, travellers from Hong Kong (-8.0%) and Switzerland (-3.1%) recorded the largest drop in overnight trips to Canada over the same period.

Canadians, for their part, made 18.4 million overnight trips internationally in 1999, up 4.0% from 1998. Most of this growth is attributable to overnight travel south of the border, which increased 5.1% to 14.1 million trips. During the same period, the number of overnight trips by Canadians to overseas destinations increased slightly (+0.8%) to 4.3 million.

Travel between Canada and other countries

	Nov. 1999[r]	Dec. 1999[p]	Nov. to Dec. 1999	Dec. 1999[p]	Dec. 1998 to Dec. 1999	1999	1998 to 1999
	seasonally adjusted			unadjusted			
	'000		% change	'000	% change	'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad [1]	**4,031**	**3,922**	**-2.7**	**3,330**	**3.3**	**46,448**	**-1.1**
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,336	2,287	-2.1	2,098	2.0	27,107	-4.5
Total trips, one or more nights	1,602	1,588	-0.8	1,161	6.0	18,362	4.0
United States [2]	1,238	1,227	-0.9	873	8.0	14,110	5.1
Car	693	676	-2.4	394	3.0	7,869	3.5
Plane	432	444	2.7	427	14.0	4,963	7.8
Other modes of transportation	113	108	-4.9	53	5.0	1,279	4.7
Other countries [3]	363	361	-0.6	288	-2.0	4,252	0.8
Travel to Canada [1]	**4,275**	**4,065**	**-4.9**	**3,051**	**-4.9**	**49,055**	**2.1**
Same-day car trips from the United States	2,343	2,210	-5.7	1,866	-9.0	27,318	0.9
Total trips, one or more nights	1,696	1,651	-2.7	1,076	3.0	19,557	3.6
United States [2]	1,297	1,292	-0.4	839	2.0	15,326	2.9
Car	822	804	-2.1	491	1.0	9,609	2.2
Plane	324	332	2.7	285	6.0	3,807	5.1
Other modes of transportation	152	155	2.1	63	-6.0	1,911	2.3
Other countries [3]	399	359	-10.0	237	4.0	4,231	6.4
Most important overseas markets							
United Kingdom	...	...	...	45	-2.4	795	4.9
Japan	...	...	...	21	-15.7	521	7.1
France	...	...	...	21	11.6	415	2.9
Germany	...	...	...	15	11.7	396	3.8
Taiwan	...	...	...	9	23.4	158	25.1
Australia	...	...	...	11	-10.5	154	4.5
Hong Kong	...	...	...	8	-2.4	139	-8.0
Mexico	...	...	...	8	10.3	128	14.1
Netherlands	...	...	...	5	16.2	121	7.9
Italy	...	...	...	7	6.0	112	8.2
Switzerland	...	...	...	6	18.5	101	-3.1
South Korea	...	...	...	7	53.6	99	51.7

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*
1 *Totals exceed the sum of «same-day car trips» and «total trips, one or more nights» because they include all of the same-day trips.*
2 *Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.*
3 *Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.*
... *Figures not appropriate or not applicable.*

From January to December 1999, same-day cross-border car trips by Americans rose 0.9% to 27.3 million. Meanwhile, the number of such trips by Canadians fell 4.5% to 27.1 million. In 1999, the value of the Canadian dollar remained practically unchanged from 1998, recording an average of US$0.67.

Note: Month-to-month comparisons use seasonally adjusted data. Year-over-year comparisons use unadjusted data.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2697, 5780-6048 and 8200-8329.

The December 1999 issue of *International travel, advance information* (66-001-PPB, $8/$73) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For data requests, contact Pearl Bellefeuille (613-951-1674; fax: 613-951-2909; *pearl.bellefeuille@statcan.ca*). For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Johanne Plante (613-951-1910; fax: 613-951-2909; *johanne.plante@statcan.ca*), Tourism Statistics Program. ■

The labour market in the 1990s

Relative changes in earnings, unemployment and employment in the labour market of the 1990s are the focus of a feature article in the February 2000 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, available today. This study tracks trends from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s. Specific dates vary according to the data source used.

