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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

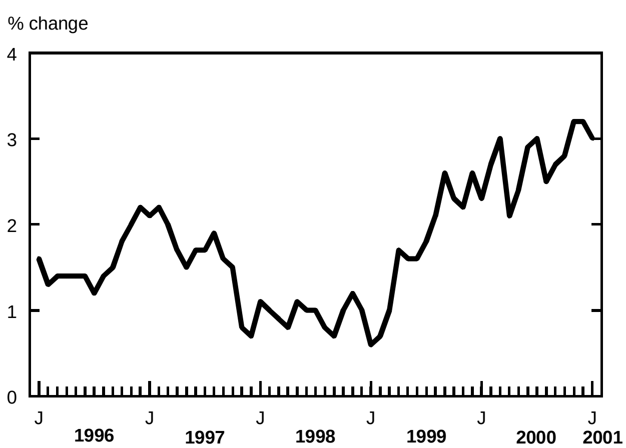
Consumer Price Index

January 2001

Consumers paid 3.0% more in January than they did in January 2000 for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. This 12-month rise is lower than the 3.2% increases in November and December 2000. As has been the case since April 1999, rising energy prices are still the main reason behind the increase in the All-items CPI in January 2001. They account for close to one-third of the rise in the CPI from January 2000 to January 2001. During the same period, the All-items excluding energy index rose 2.3%.

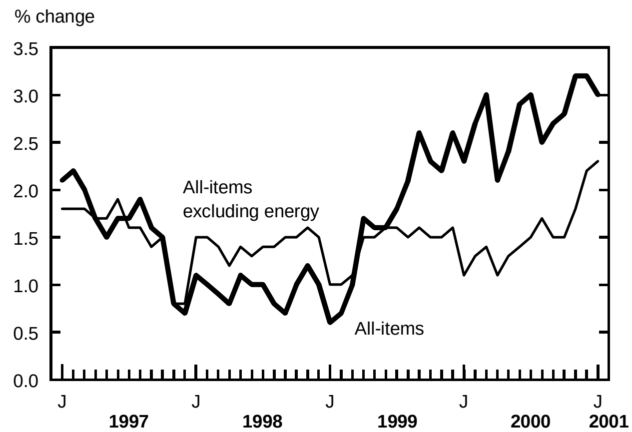
From January 2000 to January 2001, energy prices went up an average of 10.4%. This 12-month rise in energy prices is the lowest since August 1999. All components except the electricity index contributed to the increase in energy prices. The 0.7% decline in the electricity index is almost entirely the result of a $40 credit granted by the Alberta government in January 2001 to all households paying an electricity bill. This credit will be applied monthly for the 12 months of 2001.

Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the same month of the previous year



Among the other important factors contributing to the 12-month increase in the All-items CPI in January were mortgage interest cost, meat, food purchased from restaurants and traveller accommodation. However, the drop in prices for the purchase of automotive vehicles, computer equipment and supplies as well as child care partly offset this increase.

Annual change in the CPI and in the CPI excluding energy



Monthly drop is slight

The CPI declined by 0.3% from December to January. This drop follows a 0.1% monthly increase between November and December. Lower prices for the purchase of automotive vehicles, natural gas, travel tours and gasoline were the largest contributors to January's drop. However, higher prices for non-alcoholic beverages, food purchased from restaurants and beef moderated the decline in the monthly index.

The price index for the purchase of automotive vehicles slipped by 2.4% from December to January. This decrease can be explained by new manufacturers' rebates on certain models. These price reductions were intended to bring down higher inventory levels resulting from lower North American demand.

The natural gas index fell 6.5% from December to January, but only because of a 67.2% drop in the index for Alberta. To alleviate the effects of higher natural gas prices, the Alberta government introduced an assistance program for heating payments. Under this program, starting in January and for a four-month period, all households paying natural gas bills will receive a monthly credit of $150. Natural gas prices went up, however, in Ontario (+8.4%), Quebec (+11.4%) and British Columbia (+22.4%). In all cases, these increases reflect price adjustments in response to conditions in the North American market, where the supply is short of the demand.

