



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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NEW PRODUCTS

Canada food stats

Canada food stats is a new, easy-to-use CD-ROM that provides access to a broad spectrum of food statistics and indicators. It contains information on per-capita food consumption and food prices, nutrition, supply and demand, as well as data on the food industry, processing, employment, productivity, trade and much more.

This product, developed by Statistics Canada's Agriculture Division in co-operation with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, contains 67 formatted reports with up to 40 years of data, along with topical analyses. There are also many data sets available for the provinces, along with selected quarterly and monthly statistics. It is an invaluable research tool for nutritionists, food industry analysts, market researchers or consumers who are just looking for reliable data on food.

Making a query is simple. Just select the data series, geographic area and time period, and submit the query. Click *Show Data* and the results appear. You can also download results to your own software application.

The CD-ROM *Canada food stats* (23F0001XCB, \$75/\$120) is now available. See *How to order products*. The price includes two issues released in July and November.

To order, or for more information, contact Debbie Dupuis (613-951-2553; foodstats@statcan.ca) or Client Services (1-800-465-1991), Agriculture Division.

MAJOR RELEASES

Measuring student knowledge and skills: The performance of Canada's youth in reading, mathematics and science

2000

Canadian 15-year-olds rank among the best in the world when it comes to reading, mathematics and science, according to a major new international report that assesses the skill level of students nearing the end of their compulsory education.

Canadian students ranked second in reading, sixth in mathematics and fifth in science among 32 countries that participated in 2000 in the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

Canada was among the few countries that scored near the top in all three areas. Only students in Finland performed significantly better than those in Canada in reading. Japanese and Korean students performed significantly better in mathematics. And only students in Korea, Japan and Finland performed significantly better in science.

Countries performing better than or about the same as Canada

	Countries performing significantly better than Canada	Countries performing about the same as Canada ¹
Reading	Finland	New Zealand Australia Ireland Japan
Mathematics	Japan Korea	Finland New Zealand Australia Switzerland United Kingdom
Science	Japan Korea Finland	New Zealand Australia United Kingdom

¹ Differences in average scores are not statistically significant.

The study's goal was to identify whether students have the necessary skills to prepare them for economic and technological change. Because of the high premium placed on reading by the labour market and society in general, the study in 2000 focussed on reading literacy, and made mathematical and scientific literacy minor domains.

The study found that, in all participating countries, students from higher socio-economic backgrounds

Note to readers

Data in this release are from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a collaborative effort among member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In Canada, PISA is administered through a partnership of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, Human Resources Development Canada and Statistics Canada.

This program is designed to regularly assess the achievement of 15-year-old boys and girls in reading, mathematical and scientific literacy using a common international test. Canada and 31 other countries participated in PISA 2000, which focussed specially on reading. In Canada, about 30,000 15-year-olds from more than 1,000 schools took part during the spring of 2000.

The PISA 2000 survey included a direct assessment of students' skills through reading, mathematics and science tests as well as questionnaires collecting background information from students and school principals. In Canada, information from students and parents was also collected through the associated Youth in Transition Survey.

Socio-economic status was derived from student responses regarding parental occupations using the International Socio-Economic Index of Occupational Status.

performed better than those from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Even more notably, students in Canada from the 25% of families with the lowest socio-economic status scored above the average for all students in OECD member countries.

Only in a few countries was there a smaller variation in average scores between students in the 25% of families with the lowest socio-economic status and the 25% of families with the highest.

These results suggest that the Canadian education system has, by improving reading skills among the economically or socially disadvantaged, helped overcome the educational disadvantage associated with low socio-economic status that persists in many countries.

Home environment stimulates learning

In most countries, including Canada, a family's socio-economic status is not the only predominant factor influencing student achievement.

The study confirmed that parents can have a profound impact on the education of their children. Those who provide a home environment that stimulates learning can positively influence their children's academic outcome.

For example, students who performed well tended to come from homes where parents discussed political

or social issues, books or television shows with their children.

The study also showed that parents can have a positive impact on academic outcomes by taking their children to concerts, museums and other cultural events. Students who participated in cultural activities outperformed other students.

Girls outperformed boys in reading

Girls performed significantly better than boys on the reading test in all countries. Boys outperformed girls in mathematics in Canada, but the gender difference was much narrower than that observed in reading. In many other countries, however, there was no significant gender difference for mathematics. There was also no significant difference in test scores for boys and girls in science achievement in Canada, a result similar to that seen in most other countries.

The OECD international report *Knowledge and skills for life: First results from the OECD Programme*

for International Student Assessment, released in Paris earlier this morning, is now available on the OECD's Web site (www.pisa.oecd.org).

The pan-Canadian report, including data on all 10 provinces, will be released at 11:30 am eastern time today during a press conference at the Toronto offices of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada.

