



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

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MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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NEW PRODUCTS



OTHER RELEASES

Production of poultry and eggs

January 2002 (preliminary)

Egg production was estimated at 49.9 million dozen in January, up 5.3% from January 2001.

Available on CANSIM: tables: 003-0022, 003-0038 and 003-0039.

The January 2002 issue of *Production of eggs* (23-003-XIB, free) will be available soon on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rita Athwal (613-951-5022; rita.athwal@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills

December 2001 and annual 2001

Production by lumber manufacturers in December fell 22.1% from November to 4 222.0 thousand cubic metres, the lowest since June 1992.

December's normal seasonal trough was amplified by a rise in the number of sawmill closures and layoffs following anti-dumping duties imposed in October by the United States on Canadian softwood lumber exports.

The Softwood Lumber Agreement between the two nations came into effect on April 1, 1996 and ended on March 31, 2001. It imposed quotas on exports to the US market from British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta. In August, the US Department of Commerce imposed a 19.3% duty on Canadian lumber exports to the American market, and followed it with an additional 12.6% duty for dumping in October.

Lumber shipments in December amounted to 4 593.6 thousand cubic metres, down 13.4% from November. Production decreased at a higher rate than shipments, and the reduction in inventories that began in the second half of 2001 continued in December. Stocks reached 8 321.8 thousand cubic metres in December, down 4.1% from November and down 6.8% from December 2000.

Lumber exports in December increased 1.2% from November to 3 706.2 thousand cubic metres. This slight rise is partly explained by the fact that the 19.3% countervailing duties imposed in August were dropped

in mid-December, pending a final decision by the Department of Commerce.

On an annual basis, total lumber production for 2001 was 65 819.7 thousand cubic metres, down 5.8% from 2000. Total shipments reached 66,476.5 thousand cubic metres, down 3.2% from 2000.

This annual change masks the large deterioration that occurred in the last six months of 2001. Although shipments increased in the first half of 2001, they fell 6.6% in the third quarter from the second, and were down 1.4% in the fourth quarter from the third.

Sawmills gradually slowed their production and began to curtail their stocks in the second half of 2001. From January to June, sawmill stocks averaged 9 500 thousand cubic metres a month; by the end of 2001, they were averaging roughly 8 000 thousand cubic metres a month.

Exports from sawmills rose a marginal 0.9% over 2000, despite the uncertainty created by the lumber dispute and the economic slowdown. This increase was mainly the result of a 2.0% growth in housing starts in the United States, as well as declining interest rates. In Canada, housing starts rose 8.3%, also sustaining shipments.

Lumber prices, which fell 1.9% in December from November, remained relatively stable in recent months. Throughout 2001, however, they fluctuated greatly, mainly because of uncertainty created by the lumber dispute. Lumber prices at the end of 2001 were 6.4% higher than in December 2000.

Among the provinces in 2001, British Columbia, which accounts for 46% of the country's lumber production, posted a 6.2% drop in production from 2000. As in previous years, sawmills in the coastal region experienced a much larger decline in production (-21.3%) than those in the interior (-2.2%).

In Quebec, the second largest lumber-producing province, production was down 10.8% in 2001 from 2000. Production rose in Manitoba (+11.2%), New Brunswick (+4.0%) and Ontario (+2.9%).

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

The December 2001 issue of *Sawmills and planing mills*, Vol. 55, no. 12 (35-003-XIB, \$9/\$86) is now available. See *How to order products*.

To order data or for general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts,

methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; simales@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Input–output tables

New input–output tables are now available on the CANSIM database.

These tables include national input, output and final demand input–output tables at the link (L) and medium (M) aggregation for 1961–1998; and provincial 1997 and 1998 input, output and final demand input–output tables.

In addition, the table "Interprovincial and international trade flows at producer prices, annual (dollars)", 1997 and 1998, is now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 381-0009 to 381-0014 and 386-0002.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ronald Rioux (613-951-3697; fax: 951-0489; riouxr@statcan.ca), Input–Output Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Sawmills and planing mills, December 2001, Vol. 55, no. 12

Catalogue number 35-003-XIB (\$9/\$86).

Coal and coke statistics, December 2001, Vol. 80, no. 12

Catalogue number 45-002-XIB (\$9/\$85).

Energy statistics handbook, December 2001

Catalogue number 57-601-UPB (\$387).

Energy statistics handbook, December 2001

Catalogue number 57-601-XCB (\$284).

Imports by country, January–December 2001, Vol. 58, no. 4

Catalogue number 65-006-XMB (\$62/\$206).

Imports by country, January–December 2001, Vol. 58, no. 4

Catalogue number 65-006-XPB (\$124/\$412).

Employment, earnings and hours, December 2001, Vol. 79, no. 12

Catalogue number 72-002-XIB (\$24/\$240).

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

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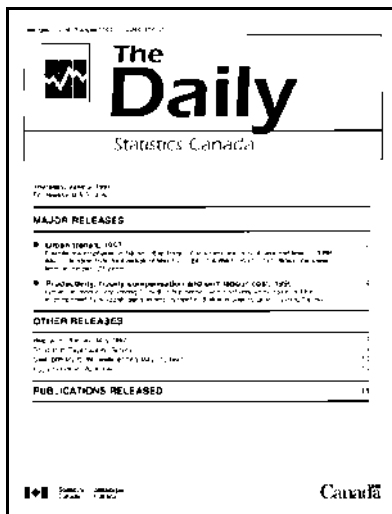
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