The index for travel tours decreased 10.8% in January. Prices for travel tours are collected each year for January, February and March, when they are the most popular among travellers. Since January is the least popular of these three months, the prices for travel tours posted in January are generally lower than in March of the previous year. January 2001 was no exception to this pattern.

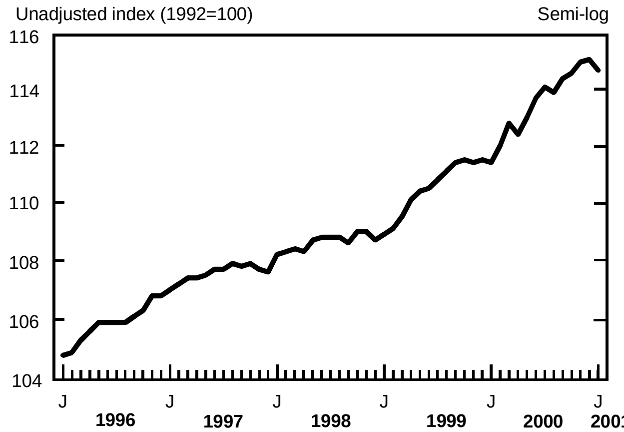
Gasoline prices fell 1.6% from December to January, the second consecutive monthly decrease. This decline can largely be attributed to greater production in recent months by the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), along with an increase in stocks of gasoline. The January announcement of a decrease in production by OPEC members, and the subsequent increase in the price of crude oil on international markets, has not yet had an impact on prices at the pump.

Prices for non-alcoholic beverages rose 10.1% from December to January. The increases registered for all provinces and Whitehorse were the result of a return to normal prices after holiday season promotions.

Prices for food purchased from restaurants rose 0.4% from December to January. Although price rises were seen for all types of restaurants, the largest contribution to the overall index movement was because of price increases for food purchased from fast food and take-out restaurants.

Beef prices rose by 2.3% in January, following a 2.5% increase in December. A combination of factors, including delays in deliveries associated with bad weather and strong demand for beef in both Canada and the United States, largely explains the higher prices.

Consumer Price Index



Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9970.

Available at 7 a.m. on Statistics Canada’s Web site (*www.statcan.ca*).

The January 2001 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XIB, $8/$77; 62-001-XPB, $11/$103) is now available. See *How to order products*.

February’s Consumer Price Index will be released on March 21.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. □

Consumer Price Index and major components
(1992=100)

	January 2001	December 2000	January 2000	December 2000 to January 2001	January 2000 to January 2001
	not seasonally adjusted				
				% change	
All-items	**114.7**	**115.1**	**111.4**	**-0.3**	**3.0**
Food	114.7	114.5	110.8	0.2	3.5
Shelter	111.0	111.7	106.7	-0.6	4.0
Household operations and furnishings	110.5	110.5	108.7	0.0	1.7
Clothing and footwear	104.8	105.2	104.3	-0.4	0.5
Transportation	131.2	132.4	127.3	-0.9	3.1
Health and personal care	113.1	112.8	111.0	0.3	1.9
Recreation, education and reading	121.4	122.0	118.5	-0.5	2.4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	99.2	99.0	96.2	0.2	3.1
Goods	112.3	113.2	108.8	-0.8	3.2
Services	117.5	117.4	114.3	0.1	2.8
All-items excluding food and energy	112.8	113.0	110.6	-0.2	2.0
Energy	130.9	134.5	118.6	-2.7	10.4
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1992	87.2	86.9	89.8		
All-items (1986=100)	146.8				

Consumer Price Index for the provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife
(1992=100)

	January 2001	December 2000	January 2000	December 2000 to January 2001	January 2000 to January 2001
	not seasonally adjusted				
				% change	
Newfoundland	114.0	114.0	111.6	0.0	2.2
Prince Edward Island	114.1	113.4	109.1	0.6	4.6
Nova Scotia	115.3	116.0	112.0	-0.6	2.9
New Brunswick	113.4	113.8	110.3	-0.4	2.8
Quebec	111.7	111.8	108.7	-0.1	2.8
Ontario	115.9	116.0	111.9	-0.1	3.6
Manitoba	119.1	119.9	116.4	-0.7	2.3
Saskatchewan	118.3	119.1	114.6	-0.7	3.2
Alberta	116.0	119.6	114.7	-3.0	1.1
British Columbia	114.5	114.3	111.3	0.2	2.9
Whitehorse	115.9	115.8	112.3	0.1	3.2
Yellowknife	112.1	112.1	109.6	0.0	2.3

