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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

(continued on page 2)

Seasonal variation in rural employment

This analysis bulletin, the twenty-fourth in a series profiling trends in rural Canada, uses survey data to reveal the seasonal pattern of employment in rural Canada from 1996 to 2000. It is published in collaboration with the Rural Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

According to *Seasonal variation in rural employment,* a higher seasonal variation in employment exists in rural areas compared with urban areas, and is spread throughout virtually all industrial sectors. The lower industrial productivity and reduced wages that likely result present a particular challenge for developing and revitalizing rural areas.

This bulletin is useful for researchers and decision-makers who need information on employment seasonality in rural Canada to create appropriate economic strategies.

Seasonal variation in rural employment (21-006-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (*http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/21-006-XIE/free.htm*). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Agriculture*.

To order data or for general information, call 1-800-465-1991. For more information, contact Neil Rothwell (613-951-3719; *neil-anthony.rothwell@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division.

OTHER RELEASES – concluded

NEW PRODUCTS

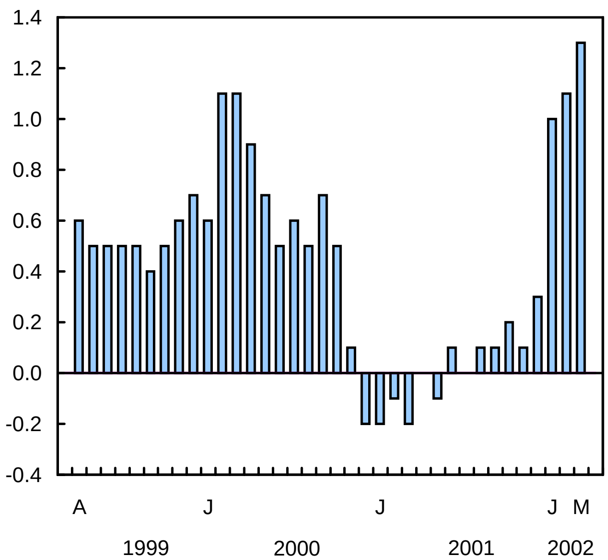
MAJOR RELEASES

Composite Index
March 2002

After having turned up rapidly from 0.1% in November to 1.1% in February, the growth of the leading index accelerated to 1.3% in March, its largest gain in 15 years. Only one component fell, compared with two in February; the manufacturing sector lagged behind, as it usually does early in an upswing.

Composite Index

Smoothed % change



Household demand remained a pillar of strength, especially for durable goods, as housing eased slightly from its unsustainable increases at the beginning of 2002. The moderation in the housing index originated in sales of existing homes, which retreated from their record highs. However, housing starts rebounded in March to near the 10-year peak they set in January. The rise was led by Alberta, which has the fastest-growing population and incomes in the country.

Manufacturing remained the slowest sector to recover, with one component down and two unchanged. This followed the pattern in past business cycles, when these components had long lead times in signalling downturns but lagged behind in upturns. For example, the ratio of shipments to stocks started to fall in October 2000, well before the other components, and has not yet started to recover. The lag originates in inventories, which firms often run down in the initial stages of a recovery before raising output. The average work week also was unchanged, and new orders continued to edge down.

The growth of the US leading indicator was steady at 0.6%, with gains spreading to all 10 components. As in Canada, the components related to household demand posted the largest increases.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

For more information on the economy, the April 2002 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, $23/$227) 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 Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. ☐

Composite Index

	October 2001	November 2001	December 2001	January 2002	February 2002	March 2002	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	**166.7**	**166.8**	**167.3**	**168.9**	**170.8**	**173.0**	**1.3**
Housing index (1992=100)[1]	111.5	112.4	116.0	121.8	126.8	129.8	2.4
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,476	2,482	2,489	2,503	2,518	2,530	0.5
TSE 300 stock price index (1975=1,000)	7,310	7,248	7,248	7,297	7,457	7,650	2.6
Money supply, M1 ($ millions, 1992)[2]	98,826	100,671	102,837	105,099	106,661	107,413	0.7
US composite leading indicator (1992=100)[3]	107.7	107.7	107.8	108.1	108.7	109.3	0.6
Manufacturing							
Average work week (hours)	39.1	39.0	38.9	38.9	38.9	38.9	0.0
New orders, durables ($ millions, 1992)[4]	21,455	21,094	20,482	20,227	19,979	19,934	-0.2
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.69	1.67	1.65	1.65	1.64	1.64	0.00[5]
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	1,628	1,628	1,640	1,653	1,674	1,703	1.7
Other durable goods sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	7,224	7,155	7,161	7,233	7,353	7,498	2.0
Unsmoothed composite	166.3	167.4	170.0	174.6	175.7	177.3	0.9