A major story of the 1990s has been significant improvements in labour market outcomes for women combined with a general deterioration of these outcomes for men. Other major trends include declining real wages for young men, rising rates of low income, especially in the mid-1990s, and little or no increase in earnings inequality to the mid-1990s.

The earnings gap between older and younger men, which emerged in the early 1980s, continued to widen in the 1990s as real annual earnings of men under the age of 35 fell following the recession of the early 1990s, and displayed little recovery later in the decade, at least to 1997.

Earnings also fell for recent immigrants (those who immigrated within five years before the Census), particularly among men. In 1995, recent male immigrants who were prime-aged university graduates earned 55% as much as their Canadian-born counterparts, down from 72% in 1985. For recent immigrant women, declines in relative earnings were recorded between 1990 and 1995.

There was also a general improvement among women relative to men during the 1990s in terms of educational attainment, wages and labour market outcomes. From 1976 to 1998, the number of women in the labour force with a university degree increased 7.6% per year compared with 4.2% for men. By 1998, the educational advantage young men once had over young women was eliminated.

While women continued to earn less than men, real weekly earnings among women rose 12% between 1989 and 1996. At the same time, they fell marginally for men. Growth in earnings for women has outstripped those of men in both low- and high-earnings deciles.

Labour force participation of prime aged men fell 2.9% and rose 6.7% for women between 1986/88 and 1996/98. Likewise, the unemployment rate rose by 0.9 percentage points for men and fell 0.5 points for women.

Despite a weak economic recovery, low-income rates rose in the mid-1990s, particularly for families with children. While earnings rose for these famlilies between 1993 and 1996, they did not fully offset declines in income received from transfers.

The article titled "The labour market in the 1990s, Part II: Distributional outcomes - Who is winning and losing", is in the February 2000 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, $23/$227), which 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 Garnett Picot (613-951-8214) or Andrew Heisz (613-951-3748), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending February 12, 2000 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending February 12, 2000 totalled 311 996 tonnes, down 3.0% from the week-earlier 321 574 tonnes and down 1.1% from the year-earlier 315 482 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 1 941 692 tonnes, an 8.7% increase compared with 1 786 074 tonnes for the same period in 1999.

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. ■

Footwear statistics

Semi-annual period ending December 1999

Manufacturers produced 6,007,570 pairs of footwear in the last six months of 1999, down 18.5% from the 7,372,639 pairs produced over the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 8.

Footwear statistics (33-002-XIB, $6/$11), for the semi-annual period ending December 1999, 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 Yasmin Sheikh (613-951-2518; *sheiyas@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

February 1, 2000 (preliminary)

Data for stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on February 1, 2000 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canadian economic observer, February 2000
Catalogue number 11-010-XPB
(Canada: $23/$227; outside Canada: US$23/US$227).

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, December 1999
Catalogue number 31-001-XPB
(Canada: $20/$196; outside Canada: US$20/US$196).

Footwear statistics, December 1999
Catalogue number 33-002-XIB
(Canada: $6/$11).

Primary iron and steel, December 1999
Catalogue number 41-001-XIB
(Canada: $5/$47).

Touriscope, international travel, December 1999
Catalogue number 66-001-PPB
(Canada: $8/$73; outside Canada: US$8/US$73).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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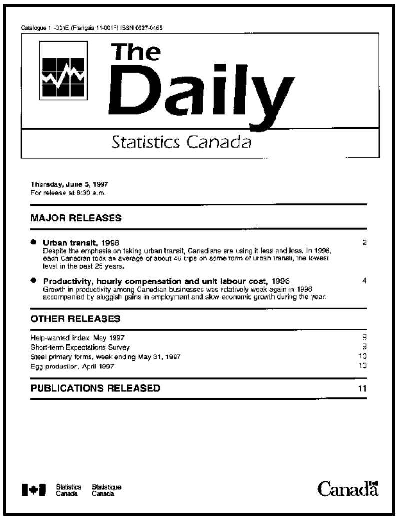

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 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 relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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Canada

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