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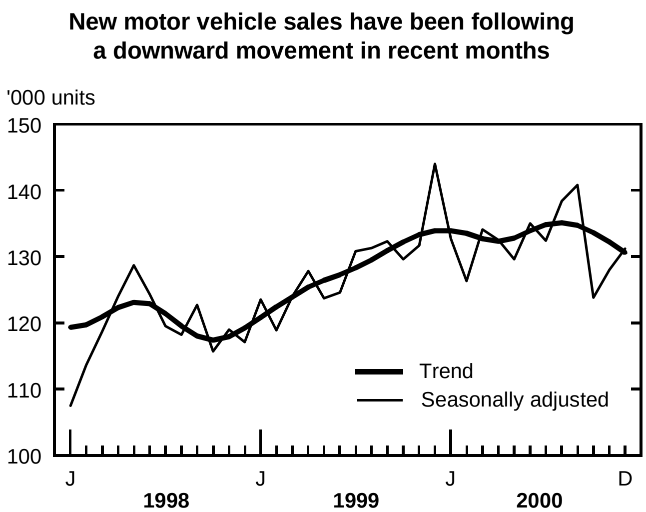
New motor vehicle sales

2000 and December 2000

The number of new motor vehicles sold in December rose 2.5% compared with November, when a 3.3% increase was observed. However, these two monthly increases were not enough to offset the 12.0% drop reported in October. (Unless otherwise indicated, all data in this release are seasonally adjusted.)

A total of 131,151 new motor vehicles were sold in December, 3,190 more units than in November. Both passenger cars and trucks contributed to this increase. In fact, new car sales climbed 2.1%, while truck sales climbed 2.9% in December. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.



Preliminary figures from the auto industry show that new motor vehicle sales in January 2001 remained at approximately the same level as in December.

Record annual sales in 2000

Despite the slowdown of sales observed in the final months of the year, new motor vehicle sales reached a record level in 2000. In all, 1,587,608 new motor vehicles were sold. This is the highest number ever sold, surpassing by 1.5% the previous peak observed in 1988. However, the 3.0% advance seen in 2000 falls short of the 7.9% increase reported in 1999.

Note to readers

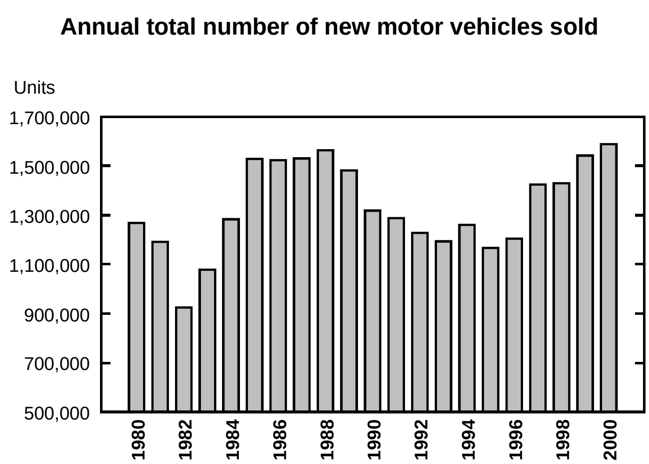
At the end of each calendar year, seasonally adjusted monthly figures are revised to equal the sum of the unadjusted estimates. Revised seasonally adjusted figures are presented this month for September to November 2000. The complete revision of seasonally adjusted data for the 2000 calendar year will be released in April 2001. All annual comparisons in this release use the sum of unadjusted monthly estimates.

All data in this release except annual data are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated. Seasonally adjusted provincial data from January 1991 to the present are available on CANSIM.

Passenger cars include those used for personal and commercial purposes, such as taxis or rental cars. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

North American-built new motor vehicles include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been included with the data for British Columbia.



