



The Daily

Statistics Canada

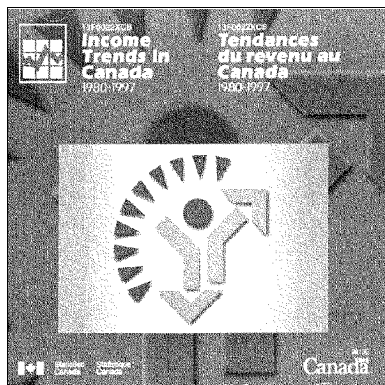
Wednesday, February 2, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Field crop reporting series: Stocks of grain, December 31, 1999** 3
Total stocks of wheat returned to above average levels while total stocks of flax and canola achieved record highs at December 31, 1999.

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For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1-888-951-7355; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MAJOR RELEASES

Field crop reporting series: Stocks of grain

December 31, 1999

Total stocks of wheat returned to above average levels while total stocks of flax and canola achieved record highs at December 31, 1999.

Total stocks of grain at December 31

	1998	1999	1998 to 1999 % change
	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	
All wheat	20,528	22,720	11
Wheat excl. durum	15,283	18,295	20
Barley	9,751	10,190	5
Canola	3,908	5,525	41
Durum wheat	5,245	4,425	-16
Oats	2,831	2,860	1
Flax	605	875	45
Corn	7,249	7,432	3
Soybeans	1,830	1,808	-1
Rye	291	326	12

Bumper wheat crop largely responsible for jump in stocks

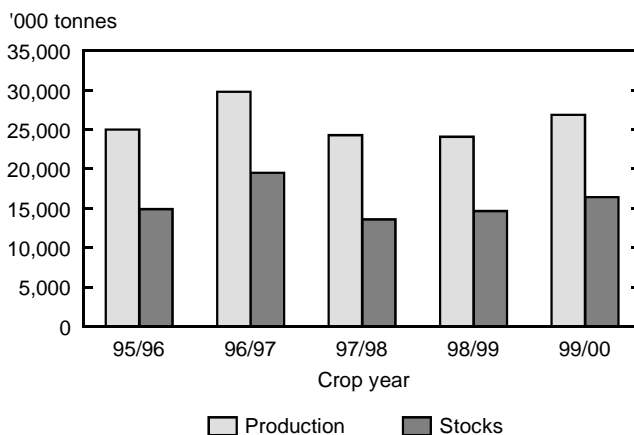
For the second consecutive year, wheat stocks climbed from the recent low established in December 1997. A total of 22.7 million tonnes of wheat (stocks held on farms plus stocks in commercial positions) were in storage on December 31, 1999, up 11% from the 20.5 million tonnes on December 31, 1998.

The high level of stocks was mostly due to a 12% increase in harvested wheat for the current crop-year compared with the 1998-1999 crop year. December's stocks were also 7% higher than the five-year average of 21.2 million tonnes. Stocks of total wheat on farms were 1.8 million tonnes more than last year while commercial stocks increased by 412,000 tonnes.

Note to readers

The December survey of 13,000 farm operators was conducted by telephone from January 4 to January 11, 2000. Farmers were asked to report the amounts of grain in on-farm storage. Commercial stocks of western grains originate from the Canadian Grain Commission. Commercial stocks of corn and soybeans in Ontario and Quebec are obtained by a separate survey of commercial elevators.

All wheat, production and stocks, December 31



Stocks of durum wheat were at 4.4 million tonnes, down 16% from the 5.2 million tonnes reached on December 31, 1998. Two factors contributed to this drop: a 30% decline in production compared with the previous crop year and a 25% rise in exports during the August-December period compared with the same period in 1998.

Flaxseed stocks at record levels

Total stocks of flaxseed reached 875,000 tonnes, 45% higher than the 605,000 tonnes in storage on December 31, 1998. The December 1999 level was also 243,000 tonnes more than the five-year average of 632,000 tonnes. The previous record was 873,000 tonnes set in 1986.

Farm stocks rose by 295,000 tonnes to a level of 740,000 tonnes, while commercial stocks fell by 25,000 tonnes. The elevated stocks can be mostly attributed to a 54% drop in exports for the August to December period compared with the same period in 1998. Over 80% of flaxseed production is exported.

**Record stocks of canola buoyed up by
record production**

Total stocks of canola were the highest on record at 5.5 million tonnes, up 1.6 million tonnes from the December 1998 level of 3.9 million tonnes. The previous record was set in 1995 at 4.3 million tonnes. Commercial stocks fell by 254,000 tonnes while farm stocks ballooned by 1.9 million tonnes compared with the same period in 1998. The unprecedented stock levels were the result of a 1.2 million tonne rise in production in the 1999-2000 crop year and a higher stock carry-over from the preceding year.

*Field crop reporting series no. 1: Stocks of Canadian grain at December 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 or data quality of this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-8719; dave.burroughs@statcan.ca), or David Roeske (613-951-0572; dave.roeske@statcan.ca), Crops Section, Agriculture Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index

January 2000

The Help-wanted Index (1996=100) increased 2.4% to 168 in January, continuing an upward trend that has prevailed for more than three years. Compared with a year earlier, the national index was 13.5% higher.

The index increased in all provinces with the exception of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. In British Columbia, the index has been increasing since mid-1999 and, in January, the province registered its strongest growth (+4.4%). Manitoba's index recorded its first increase in six months while Saskatchewan and Alberta marked their fifth consecutive monthly increase after several months of negative or no growth.

