



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, August 25, 2000

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 Record harvests of field peas and near-record amounts of durum wheat are expected this year, according to pre-harvest reports from producers. Two other major crops, spring wheat and canola, will show large production declines compared with last year.
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Estimates of production of principal field crops

July 31, 2000

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July field crops production

	1999	2000	1999 to 2000
	millions of tonnes		% change
Total wheat	26.9	25.4	-6
Spring wheat	20.9	18.2	-13
Barley	13.2	14.1	7
Canola	8.8	7.1	-19
Durum wheat	4.3	5.4	26
Oats	3.6	3.5	-3
Field Peas	2.3	2.9	26
Flaxseed	1.0	0.8	-20
Rye	0.4	0.3	-25

Cool and wet growing conditions are favouring better-than-average yields for most crops in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but substantially less than the record or near-record yields of last year. Below-average yields for the major crops grown in drought-stricken southern Alberta caused a general decline in production for the province. In Ontario, however, winter wheat yields are reaching a new record.

Production of durum wheat poised to be the second largest ever

Durum wheat production is expected to reach of 5.4 million tonnes, an increase of 1.1 million tonnes from the previous level of 4.3 million tonnes. This promises to be the second largest crop ever grown; the record crop was 6.0 million tonnes in 1998. Reported yields were 31.3 bushels per acre, 4.7 bushels per acre less than last year's record of 36.0 bushels per acre and lower than the five-year average yield of 32.4 bushels per acre. The crop will be harvested on 6.4 million acres; 2.0 million more acres (+45%) than the 4.4 million acres harvested in 1999. The five-year average for harvested area is 5.5 million acres.

Field pea production to set new record

Field pea production will reach a new record of 2.9 million tonnes this year, a 0.6-million-tonne (+26%)

Note to readers

The July Crops Survey of 17,200 farm operators was conducted by telephone interviews between July 26 and August 5. Farmers were asked to report their seeded areas, harvested areas, and yields of major grains and oilseeds.

increase from 2.3 million tonnes in 1999. The previous record was set in 1998 at just over 2.3 million tonnes. The crop will be harvested on a record 3.1 million acres. Farmers estimated a yield of 35.3 bushels per acre, higher than the five-year average of 32.8 bushels per acre but 4.8 bushels per acre less than the record yield of 40.1 bushels per acre obtained last year.

Production of canola expected to drop

Farmers reported that they expect to harvest 7.1 million tonnes of canola, a drop of 1.7 million tonnes, or 19%, from the 8.8 million tonnes harvested in 1999. The anticipated decline is due to 1.7 million fewer acres of harvested area and a drop in yield from 28.2 bushels per acre last year to 26.0 bushels per acre this year.

Spring wheat production to fall

Farmers expect to harvest 18.2 million tonnes of spring wheat, 2.7 million tonnes, or 13%, less than last year's crop of 20.9 million tonnes. This year, farmers rotated 0.8 million acres out of spring wheat into other crops. Yields are expected to be at the level of the five-year average of 34.3 bushels per acre, 3.4 bushels per acre less than last year's record 37.7 bushels per acre.

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

Field crop reporting series no. 5: July 31 estimates of production of principal field crops, Canada (22-002-XIB, \$11/\$66; 22-002-XPB, \$15/\$88) is now available. See How to order products.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; dave.burroughs@statcan.ca) or David Roeske at (613-951-0572; dave.roeske@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Crude oil and natural gas

June 2000 (preliminary)

Crude oil production totalled 10 501 600 cubic metres in June, up 4.4% from June 1999. The three major crude oil-producing provinces — Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland — reported increases. Exports increased by 10.5 over June 1999.

Crude oil and natural gas

	June 1999	June 2000	June 1999 to June 2000 % change
	thousands of cubic metres		
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	10 063.6	10 501.6	4.4
Exports	6 312.0	6 974.8	10.5
Imports ²	3 976.6	4 389.4	10.4
Refinery receipts	7 890.0	8 083.4	2.5
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	12 657.3	13 221.3	4.5
Exports	7 485.3	7 723.5	3.2
Domestic sales ⁴	3 742.0	3 930.9	5.0
	Jan. to June 1999	Jan. to June 2000	Jan.—June 1999 to Jan.—June 2000 % change
	thousands of cubic metres		
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	59 508.7	63 016.8	5.9
Exports	34 480.3	40 459.4	17.3
Imports ²	24 159.1	25 852.6	7.0
Refinery receipts	48 413.2	48 689.0	0.6
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	80 962.6	82 785.0	2.3
Exports	46 386.2	48 523.8	4.6
Domestic sales ⁴	37 480.9	39 370.8	5.0

¹ Disposition may differ from production because of factors such as inventory change and industry own-use.

² Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division estimates because of timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export.

³ Disposition may differ from production because of factors such as inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, and line-pack fluctuations.

⁴ Includes direct sales.

Year-to-date production of crude oil increased 5.9% over the same period of 1999. Exports increased a strong 17.3% owing to higher demand for Canadian crude oil by U.S. refineries.

Marketable natural gas production rose 4.5% over June 1999. Domestic sales rose a strong 5.0%, reflecting higher demand by the residential, commercial and industrial sectors. Exports of natural gas were up 3.2% from June 1999.

Year-to-date marketable production of natural gas increased by 2.3% over the same period in 1999. Total exports were up 4.6%, while Canadian domestic sales rose 5.0%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.

The June 2000 issue of *Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas* (26-006-XPB, \$19/\$186) will be available in September. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to inquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gerry Desjardins (613-951-4368; desjiger@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Internet access by cable 1999

Roughly one out of every 10 households with an Internet connection in 1999 subscribed to high-speed access from a cable company.

The 61 cable companies that were offering Internet access in August 1999 had 364,081 subscribers to the service, or 5.0% of the 7.3 million subscribers to their basic cable television services. These subscribers represented about 11.0% of the 3.3 million households connected to the Internet in Canada.

High-speed Internet access by cable is most popular in Western Canada. The region accounted for 42.8% of cable Internet subscribers, although it is home to 33.7% of all household Internet subscribers. In contrast, the Atlantic provinces had 6.3% of all household Internet subscribers but only 3.1% of cable Internet subscribers.

Cable Internet access by region

	Cable Internet access	Internet access from home — all types
	number of subscribers	distribution of subscribers
		%
Canada	364,081	100.0
Atlantic provinces	11,105	3.1
Quebec	55,453	15.2
Ontario	141,761	38.9
Prairie provinces	85,278	23.4
British Columbia and Territories	70,484	19.4
		100.0

The provision of Internet access by cable is mostly done by larger cable companies. The industry's top five firms, which own and operate 23 cable licensees, were the first to offer these services, and accounted for 85.0% of subscribers in 1999. All cable companies that had more than 100,000 subscribers offered Internet access services.

Current and planned provision of cable Internet access

Licenses	Number of licenses	Number of Internet service subscribers	Number of basic cable subscribers
Offering Internet services to some or all clients	61	364,081	7,287,659
Planning to offer Internet services within the next two years	67	-	435,071
Not offering nor planning to offer Internet services	278	-	301,424
Total	406	364,081	8,024,154

- Nil or zero.

Most cable companies — 345 of 406 — did not offer Internet access in 1999, and the majority of these companies had fewer than 10,000 subscribers. Still, the availability of Internet access by cable in small- and medium-sized markets will grow. In 1999, 51 companies operating in such markets provided these services to 68,092 subscribers. Another 67 companies plan to introduce Internet access by cable by August 2001.

Revenues from high-speed Internet access by cable in 1999 reached \$113.2 million, or about \$311 per subscriber, relatively modest when compared to the cable television industry's total revenues of \$3.3 billion. Of these revenues, \$61.1 million was generated directly by cable licensees and \$52.0 million by their affiliates. The relatively low revenue-per-subscriber figure indicates significant subscriber growth during 1999.

This market is likely to grow rapidly. Assuming a conservative 2% per month increase in the number of subscribers from August 1999 to August 2000, the market would expand 76% to about \$200 million. If the industry's forecast of 1.5 million subscribers by 2007 is realized, the market would reach \$600 million to \$700 million a year.

Note: The data in this release were obtained from two main sources: a supplement to the 1999 Annual Return for Broadcasting Distribution Licensees conducted jointly by Statistics Canada and the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, and the 1999 Household Internet Use Survey.

A more detailed article on this topic will be published in September in the new *Connectedness* series (56F0004).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daniel April (613-951-3177), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills

June 2000 and second quarter of 2000

Sawmills and planing mills shipped 5 925.3 thousand cubic metres of lumber in June, a decrease of 8.9% from June 1999.

Shipments for the second quarter were 17 568.0 thousand cubic metres, a slight increase of 0.4% from the first quarter and 5.7% lower than the second quarter of 1999.