Passenger car sales dominated truck sales

The increase in sales of all new motor vehicles in 2000 is attributable mainly to sales of new passenger cars. Car sales rose 5.3% over 1999, whereas truck sales rose just 0.4%.

In all, 849,171 new cars were sold. The annual increase of 5.3% in 2000 follows an 8.9% increase in 1999.

Notwithstanding fluctuations during 2000, the number of new passenger cars sold in December was almost the same as the number sold at the start of the year. This sales plateau in 2000 follows a period of increases extending back to the fall of 1998.

The number of new trucks sold in 2000 rose to 738,437 units. The 0.4% increase is lower than the 6.9% increase reported in 1999.

Despite the gains in November and December, new truck sales have been declining since the end of the summer, resulting in reduced sales of all new motor vehicles. Truck sales began rising in the spring of 2000 and continued until the end of the summer. Before the spring, truck sales had been stable since mid-1999, after strong gains in the first half of that year.

Trucks' market share slips

The market share for the number of trucks sold slipped to 46.5% in 2000 from 47.7% in 1999. In 1990, new truck sales captured 32.9% of all new motor vehicle sales. Thereafter, the market share for trucks rose steadily to 48.2% in 1998.

Despite the fact that more passenger cars than trucks were sold in 2000, trucks accounted for 55.7% of the $46.9 billion in revenues from sales of all new motor vehicles. This is explained by an average unit value of $35,393 for trucks, compared with $24,477 for passenger cars.

Measured by average unit price, passenger cars cost 3.8% more in 2000 than in 1999; the average truck price dropped 1.0%.

Strong increases in annual sales in the west

Sales of new motor vehicles varied considerably from province to province in 2000.

Alberta (+8.6%), the region formed by British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut (+6.9%) and Saskatchewan (+6.0%) saw their sales of new motor vehicles increase by at least double the national year-over-year growth rate (+3.0%).

New Brunswick (-2.0%), Newfoundland (-1.7%) and Manitoba (-1.4%) reported the only declines in 2000. The lower annual sales performance in these provinces is attributable mainly to the decrease in the number of new trucks sold. In fact, these provinces reported the largest declines in new truck sales as well as the weakest increases in sales of passenger cars.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

The December 2000 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007-XIB, $13/$124) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; *kimacle@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. □

New motor vehicle sales

	December 1999	November 2000[r]	December 2000[p]	December 1999 to December 2000	November to December 2000
	seasonally adjusted				
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	**143,951**	**127,961**	**131,151**	**-8.9**	**2.5**
Passenger cars	79,792	70,273	71,783	-10.0	2.1
North American[1]	62,630	52,720	54,775	-12.5	3.9
Overseas	17,162	17,553	17,008	-0.9	-3.1
Trucks, vans and buses	64,159	57,688	59,368	-7.5	2.9
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	2,116	2,009	2,028	-4.2	0.9
Prince Edward Island	481	432	439	-8.7	1.6
Nova Scotia	3,946	3,529	3,704	-6.1	5.0
New Brunswick	3,948	3,440	3,230	-18.2	-6.1
Quebec	37,818	31,780	32,335	-14.5	1.7
Ontario	59,837	52,473	53,399	-10.8	1.8
Manitoba	3,694	3,261	3,518	-4.8	7.9
Saskatchewan	3,105	2,837	2,991	-3.7	5.4
Alberta	14,795	14,174	14,866	0.5	4.9
British Columbia[2]	14,212	14,026	14,641	3.0	4.4

	December 1999	November 2000	December 2000[p]	December 1999 to December 2000
	unadjusted			
	number of vehicles			% change
New motor vehicles	**132,561**	**117,609**	**116,162**	**-12.4**
Passenger cars	67,302	63,661	58,223	-13.5
North American[1]	53,502	48,370	45,215	-15.5
Overseas	13,800	15,291	13,008	-5.7
Trucks, vans and buses	65,259	53,948	57,939	-11.2
New motor vehicles				
Newfoundland	1,345	1,463	1,239	-7.9
Prince Edward Island	382	320	332	-13.1
Nova Scotia	3,337	2,765	3,049	-8.6
New Brunswick	3,513	2,854	2,650	-24.6
Quebec	29,641	26,731	23,717	-20.0
Ontario	56,998	51,191	48,643	-14.7
Manitoba	3,710	3,040	3,326	-10.4
Saskatchewan	3,281	2,737	3,016	-8.1
Alberta	16,004	13,775	15,544	-2.9
British Columbia[2]	14,350	12,733	14,646	2.1