1 *Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).*
2 *Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.*
3 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.*
4 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for two preceding months.*
5 *Difference from previous month.*

■

Principal field crops: seeding intentions

March 31, 2002

Prairie farmers reported that they intended to plant larger areas of barley, oats, canola and durum wheat in 2002, but that they expected to reduce their seeded areas for spring wheat, field peas and flaxseed. Eastern farmers reported they would seed another record area to grain corn, but less to soybeans.

Seeding intentions of major grains and oilseeds

Crop	2001	2002	2001 to 2002	Five-year average
	Thousands of acres		% change	Thousands of acres
Total wheat	**28,356**	**26,423**	**-7**	**27,385**
Spring wheat	21,820	19,480	-11	20,645
Barley	12,395	13,390	8	11,939
Summerfallow	11,740	11,092	-6	13,158
Canola	9,777	9,870	1	12,274
Durum wheat	5,540	5,945	7	5,849
Oats	4,952	5,767	16	4,767
Corn for grain	3,103	3,335	7	2,856
Field peas	3,588	3,240	-10	2,707
Soybeans	2,574	2,424	-6	2,548
Flaxseed	1,638	1,585	-3	1,820

Spring wheat area drops sharply

The expected spring wheat area is 19.5 million acres, a drop of 2.3 million from 2001. The five-year average is 20.6 million acres. The lowest recent seeded acreage was 18.6 million in 1998. Spring wheat growers in Ontario reported that they will increase their plantings by 50,000 acres, but all three Prairie provinces will reduce area seeded by a total of 2.4 million acres.

Durum wheat on the rise

Western farmers expect to plant 5.9 million acres of durum wheat, up 405,000 acres from 2001 and 96,000 acres more than the five-year average. The record, 7.3 million acres, was set in 1998. Farmers in all three Prairie provinces will be increasing acreage. Durum and spring wheat areas have followed a familiar pattern from year to year; when one goes up, the other goes down. Durum wheat is well adapted to drought conditions, and reports that another dry season might be on the way may have influenced farmers' decisions, despite slow off-farm movement of durum in the 2001/02 crop year.

Note to readers

The March Intentions Survey of 12,200 farm operators was conducted by telephone during the last week of March. This report contains producers' seeding intentions for field crops in the coming crop year 2002/03. Since these seeding intentions reflect producers' plans in March, they may differ from what will actually be seeded later in the year. Changes in market outlook, expected prices, spring weather conditions and the published seeding intentions themselves may alter prospective cropping patterns. Estimates of actual seeded areas will be released on June 28.

Dry pea area set to fall

Dry pea area was expected to drop to 3.2 million acres, 10% less than 2001 but half a million acres more than the five-year average of 2.7 million acres. Both Saskatchewan and Manitoba together expect to seed 395,000 fewer acres; Alberta reported an increase of 50,000 acres.

Canola acreage climbs slightly

Producers of canola, Canada's major oilseed, reported that they intend to increase acreage to 9.9 million acres, up 1% from 2001. The most recent five-year average is 12.3 million acres. Manitoba farmers intend to seed 200,000 more acres for canola; Saskatchewan farmers will seed 100,000 fewer acres.

Barley intentions on the rise

Producers of barley expect to plant 13.4 million acres, 8% more than in 2001. The five-year average is 11.9 million acres. Barley prices were high last winter, encouraging larger seeding this spring, but prices have dropped since this survey was taken. Quebec and Ontario together increased seeding by 93,000 acres, and Saskatchewan and Alberta increased by a combined 950,000 acres. Manitoba is expected to seed 50,000 fewer acres.

Another record grain corn crop expected in the east

Eastern corn producers reported that they intend to seed a record 3.2 million acres, 7% more than the 3.0 million acres seeded in 2001. This will set a new high for seeded acreage in Quebec. The popularity of grain corn is based on its use in the primary ration for the hog industry in Ontario and Quebec, the two major hog-producing provinces, as well as in the growing ethanol fuel industry.

