



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance

February 2003 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in February moved up a slight 0.3% from January to 531,280. This was the first monthly rise since October and was primarily the result of increases in Ontario (+1.5%), Quebec (+0.6%) and Nova Scotia (+0.6%). These gains were partly offset by decreases in Prince Edward Island (-2.8%) and Alberta (-2.2%).

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	Feb. 2003 ^P	Jan. to Feb. 2003	Feb. to Feb. 2003
Seasonally adjusted			
		% change	
Canada	531,280	0.3	-4.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	37,080	-0.4	0.6
Prince Edward Island	8,080	-2.8	-3.9
Nova Scotia	29,940	0.6	-1.5
New Brunswick	33,790	-0.5	-2.6
Quebec	176,280	0.6	-6.2
Ontario	126,570	1.5	-5.8
Manitoba	12,940	-0.1	-4.7
Saskatchewan	11,310	0.2	1.6
Alberta	31,090	-2.2	4.0
British Columbia	59,940	0.0	-6.5
Yukon Territory	840	0.0	10.5
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	1,110	-3.5	11.0
Unadjusted			
Northwest Territories	850	-12.4	14.9
Nunavut	310	-3.1	-11.4

^P Preliminary figures.

Also on a seasonally adjusted basis, regular benefit payments in February totalled \$711.7 million, while the number of people making initial and renewal claims was 233,070.

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* or administrative procedures.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits

for the week containing the fifteenth day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

Employment insurance statistics

	Feb. 2003	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2002	Jan. to Feb. 2003	Feb. to Feb. 2003
Seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	531,280 ^P	529,700 ^P	554,370	0.3	-4.2
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	711.7	707.4	740.0	0.6	-3.8
Claims received ('000)	233.1	236.7	237.5	-1.5	-1.9
Unadjusted					
				% change	
All beneficiaries ('000)	980.5 ^P	975.7 ^P	1,031.5	0.5	-4.9
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	694.0 ^P	700.6 ^P	731.0	-0.9	-5.1
Claims received ('000)	187.4	352.8	192.7	-46.9	-2.7
Payments (\$ millions)	1,370.9	1,448.1	1,380.3	-5.3	-0.7
Year-to-date (January to February)					
		2003	2002	2002 to 2003	
				% change	
Claims received ('000)		540.2	550.1	-1.8	
Payments (\$ millions)		2,819.0	2,910.4	-3.1	

^P Preliminary figures.

Note: "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, because of layoff) or special benefits (for example, because of illness).

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

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2604.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (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 Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Employment, earnings and hours

February 2003 (preliminary)

Average weekly earnings for all employees in February were estimated at \$687.37, virtually unchanged from January (\$686.46).

February's earnings level represents a 1.7% increase from February 2002. Education (+6.1%), finance and insurance (+5.2%), public administration (+3.1%) and manufacturing (+2.5%) were among the sectors showing the strongest year-over-year growth.

Average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees edged down 0.5% to \$16.89 in February. Their average number of paid hours, meanwhile, was unchanged at 32.1 hours.

Total payroll employment was virtually unchanged in February. There was a substantial increase in manufacturing (+13,800), mostly because of returns from layoffs, but this gain was offset by employment losses in other industries, especially accommodation and food (-9,800).

By province, monthly job growth for February was weakest in Ontario (-5,400). Quebec recorded the largest increase (+10,400), followed by British Columbia (+6,600).

Note: With the January 2003 release, revisions were made to some of the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours data series for the period from January 1991 to December 2002. To enquire about these revisions, contact Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684; fax: 613-951-4087; jamie.brunet@statcan.ca) or Robert Frindt (613-951-4069; robert.frindt@statcan.ca).

Available on CANSIM: tables 281-0023 to 281-0046.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2612.

