



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, October 4, 2002

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Estimates of principal field crops, September 2002** 2  
Crop conditions continued to deteriorate in western Canada, following one of the worst disasters for grain and oilseed production reported in July.
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## OTHER RELEASES

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- Canadian Vehicle Survey, first quarter 2002 4
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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**RELEASE DATES:** October 7 to 11 7

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Estimates of principal field crops

September 2002

Crop conditions continued to deteriorate in western Canada, following one of the worst disasters for grain and oilseed production reported in July, as published in *The Daily* of August 23. Rains and freezing temperatures delayed harvest and downgraded quality.

This report, based on farmers' mid-harvest estimates, shows wheat production remaining steady since the July report, but barley, oat and field pea production is expected to be cut further. Canola production is expected to increase slightly from July's estimate.

#### September production estimates

Crop	2001	2002	2001 to 2002
	Millions of tonnes		% change
<b>Total wheat</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>-25</b>
Spring wheat	16.0	10.3	-36
Barley	10.8	7.7	-29
Grain Corn <sup>1</sup>	8.1	8.2	1
Canola	4.9	3.3	-33
Durum wheat	3.0	3.6	20
Oats	2.7	2.9	7
Field Peas	2.0	1.4	-30
Soybeans <sup>1</sup>	1.6	2.3	44
Flaxseed	0.7	0.7	0
Rye	0.2	0.1	-50

<sup>1</sup> Quebec and Ontario only.

After struggling with one of the worst droughts on record, western farmers encountered heavy rains and freezing temperatures in August and September. Second growth in fields was widely reported. Some seeds waiting to be harvested sprouted, rendering them useless for any purpose other than for animal feed. Other cereal grains were stained or bleached by the rain, making them less suitable for milling and decreasing their value. During this type of weather, plants do not dry, delaying harvest and increasing the probability of frost damage.

Wet fields made it difficult to operate the heavy trucks and combines used to harvest the crops. Harvest is well behind normal and western Canada has already experienced freezing temperatures. The longer this delay occurs, the greater the likelihood of even lower production and quality.

The rains have helped to restore soil moisture reserves and pasture conditions. More will be needed, but the rain so far gave some optimism for the 2003 crop year.

### Barley takes another hit

Barley production lost approximately 205 000 metric tonnes since the July report. Production decreased to 7.7 million tonnes as a result of a small loss in yield and a further reduction in harvested area.

The barley yield is now estimated at 40.2 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushels from July and well below the 10-year average of 55.3 bushels. Harvested area fell by 140,000 acres since the July report to 8.8 million acres. Harvested acreage represents only 69% of seeded acreage in 2002.

Production losses were shared by the three Prairie provinces. Manitoba and Saskatchewan lost 50,000 and 100,000 acres to be harvested respectively; yields were mostly unchanged from the July report. Alberta yields decreased 1.0 bushel to 39.7 bushels per acre.

### Field pea production withers

Dry field pea production dropped to 1.4 million tonnes, down from 2.0 million in 2001 and 2.9 million in 2000. Drought conditions cut yields from 23.4 bushels per acre in 2001 to 18.9 bushels, the lowest yield since 1988.

### Oat production worsens

Poor growing conditions have cut 140 000 tonnes from the 2002 oat production since the July report, bringing the September estimate to 2.9 million tonnes. The reduction was attributed to a decline in yield and harvested area. Yields fell 1.2 bushels from July to 52.6 bushels per acre. The 10-year average is 64.3 bushels. The harvested area lost nearly 100,000 acres since July, similar to the situation for barley. This loss in harvested acreage was found entirely in Saskatchewan.

Of the 2.6 million oat acres seeded in Saskatchewan, only 1.6 million will be harvested for a ratio of 62%. However, this is still better than Alberta, which seeded 1.7 million acres but will only harvest 500,000 acres for a ratio of 29%.

Manitoba and Alberta both reported decreases in yields. Manitoba reported a yield of 65.0 bushels per acre, down 3.0 bushels from July but up from the 2001 yield of 60.6 bushels. Alberta yields were down 2.0 bushels from July to 46.0 bushels per acre, compared with 64.0 bushels in 2001.

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### Canola production cut from 2001

Canola production increased 3% from the July report to 3.3 million tonnes, but this was still 33% less than in 2001. Although the harvested acreage decreased by nearly 100,000 since the July report, yields in Alberta and Manitoba were slightly better.

Manitoba yield estimates increased 1.6 bushels to 25.6 bushels per acre, compared with 26.3 bushels per acre in 2001. Alberta yield estimates rose 0.6 bushels from July to 16.9 bushels per acre, compared with 27.0 in 2001. Summer rains reportedly benefited the later-seeded crops, which resulted in the improved yield.

### Wheat production down from 2001

Weather conditions through August and September downgraded the quality of the crop, but production was unchanged from the July report. Total wheat production is estimated to be 15.5 million tonnes, down 25% from 20.6 million tonnes in 2001. This is less than half of the record production of 32.1 million tonnes set in 1990.