Help-wanted Index

(1996=100)

	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1999	Jan. 2000	Jan. 1999 to Jan. 2000	Dec. 1999 to Jan. 2000
seasonally adjusted and smoothed					
	% change				
Canada	148	164	168	13.5	2.4
Newfoundland	141	168	173	22.7	3.0
Prince Edward Island	158	185	182	15.2	-1.6
Nova Scotia	156	167	167	7.1	0.0
New Brunswick	167	183	190	13.8	3.8
Quebec	150	157	161	7.3	2.5
Ontario	160	182	186	16.3	2.2
Manitoba	172	157	162	-5.8	3.2
Saskatchewan	132	135	137	3.8	1.5
Alberta	130	145	149	14.6	2.8
British Columbia	121	136	142	17.4	4.4

Note: The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. The index is a measure of companies' intentions to hire new workers. These indexes have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 105 (levels 8, 9 and 10)

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

Short-term Expectations Survey

December 1999 to March 2000

Results for the monthly Short-term Expectations Survey of economic forecasters are now available. Responses from eight forecasters were obtained from January 24 to January 28.

The rate of inflation is expected to decrease in the short term. The mean forecast for inflation as measured by the year-over-year change in the Consumer Price Index is 2.6% for January, 2.5% for February and 2.4% for March. Actual inflation, meanwhile, was higher than previously expected — the average forecast for December was 2.3% compared with the actual rate of 2.6%.

The mean monthly forecast for the gross domestic product from November to January was 0.2%, lower than the actual growth rate of 0.6% in November.

Forecasts for international trade show a trade surplus of \$3.2 billion for December, \$3.4 billion for January and \$3.3 billion for February. This is slightly higher than the actual trade surplus for November of \$3.2 billion. Average forecasts show slight increases in both exports and imports over the forecast period.

Forecasters anticipate that the unemployment rate will stay close to the actual rates of 6.9% in November and December, with rates of 7.0% in January and February and 6.9% in March. Little change is expected in the participation rate, which stood at 65.6% in December.

Short-term Expectations Survey

	Average forecasts					Actual figures	
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Nov.	Dec.
	% yearly growth						
Consumer Price Index							
Initial forecast	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.6
First revision	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.5	..	..	..
Second revision	2.3	2.3	2.6	..	..	..	..
	% monthly growth, seasonally adjusted, constant \$1992						
Gross domestic product							
Initial forecast	0.4	0.3	0.2	..	..	0.6	..
First revision	0.3	0.2	..	..	..	..	..
Second revision	0.2	..	..	..	..	..	..
	\$ billion						
Exports							
Initial forecast	31.6	30.9	31.0	31.6	..	31.4	..
First revision	30.8	31.0	31.6	..	..	..	..
Second revision	30.9	31.5	..	..	..	..	..
Imports							
Initial forecast	27.8	27.9	28.1	28.3	..	28.2	..
First revision	27.8	28.1	28.2	..	..	..	..
Second revision	28.0	28.3	..	..	..	..	..
Balance							
Initial forecast	3.8	3.0	2.9	3.3	..	3.2	..
First revision	3.0	2.9	3.4	..	..	..	..
Second revision	2.9	3.2	..	..	..	..	..
	seasonally adjusted %						
Unemployment rate							
Initial forecast	7.7	7.5	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9
First revision	7.5	7.3	7.0	7.0	..	..	..
Second revision	7.3	7.0	7.0	..	..	..	..
Labour force participation rate							
Initial forecast	65.6	65.6	65.5	65.6	65.6	65.5	65.6
First revision	65.5	65.6	65.6	65.6	..	..	..
Second revision	65.5	65.6	65.6	..	..	..	..

.. Not available.

The next release of results from the Short-term Expectations Survey will be on March 8.

For more information, for a set of tables, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684; fax: 613-951-1572; jamie.brunet@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

Financial education data

1996/97 to 1998/99

Revenue and expenditure data for vocational schools are now available for 1996/97 (actual), 1997/98 (preliminary) and 1998/99 (estimated).

Data cover expenditures on post-secondary non-university (college) education by source of funds, by type of school, and by type of expenditures; education-vocational training-source of funds; trade and vocational training by type of program; university education expenditure by source; and university expenditures by function.

Available on CANSIM: cross classified tables 00590203 to 00590207.

For requests and/or extraction of data contact Sharon-Anne Gibbs (613-951-1503). For more information, contact Bernard Bourgoïn (613-951-1506) or Anne Drolet (613-951-1498), Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending January 14, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending January 14, 2000 increased 13.4% to 4.5 million tonnes compared with the same period in 1999. The number of cars loaded increased 13.5%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 375 000 tonnes, a 17.9% increase from the same period of 1999. The year-to-date figures increased 19.8%.

Total traffic increased 13.7% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 8.7 million tonnes, an increase of 13.4% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; larocque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Field crop reporting series no.1: Stocks of Canadian grain at December 31, 1999, vol. 79, no. 1
Catalogue number 22-002-XIB
(Canada: \$11/\$66).

Field crop reporting series no.1: Stocks of Canadian grain at December 31, 1999, vol. 79, no. 1
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB
(Canada: \$15/\$88; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$88).

Natural gas transportation and distribution, October 1999
Catalogue number 55-002-XPB
(Canada: \$17/\$165; outside Canada: US\$17/US\$165).

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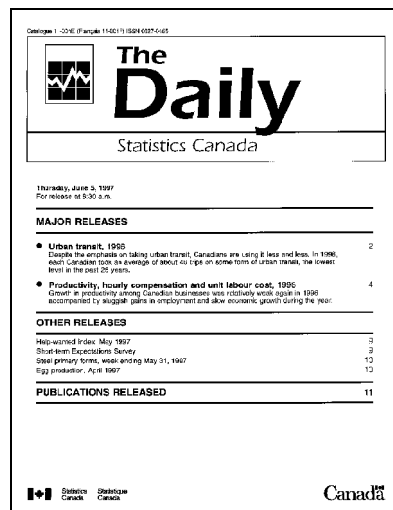
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