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*
1 *Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.*
2 *Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.*

Annual sales of new motor vehicles
2000

	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks	Total	Passenger cars	Trucks
	number of vehicles			% change from 1999		
Canada	**1,587,608**	**849,171**	**738,437**	**3.0**	**5.3**	**0.4**
Newfoundland	24,001	13,993	10,008	-1.7	0.9	-5.2
Prince Edward Island	4,997	2,753	2,244	4.1	3.0	5.4
Nova Scotia	44,357	26,062	18,295	2.3	4.0	-0.1
New Brunswick	41,004	21,164	19,840	-2.0	1.4	-5.4
Quebec	391,409	249,635	141,774	1.4	4.2	-3.2
Ontario	659,458	359,393	300,065	2.2	4.9	-0.9
Manitoba	42,754	18,701	24,053	-1.4	3.1	-4.7
Saskatchewan	36,871	14,401	22,470	6.0	11.0	3.1
Alberta	174,725	64,242	110,483	8.6	8.5	8.7
British Columbia[1]	168,032	78,827	89,205	6.9	10.2	4.1

[1] *Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.*

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Livestock estimates

January 1, 2001

Cattle inventories rose slightly amid favorable market conditions in 2000, while the number of hogs on farms declined. However, sheep made a comeback during the year; and as of January 1, 2001, their numbers reached a 36-year high.

Farmers reported they had 842,200 head of sheep as of January 1, 2001, a 21.2% increase over January 1, 2000 and the highest level since the early 1960s. Sheep producers have expanded their industry, as improved demand and prices encouraged the building of the breeding herd. There is still room for more expansion, as Canada continues to import more mutton and lamb than it produces.

The inventory of cattle and calves climbed a modest 0.6% to 12.9 million head, but this was still 4.1% below the peak reached in January 1997. Strong fed cattle and feeder prices encouraged farmers to retain more calves and heifers for breeding and send fewer cattle to market.

The hog sector declined 1.8% in 2000 to about 12.0 million head. The number of hogs fell 1.3% during the fourth quarter alone. Declines were largest in Ontario, where the herd fell 10.2% during the year to 3.1 million head. The largest increase was in Saskatchewan, where the herd expanded 7.9% to 1 million head.

Livestock inventories

January 1

	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	'000 head					
Canada	**12,786**	**12,860**	**12,242**	**12,027**	**695**	**842**
Atlantic	301	297	366	380	32	33
Quebec	1,257	1,272	3,688	3,689	138	175
Ontario	1,995	2,029	3,440	3,089	191	245
Manitoba	1,160	1,220	1,871	1,920	59	90
Saskatchewan	2,225	2,262	962	1,038	78	92
Alberta	5,224	5,163	1,770	1,762	155	167
British Columbia	625	617	145	149	41	40

Note: *Totals may not add because of rounding.*

Cattle herd expansion the result of growth in the breeding herd

The 0.6% increase in the cattle herd in 2000 was the result primarily of a 1.5% growth in the breeding herd, as strong feeder and fed cattle prices gave cow-calf operators an incentive to retain more calves and heifers for breeding instead of sell them as feeders. In addition, total slaughter declined 4.3%, further contributing to the increase in inventories.

The beef sector had several bright spots in 2000. Average annual prices reached record highs during the year, climbing 22.8% above their low point in 1996. Farm cash receipts also climbed, primarily fuelled by rising livestock receipts. During the first nine months of 2000, receipts for cattle and calves rose 10.7% to $4.9 billion.

Feed grain costs remained relatively low, as did interest rates. Also, the Canadian dollar remained weak in relation to the U.S. dollar, an important factor for an industry that depends on trade with the United States. In addition, Canadians have started to put more beef on the dinner table following years of declining consumption.