Spring wheat production was estimated at 10.3 million tonnes, up approximately 100 000 tonnes from the July report. Yields were up a marginal 0.2 bushels from July to 24.4 bushels per acre, compared with the 10-year average of 33.1 bushels. Harvested acres were unchanged from July at 15.5 million acres.

Durum production was down nearly 50 000 tonnes from July to 3.6 million tonnes. The decrease resulted from an additional 100,000 acres being abandoned in Saskatchewan. The durum yield of 24.3 bushels per acre was up from the drought reduced 21.8 bushels in 2001 but well below the 10-year average of 31.4 bushels.

### Corn production up slightly

Although eastern Canadian farmers have fared better than their western counterparts, growing conditions have been excessively hot and dry throughout the season. Corn production in Quebec and Ontario was estimated to increase 1% from 2001 to 8.2 million tonnes, the result of an improvement of 2.7 bushels per acre to 108.4 bushels per acre.

Ontario exhibited the greatest improvement in yields, with estimates up 5% from 2001 to 108.3 bushels per acre. Quebec was slightly ahead of Ontario with yields at 108.6 bushels per acre, but was down 2.0 bushels from 2001. The 10-year average corn yield is 113.2 bushels per acre in Ontario and 109.3 bushels in Quebec.

Farm stocks of corn were reported at 800 000 tonnes, up from 700 000 tonnes in 2001.

### Soybean turnaround

Despite the hot and dry summer conditions in eastern Canada, soybean yields in Quebec and Ontario have increased 52% from 2001. Production is estimated to increase 44% to 2.3 million tonnes, in line with the 10-year average.

Ontario yields jumped 12.8 bushels from 2001 to 33.9 bushels per acre but were still below the 10-year average of 37.0 bushels. Quebec also improved to 38.6 bushels per acre compared with 32.2 bushels in 2001. The 10-year average yield in Quebec is 41.4 bushels per acre.

Farm stocks of soybean were only 25 000 tonnes, down sharply from 85 000 tonnes in 2001.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0010 and 001-0017 to 001-0020.**

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 3401.**

*Field crop reporting series: September estimates of production of principal field crops, Canada, 2002, Vol. 81, no. 7 (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](mailto:dave.burroughs@statcan.ca)), David Roeske (613-951-0572; [david.roeske@statcan.ca](mailto:david.roeske@statcan.ca)) or Brent Wilson (613-951-0730; [brent.wilson@statcan.ca](mailto:brent.wilson@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Canadian Vehicle Survey

First quarter 2002

Vehicles covered in the Canadian Vehicle Survey travelled an estimated 71.7 billion kilometres in the first quarter. Among them, vehicles weighing less than 4 500 kilograms (and not used as a bus) travelled 65.6 billion kilometres, or 91% of the total during the quarter.

The survey measures the activity of all on-road vehicles registered in Canada with the exception of some vehicles such as motorcycles, construction equipment and road maintenance equipment.

Estimates of total vehicle-kilometres are available by province and territory. Estimates of passenger-kilometres are available by province only.

The first quarter 2002 issue of *The Canadian Vehicle Survey* (53F0004XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Transport and warehousing*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Transportation Division (1-866-500-8400; [transportationstatistics@statcan.ca](mailto:transportationstatistics@statcan.ca)). ■

### Farm product prices

August 2002

Prices received by farmers in August for grains, oilseeds, speciality crops, fruits, vegetables, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Ontario soybeans price in August was \$311.47 per metric tonne, up 2% from July, but still well below the record high of \$430.04 in May 1997.

The Saskatchewan slaughter cattle price in August, at \$69.03 per hundredweight, was up 4% from July, but still 15% below the August 2001 price of \$81.19.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; fax: 613-951-3868; [bernie.rosien@statcan.ca](mailto:bernie.rosien@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Infomat — a weekly review**, October 4, 2002  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XIE** (\$3/\$109).

**Infomat — a weekly review**, October 4, 2002  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XPE** (\$4/\$145).

**Field crop reporting series**, Vol. 81, no. 7  
**Catalogue number 22-002-XIB** (\$11/\$66).

**Field crop reporting series**, Vol. 81, no. 7  
**Catalogue number 22-002-XPB** (\$15/\$88).

**Canadian Vehicle Survey**, First quarter 2002  
**Catalogue number 53F0004XIE**  
(free).

**Quarterly demographic statistics**, April to June 2002,  
Vol. 16, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 91-002-XIB** (\$8/\$25).

**Quarterly demographic statistics**, April to June 2002,  
Vol. 16, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 91-002-XPB** (\$10/\$33).

**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 -XCB are electronic versions on compact disc.

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
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**Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.**

Catalogue 11-001-XIE (F) English 11-001-XIE/001-0007-0-001	
 <b>The Daily</b>	
Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 3, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
<b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>	
• <b>Urban transit, 1996</b> Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 21 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• <b>Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996</b> 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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## Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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*The Daily*, October 4, 2002

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**RELEASE DATES: OCTOBER 7 TO 11**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
7	Building permits	August 2002
10	New Housing Price Index	August 2002
11	Labour Force Survey	September 2002