Detailed industry data, data by size of enterprise based on employment, and other labour market indicators will be available in May standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XIB, \$24/\$240). See *How to order products*. Annual averages for 2002 are now available through CANSIM and by custom tabulations from Labour Statistics Division.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684) or Robert Frindt (613-951-4069), Labour Statistics Division. □

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	February 2002	January 2003 ^r	February 2003 ^p	January to February 2003	February 2002 to February 2003
	Seasonally adjusted				
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	676.08	686.46	687.37	0.1	1.7
Forestry, logging and support	849.27	847.35	847.12	0.0	-0.3
Mining and oil and gas	1,159.53	1,180.62	1,175.94	-0.4	1.4
Utilities	1,050.19	1,073.23	1,071.93	-0.1	2.1
Construction	802.66	809.90	809.91	0.0	0.9
Manufacturing	821.83	840.53	842.67	0.3	2.5
Wholesale trade	774.92	786.87	785.07	-0.2	1.3
Retail trade	433.59	435.63	436.77	0.3	0.7
Transportation and warehousing	757.15	770.39	769.63	-0.1	1.6
Information and cultural industries	820.41	823.27	825.62	0.3	0.6
Finance and insurance	844.19	883.45	888.03	0.5	5.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	626.10	585.80	595.67	1.7	-4.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	899.28	910.69	917.46	0.7	2.0
Management of companies and enterprises	842.44	848.88	848.31	-0.1	0.7
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	535.51	540.16	538.85	-0.2	0.6
Educational services	706.98	750.18	750.00	0.0	6.1
Health care and social assistance	599.07	608.73	608.58	0.0	1.6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	438.66	431.33	428.98	-0.5	-2.2
Accommodation and food services	296.43	280.46	277.21	-1.2	-6.5
Other services (excluding public administration)	535.37	521.75	521.81	0.0	-2.5
Public administration	818.73	844.94	844.16	-0.1	3.1
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	619.10	628.31	631.89	0.6	2.1
Prince Edward Island	536.19	547.20	549.46	0.4	2.5
Nova Scotia	590.13	595.20	597.22	0.3	1.2
New Brunswick	600.40	615.10	616.67	0.3	2.7
Quebec	639.88	650.71	651.89	0.2	1.9
Ontario	719.67	731.61	731.63	0.0	1.7
Manitoba	603.06	608.32	611.59	0.5	1.4
Saskatchewan	607.20	612.81	615.51	0.4	1.4
Alberta	696.24	701.98	708.66	1.0	1.8
British Columbia	672.83	683.20	681.12	-0.3	1.2
Yukon	764.13	764.38	766.80	0.3	0.3
Northwest Territories ¹	886.76	894.9	895.71	0.1	1.0
Nunavut ¹	789.39	794.70	793.02	-0.2	0.5

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Number of employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	December 2002	January 2003 ^r	February 2003 ^p	December 2002 to January 2003	January to February 2003
Seasonally adjusted					
	'000			% change	
Industrial aggregate	13,310.3	13,296.3	13,296.0	-0.1	0.0
Forestry, logging and support	58.6	59.6	59.8	1.7	0.3
Mining and oil and gas	143.6	143.9	144.8	0.2	0.6
Utilities	115.6	114.3	114.0	-1.1	-0.3
Construction	642.5	632.4	636.1	-1.6	0.6
Manufacturing	2,074.0	2,058.3	2,072.1	-0.8	0.7
Wholesale trade	753.8	751.9	750.5	-0.3	-0.2
Retail trade	1,586.0	1,594.8	1,593.3	0.6	-0.1
Transportation and warehousing	615.3	615.8	618.3	0.1	0.4
Information and cultural industries	349.7	348.8	351.1	-0.3	0.7
Finance and insurance	575.3	576.5	572.0	0.2	-0.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	231.0	229.7	229.3	-0.6	-0.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	676.1	659.3	655.8	-2.5	-0.5
Management of companies and enterprises	91.6	92.5	92.5	1.0	0.0
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	585.7	584.5	583.1	-0.2	-0.2
Educational services	960.5	957.6	964.0	-0.3	0.7
Health care and social assistance	1,335.0	1,336.7	1,339.1	0.1	0.2
Arts, entertainment and recreation	238.6	239.7	239.0	0.5	-0.3
Accommodation and food services	963.6	968.3	958.5	0.5	-1.0
Other services (excluding public administration)	497.1	495.6	493.6	-0.3	-0.4
Public administration	742.9	747.9	750.3	0.7	0.3
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	185.2	184.8	184.8	-0.2	0.0
Prince Edward Island	60.9	60.4	60.0	-0.8	-0.7
Nova Scotia	377.7	376.2	373.8	-0.4	-0.6
New Brunswick	302.7	302.3	302.2	-0.1	0.0
Quebec	3,153.5	3,149.7	3,160.1	-0.1	0.3
Ontario	5,193.4	5,192.5	5,187.1	0.0	-0.1
Manitoba	522.7	523.6	520.8	0.2	-0.5
Saskatchewan	383.4	383.2	382.7	-0.1	-0.1
Alberta	1,454.5	1,445.6	1,446.5	-0.6	0.1
British Columbia	1,632.5	1,636.0	1,642.6	0.2	0.4
Yukon	15.5	15.4	15.3	-0.6	-0.6
Northwest Territories ¹	21.4	21.3	21.7	-0.5	1.9
Nunavut ¹	10.9	10.5	11.0	-3.7	4.8

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Farm Product Price Index

February 2003

Prices received by farmers for their agricultural commodities increased 1.2% in February from February 2002, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI).