Soybean seedings double in Manitoba but drop in the east

Manitoba expects to more than double its soybean area to 100,000 acres. In contrast, Ontario and Quebec, the major soybean-producing provinces, each expect to reduce acreage 8%. This leaves a net decline of 150,000 acres for Canada compared with 2001.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0004, 001-0010 and 001-0017 to 001-0020.

Field crop reporting series no. 2: March intentions of principal field crop areas, Canada, 2001 Vol. 81 (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 Brent Wilson (613-951-0730; *brent.wilson@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance

February 2002 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in February was down 1.0% from January to 553,480. Led by Ontario (-4.4%), seven of the provinces and territories showed month-to-month declines. The number of regular beneficiaries was up 12.1% at the national level compared with February 2001.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	Feb. 2002p	Jan. to Feb. 2002	Feb. 2001 to Feb. 2002
	Seasonally adjusted		
		% change	
Canada	**553,480**	**-1.0**	**12.1**
Newfoundland and Labrador	37,430	0.9	8.3
Prince Edward Island	8,440	-1.6	-0.7
Nova Scotia	30,540	0.0	3.0
New Brunswick	34,940	0.3	3.7
Quebec	189,020	-0.7	10.2
Ontario	132,870	-4.4	22.7
Manitoba	13,500	-0.1	11.0
Saskatchewan	11,000	-0.8	0.4
Alberta	29,050	2.9	11.4
British Columbia	63,510	-0.5	15.8
Yukon	740	1.4	-6.3
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	980	-1.0	-2.0
	Unadjusted		
Northwest Territories	720	-8.9	-11.1
Nunavut	350	-2.8	12.9

p *Preliminary figures.*

Regular benefit payments made in February totaled $739.7 million, down 2.5% from January and up 18.8% from February 2001. The number of initial and renewal claims received fell 4.5% to an estimated 238,410 in February, 0.2% lower than in February 2001.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may from time to time be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act*. For example, in May 2001 the act was amended to eliminate the intensity rule, to adjust the benefit repayment provision and the re-entrant rules for parents returning to the workforce and, to align the EI fishing regulations with the enhanced maternity and parental benefits.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received EI benefits for the week containing the fifteenth day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies individuals received for the entire month. These different reference periods must be taken into consideration when comparisons are made between the two series.

The act allows each province or administrative region of Human Resources Development Canada to have certain autonomy in applying administrative procedures regarding renewal claims. Data users must note that month-to-month changes in levels may be affected by different administrative procedures for renewal claims between one province, territory or region and another.

Employment Insurance statistics

	Feb. 2001	Jan. 2002	Feb. 2002	Jan. to Feb. 2002	Feb. 2001 to Feb. 2002
	Seasonally adjusted				
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	493,620	559,210p	553,480p	-1.0	12.1
Regular benefits paid ($ millions)	622.4	759.0	739.7	-2.5	18.8
Claims received ('000)	238.8	249.5	238.4	-4.5	-0.2
	Unadjusted				
				% change	
All beneficiaries ('000)	840.5	1,031.7p	1,022.8p	-0.9	21.7
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	645.2	742.2p	725.7p	-2.2	12.5
Claims received ('000)	193.7	357.4	192.7	-46.1	-0.5
Payments ($ millions)	1,096.4	1,530.1	1,380.3	-9.8	25.9
	Year-to-date (January to February)				
			2001	2002	2001 to 2002
					% change
Claims received ('000)			541.9	550.0	1.5
Payments ($ millions)			2,447.9	2,910.4	18.9

p *Preliminary figures.*

Note: *All beneficiaries includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (e.g., due to layoff) or special benefits (e.g., due to illness).*

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0012, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

To order data, or for general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091) or Dominique Pérusse (613-951-4064), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Construction type plywood

February 2002

Firms produced 166 080 cubic metres of construction-type plywood in February, up 0.8% from 164 780 cubic metres in February 2001.

Year-to-date production to the end of February totalled 346 207 cubic metres, up 3.2% from 335 335 cubic metres in the same period in 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0005.