Cattle and calves inventory by farm type

Canada's 77,600 cow-calf operations held 7.4 million head at January 1, 2001, up 3.5% from January 1, 2000. Total cattle inventory on backgrounding-stocker operations was 1.3 million head, down 5.1% from January 1, 2000 and 22.7% below the same date in 1998. Despite low feed grain prices, the number of cattle on feeding operations declined 7.2% to 1.9 million head, the result of a decreasing supply of feeders in the domestic market.

The dairy herd increased 1.6% from January 1, 2000 and was estimated at 2.3 million head on January 1, 2001. This increase reverses a downward trend, which saw the number of dairy operations shrink by 18.2% over the last five years. The decline was partly owing to higher output per animal and the fact that Canadians were drinking less milk.

Note to readers

Data for this release came from the January Livestock Survey, a telephone survey of 14,000 farm operators conducted in late December and early January. Farmers were asked to report the number of livestock they had on their farms as of January 1, 2001.

In Canada, cow-calf operations primarily produce weaned calves. Calves 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 as feeders to feeding operations, such as feedlots, during the second year of their lives. Feeding operations specialize in "finishing" cattle, mostly steers and heifers, bringing them to market weight (fed cattle) on a high-energy ration.

Cattle and calves inventory per farm type
January 1

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2000 to 2001
	'000 head						% change
Dairy herd	**2,477**	**2,477**	**2,403**	**2,324**	**2,220**	**2,255**	**1.6%**
Beef herd							
Cow-calf	7,967	7,880	7,503	7,323	7,175	7,428	3.5
Feeders-stockers	1,528	1,582	1,685	1,553	1,372	1,302	-5.1
Feeding operations	1,430	1,470	1,625	1,703	2,021	1,876	-7.2
Total cattle and calves	**13,402**	**13,409**	**13,215**	**12,902**	**12,786**	**12,860**	**0.6**

Note: *Totals may not add because of rounding.*

Biggest decline in hogs occurred in Ontario

Most of the 1.8% decline in hog numbers resulted from Ontario's inventory loss of 351,400 head. Increases in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec were not enough to offset the overall reduction of inventories.

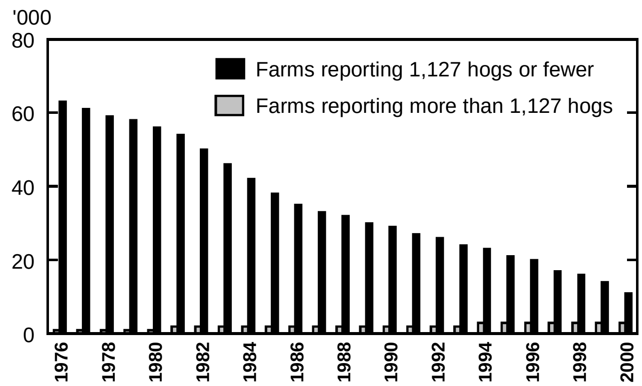
The breeding herd was 0.7% larger on January 1, 2001 than it was on January 1, 2000. Also, farrowing — sows giving birth — was up 2.2% in the fourth quarter. However, farrowing intentions for the first quarter of 2001 were up 4.3% compared with the first quarter of 2000.

Export markets continue to be crucial to Canada's hog industry. Exports of live hogs, primarily to the United States, reached a record 4.4 million in 2000, 6.2% higher than in 1999. Greater numbers of weaner pigs were shipped to American producers, who have shifted their focus from farrow-to-finishing to just finishing because of the availability of low-cost feed grains.

Continued low costs for feed grains, higher prices paid for hogs, and an increasing number of contractual agreements all provide incentives to produce hogs.

Rising cash receipts for hogs made an important contribution to the 13.3% increase in livestock receipts in the first nine months of 2000, compared with the same period in 1999. Hog receipts totalled $2.6 billion during this period, up 47.1%. Prices continued to recover from the lows reached in December 1998, while marketings reached record levels, rising 22.6% over the previous five-year average.