Measuring up: The performance of Canada's youth in reading, mathematics and science (81-590-XIE, free), will be available at 11:30 am eastern time today at www.statcan.ca, www.pisa.gc.ca, and www.cmec.ca. A paper version will be available early in 2002.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Asphalt roofing

October 2001

Production of asphalt shingles totalled 3 806 837 metric bundles in October, a 24.6% increase from 3 055 168 metric bundles produced in October 2000.

Year-to-date production to the end of October was 33 450 957 metric bundles, down 5.4% from 35 347 261 metric bundles in the same period in 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030006.

The October 2001 issue of *Asphalt roofing*, Vol. 53, no. 10 (45-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Sara Breen (613-951-3521; sara.breen@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric power statistics

September 2001

Reduced generation capability at hydro plants led to lower net generation of electricity in September. Net generation of electricity was 40 565 gigawatt hours (GWh), down 8.1% from September 2000. Reduced generating capability at hydro plants also led to a decrease in exports of 53.3% to 2 087 GWh, and imports increased to 1 424 GWh from 953 GWh.

Reduced generating capability in Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia was the main reason for the 13.8% decrease in generation of hydro electricity to 22 254 GWh. Thermal conventional generation was also down 7.8% to 12 483 GWh. To compensate, generation from nuclear sources was up 22.5% to 5 827 GWh.

Year-to-date net generation to the end of September totalled 420 753 GWh, down 2.8% from the same period of 2000. Year-to-date exports were 32 388 GWh, down 19.6%, whereas year-to-date imports totalled 14 772 GWh, up 65.5% from the same period in 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 1270001.

The September 2001 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XIB, \$9/\$85) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

To order data, or for general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Serge Grenier (613-951-3566; serge.grenier@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Coal and coke statistics

September 2001

Higher demand for coal by domestic markets drove up coal production in September. Coal production was 5 822 kilotonnes, up 10.9% from September 2000. Year-to-date production to the end of September was 53 000 kilotonnes, up 1.9% from the same period in 2000.

Exports in September were 1 878 kilotonnes, down 32.2% from September 2000. Exports to Japan, the largest consumer of Canadian coal, totalled 803 kilotonnes, down 37.5% from September 2000. Year-to-date total exports totalled 23 032 kilotonnes, down 6.5% from the same period of 2000.

Increased requirements for electric power generation by thermal coal stations led to higher imports in the third quarter—6 715 kilotonnes, up 13.8% from the third quarter of 2000. Year-to-date imports totalled 16 463 kilotonnes, up 5.6% from the same period in 2000.

Coke production in September was 249 kilotonnes, down 5.9% from September 2000.

Available on CANSIM: tables 3030016 and 3030017.

The September 2001 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XIB, \$9/\$85) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

To order data, or for general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Serge Grenier

(serge.grenier@statcan.ca, 613-951-3566),
Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics

September 2001

Pulpwood receipts totalled 2 335 685 cubic metres in September, down 15.2% from 2 753 169 cubic metres in September 2000. Wood residue receipts were 6 786 903 cubic metres in September, down 6.8% from 7 284 480 cubic metres in September 2000. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 8 345 504 cubic metres, down 10.6% from 9 334 768 cubic metres in September 2000.

The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 13 889 688 cubic metres, up 10.5% from 12 569 645 cubic metres in September 2000.

Year-to-date consumption to the end of September of pulpwood and wood residue was 84 879 098 cubic metres, down 3.8% from 88 261 156 cubic metres in the same period of 2000.

Figures for 2000 have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030008.

The September 2001 issue of *Pulpwood and wood residue statistics*, Vol. 44, no. 9 (25-001-XIB, \$6/\$55) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sara Breen (613-951-3521; sara.breen@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Canada food stats,
Catalogue number 23F0001XCB (\$75/\$120).

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, Vol. 44, no. 9,
September 2001
Catalogue number 25-001-XIB (\$6/\$55).

Asphalt roofing, Vol. 53, no. 10, October 2001
Catalogue number 45-001-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Natural gas transportation and distribution, Vol. 43,
no. 8, August 2001
Catalogue number 55-002-XIB (\$13/\$125).

Measuring student knowledge and skills: The performance of Canada's youth in reading, mathematics and science
Catalogue number 81-590-XIE
(free).
Available at 11:30 am Tuesday, December 4

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

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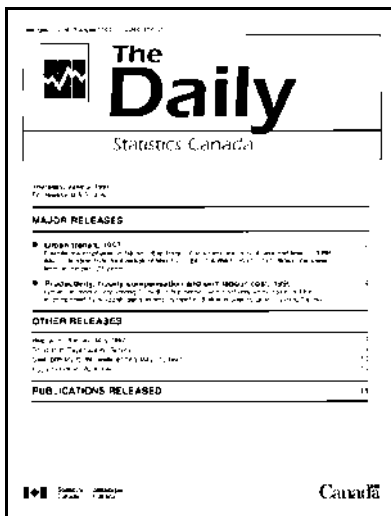
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