The February 2002 issue of *Construction type plywood*, Vol. 50, no. 2 (35-001-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*). 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. ■

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics

February 2002

Pulpwood receipts in February totalled 3 726 497 cubic metres, down 12.2% from 4 243 901 cubic metres in February 2001. Wood residue receipts fell 3.3%, to 6 841 901 cubic metres in February from 7 075 529 cubic metres in February 2001. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 9 336 254 cubic metres, down 1.6% from 9 492 138 cubic metres in February 2001.

The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue fell 16.3% to 13 071 958 cubic metres, down from 15 614 210 cubic metres in February 2001. Year-to-date consumption of pulpwood and wood residue to the end of February was 19 530 947 cubic metres, down 3.3% from 20 194 394 cubic metres in the same period of 2001. Figures for 2001 have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0008 and 303-0021.

The February 2002 issue of *Pulpwood and wood residue statistics*, Vol. 45, no. 2 (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*). 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. ■

Telecommunications statistics

Fourth quarter 2001

The fourth quarter 2001 issue of *Quarterly telecommunications statistics*, Vol. 25, no. 4 (56-002-XIE, $21/$40) 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 Heidi Ertl (613-951-1891) or Jo Anne Lambert (613-951-6673), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Foreign affiliate trade statistics

1999

Canadian companies deliver services to their customers abroad primarily through their foreign affiliates and goods are supplied largely by exports, according to a new study of trade and investment statistics for 1999.

Canada is one of the world's most trade-oriented nations, and it is one of the most direct investment-oriented. Companies can choose to compete in foreign markets either by producing goods or services in Canada and exporting them to foreign markets, or by establishing a commercial presence abroad through foreign affiliates.

In 1999, Canadian companies exported $52 billion in services. However, sales for foreign affiliates in the services sector amounted to $124 billion, more than twice the amount of cross-border exports.

In contrast, exports of goods totalled $365 billion, and sales from goods-producing foreign affiliates amounted to $177 billion — just under one-half the cross-border exports.

Foreign affiliates of Canadian companies had total sales abroad of just over $300.4 billion in 1999, and employed about 772,000 people. Service providers accounted for about 40% of both sales and employment. About two-thirds of total sales were in the United States.

Four industrial sectors accounted for 63% of reported sales for service providers in 1999: information and cultural activities; finance; insurance; and transportation and warehousing.

The information and cultural activities sector accounted for about 25% of sales of services, and the finance and insurance sectors combined accounted for a further 28%.

The goods sector, in contrast, was dominated by foreign subsidiaries in manufacturing, which accounted for 81% of sales and 82% of employment.

The research paper *Foreign affiliate trade statistics, 1999: How goods and services are delivered in international markets* (11F0027MIE no. 4, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free)*, then *National accounts*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release contact Colleen Cardillo (613-951-3486; *colleen.cardillo@statcan.ca*) or Art Ridgeway (613-951-8907; *art.ridgeway@statcan.ca*), Balance of Payments Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Foreign affiliate trade statistics, 1999: How goods and services are delivered in international markets, 1999
Catalogue number 11F0027MIE02004
(free).

Rural and small town Canada analysis bulletin, 1996–2000, Vol. 3, no. 8
Catalogue number 21-006-XIE
(free).

Field crop reporting series, Vol. 81, no. 2
Catalogue number 22-002-XIB ($11/$66).

Field crop reporting series, Vol. 81, no. 2
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB ($15/$88).

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, February 2002, Vol. 45, no. 2
Catalogue number 25-001-XIB ($6/$55).

Construction type plywood, February 2002, Vol. 50, no. 2
Catalogue number 35-001-XIB ($5/$47).

Quarterly telecommunications statistics, Fourth quarter 2001, Vol. 25, no. 4
Catalogue number 56-002-XIE ($21/$40).

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

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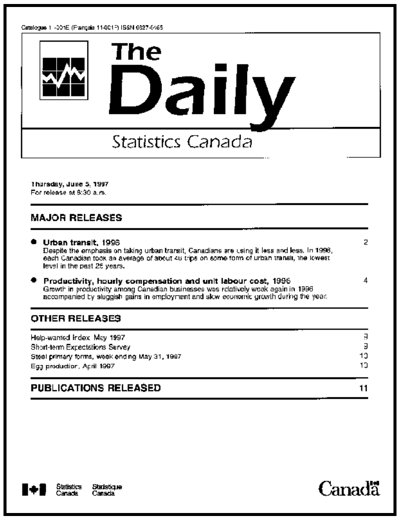

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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