Number of pig farms by herd size



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

Livestock statistics — update (23-603-UPE, $45/$149) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Plourde, Agriculture Division (613-951-8716, *robert.plourde@statcan.ca*) or call the Agriculture Division information line (1-800-465-1991). ■

OTHER RELEASES

Survey of Usage by Businesses of the Social Insurance Number
2000

The vast majority of businesses ask new employees for their Social Insurance Number (SIN), but most don't ask to see their actual SIN card, according to a new survey of more than 1,000 companies. Employers are supposed to ask for the SIN card within three days of hiring a new employee, according to legislation governing the use of the SIN.

Ninety-four percent of companies reported that they ask new employees for their SIN. This was especially the case with large businesses, those with 250 or more employees, among whom the proportion was 99%.

However, more than two-thirds of all businesses reported that they never ask to see the SIN card of a new employee when they record the number. This was true for 68% of both small businesses, those with 2 to 24 employees, and medium-sized businesses, those with 25 to 249 employees. About 57% of large businesses reported that they never ask to see the card.

These data came from the Survey of Usage by Businesses of the Social Insurance Number, conducted by Statistics Canada during June and July 2000 on behalf of Human Resources Development Canada. The survey asked companies with two or more employees how they used the SIN of their employees, contract workers and clients, and how they used the SIN card.

The survey also showed that the vast majority of small and medium businesses did not know what to ask for when presented with a 900-series social insurance card. Only 12% of small businesses and 24% of medium businesses reported that they knew what to ask in such situations, compared with 54% of large businesses.

To be eligible to work in Canada, a 900-series SIN cardholder must present a valid employment authorization issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The 900 series is a number issued to non-permanent residents, such as refugee claimants, seasonal workers and foreign students, based on immigration documents that expire. The 900 series can also be issued to citizens of another country, even if they do not reside in Canada, for such reasons as opening a bank account or investing in Canada.

According to the data, 31% of all companies reported that they were very familiar, or familiar, with government policies regarding the appropriate use of the SIN. However, the larger the business, the more it was aware of such policies.

About 62% of large companies reported they were familiar or very familiar with these policies, compared with 39% of medium businesses and only 29% of small businesses. Many large businesses have human resource professionals on staff who are knowledgeable about government policies to do with employment, including the SIN, which may explain this result.

The survey also found that more than half of all businesses never ask employees for permission to use their SIN for various purposes. However, 62% of large businesses ask employees' consent if they use the SIN to perform security checks, and 61% ask for consent if they use it as a file identifier.

Employees did not enquire often about how their employer used their SIN. According to the data, only 13% of large businesses, 4% of medium businesses and 2% of small businesses reported ever having had an employee limit the use of a SIN.

For more information about the SIN and its uses, visit Human Resources Development Canada's Web site (*www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca*) or contact Daniel Lavoie (819-994-5559; *daniel.lavoie@hrdc-drhc.gc.ca*), Human Resources Development Canada.

The electronic publication *Survey of Usage by Businesses of the Social Insurance Number* (61F0090XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*), From the *Products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Business enterprises*. This publication contains tables relating to this release, along with information about the methods and concepts of the survey.

To order tables, more more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Whiteley (613-951-3166; *paul.whiteley@statcan.ca*), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

Employment services
1998

Data for 1998 on the employment services industry are now available. These data provide information such as the industry's total revenue, salaries and wages, profit margin, percentage distribution of revenue by type of service, expenditures and client base.

To obtain data, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Adib Farhat (613-951-6306; *farhadi@statcan.ca*) or Tom Newton (613-951-0377), Service Industries Division. ■

A guide to deflating the input–output accounts: sources and methods

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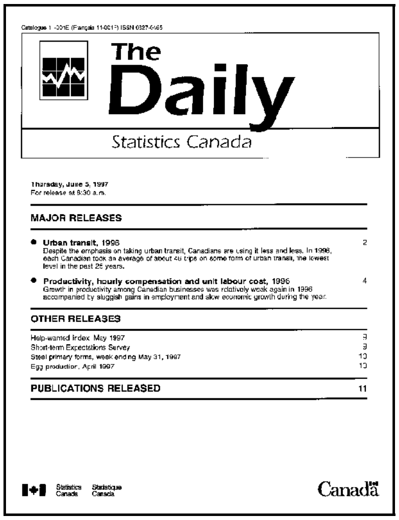
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