Canadian housing starts peaked in February and have been declining through the second quarter, averaging 142,300 units — seasonally adjusted at an annual rate — compared with 162,700 during the first quarter.

Similarly, while U.S. housing starts were averaging 1.732 million units (seasonally adjusted at an annual rate) for the first quarter of this year, they dropped at an average of 1.630 million units during the second quarter.

Interest rates have been increasing for more than a year now. In both Canada and the United States they are at least 125 basis points above year-ago levels.

This weaker demand on both sides of the border has translated into considerably lower prices for softwood lumber.

In the second quarter, lumber shipments decreased in almost every province compared with the second quarter of 1999. Shipments were 9.2% lower in Eastern Canada, especially in Ontario (-24.3%), New Brunswick

(-12.5%), and Saskatchewan (-12.5%). The decrease in British Columbia was just 1.5%, mostly owing a 9.0% increase in the province's coastal region, which is less dependent on the domestic and U.S. markets.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 53 and 122 (series 2).

The June 2000 issue of *Sawmills and planing mills* (35-003-XIB, \$9/\$86) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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

Railway carloadings

Nine-day period ending July 31, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the nine-day period ending July 31 increased 4.0% to 6.2 million tonnes compared with the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded increased 0.7%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 569 000 tonnes, a 0.3% advance from the same period of 1999. The year-to-date figures rose 15.1% from the same period of 1999.

Total traffic increased 3.7% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 156.3 million tonnes, an rise of 7.0% from 1999.

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; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

For-hire trucking (commodity origin and destination)

Second half 1999 and 1999 (preliminary)

Canada-based long-distance for-hire carriers carried more than 269 million tonnes of freight in 1999, an increase of 15% from 1998.

Although domestic activities accounted for 74% of the total tonnage and 78% of total shipments, trans-border movements generated 46% of the total revenues earned and 48% of the total tonne-kilometres for these carriers.

Preliminary data are now available from the For-hire trucking (Commodity Origin and Destination) Survey for the third and fourth quarters of 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 143.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Laroque (613-951-2486; laroque@statcan.ca) or John Nicoletta (613-951-0520; fax: 613-951-0579; nicojoh@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Light bulbs and tubes

July 2000

Light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 20.7 million light bulbs and tubes in July, an increase of 30.2% from the 15.9 million in July 1999.

Year-to-date sales at the end of July totalled 149 million light bulbs and tubes, an increase of less than 1% from the 148.6 million a year earlier.

The July 2000 issue of *Electric lamps, light bulbs and tubes* (43-009-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; kowarus@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Early Development Instrument for children for Winnipeg

Data for the Early Development Instrument for Winnipeg are now available.

The Early Development Instrument is a questionnaire developed by the Canadian Centre for Children and Risk at McMaster University. The questionnaire measures a variety of factors which have an impact on a child's readiness to learn, including physical well-being, language and cognitive skills, and social and emotional development. The questionnaire was completed by kindergarten teachers for all kindergarten children in School Division Number 1 in Winnipeg in March 2000.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Tamara Knighton (613-951-7326; knigtam@statcan.ca), Statistics Canada, or Christina Norris (819-953-3644; christina.norris@spg.org), Human Resources Development Canada. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat — A weekly review, August 25, 2000
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE (\$3/\$109).

Infomat — A weekly review, August 25, 2000
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE (\$4/\$145).

Field crop reporting series: July 31 estimates of production of principal field crops, Canada, Vol. 79, No. 5
Catalogue number 22-002-XIB (\$11/\$66).

Field crop reporting series: July 31 estimates of production of principal field crops, Canada, Vol. 79, No. 5
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB (\$15/\$88).

Sawmills and planing mills, June 2000
Catalogue number 35-003-XIB (\$9/\$86).

Electric lamps, light bulbs and tubes, July 2000
Catalogue number 43-009-XIB (\$5/\$47).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCD are electronic versions on compact disc.

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
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Thursday, June 3, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
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• Urban transit, 1996 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 20 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was modestly weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4
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RELEASE DATES: AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 1

August 28 to September 1
(Release dates are subject to change.)

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28	University tuition fees	2000–2001
29	Industrial Product Price Index	July 2000
29	Raw Materials Price Index	July 2000
30	Farm cash receipts	Second quarter 2000
30	Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises	Second quarter 2000
31	National economic and financial accounts	Second quarter 2000
31	Balance of international payments	Second quarter 2000
31	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	June 2000