The crop index rose 6.5% from February 2002, continuing the monthly year-over-year increases that began in September 2000. Conversely, the livestock and animal products index was 4.5% below year-earlier levels.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 108.8 in February, virtually unchanged (-0.1%) from January.

The livestock and animal products index rose to 107.0 in February, up 0.8% from January, the fifth

consecutive monthly increase. Higher prices for hogs more than offset the decrease in prices for cattle and calves. After the peak at 117.0 in March 2001, the livestock and animal products index generally trended down to 98.4 in September 2002.

The hog index stood at 76.6, up 7.0% from January, the highest level since August 2002. However, the index remained 16.9% below February 2002. After reaching 109.0 in June 2001, the index began a steady slide to 60.6 in September 2002. Hog prices were pressured by higher slaughter volumes, but anticipation of tightening supplies has provided recent support to prices.

The cattle and calves index declined 1.0% in February to 126.7 and remained 2.7% below February 2002. Similar to hog prices, cattle prices

were pressured by higher slaughter and export volumes throughout most of drought-stricken 2002.

Farm Product Price Index (1997=100)

	Feb. 2002	Jan. 2003 ^r	Feb. 2003 ^p	Feb. 2002 to Feb. 2003	Feb. to Jan. 2003
	% change				
Farm Product Price Index	107.5	108.9	108.8	1.2	-0.1
Crops	104.2	112.5	111.0	6.5	-1.3
Grains	107.3	112.4	111.6	4.0	-0.7
Oilseeds	84.9	101.1	100.0	17.8	-1.1
Specialty crops	137.7	148.8	147.1	6.8	-1.1
Fruit	97.7	112.4	111.2	13.8	-1.1
Vegetables	108.8	112.9	112.8	3.7	-0.1
Potatoes	159.1	151.4	149.5	-6.0	-1.3
Livestock and animal products	112.0	106.1	107.0	-4.5	0.8
Cattle and calves	130.2	128.0	126.7	-2.7	-1.0
Hogs	92.2	71.6	76.6	-16.9	7.0
Poultry	92.7	90.8	90.8	-2.0	0.0
Eggs	104.1	100.6	100.6	-3.4	0.0
Dairy	111.8	113.1	113.1	1.2	0.0

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

On a month-to-month basis, the crop index was down 1.3% in February, as all the components recorded declines from January. However, the index stood 6.5% above the February 2002 level, as major grain, oilseed and special crop prices remained buoyed from two consecutive years of drought.

The only crop index to record a decline from February 2002 was potatoes, which dropped 6.0% to 149.5. Potato prices recorded their sixth consecutive monthly decrease after soaring through the first half of 2002. Lower production last year had drastically reduced supplies of table potatoes, pushing up prices.

The oilseed index decreased 1.1% in February to 100.0, but remained 17.8% above February 2002. In January 2001 the oilseed index was 65.6 and trended up to 103.5 in December 2002. Oilseed prices were boosted by tight world oilseed supplies and drought-plagued domestic production. Anticipation of more normal production this year and of resulting higher supplies may have caused the price slide in the first two months of 2003.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0021.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3407 and 3416.

The February 2003 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 3, no. 2 (21-007-XIB, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, call 1-800-465-1991. 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), Agriculture Division. ■

Hog inventories

First quarter 2003

The number of hogs on Canadian farms has declined for the second consecutive quarter. As of April 1, the inventory of hogs on farms stood at 14.6 million head, down 0.7% from the beginning of the year, but up 1.0% from April 1, 2002.

Growth in the hog sector has been slowing following recent years of expansion that often averaged 5.0% annually.

Many hog producers have seen their profits diminish or have experienced losses as a result of soft prices for hogs and escalating feed costs. Following price declines in the United States, Canadian hog prices have fallen 30.0% since they peaked in the summer of 2001.

Inventories have dropped in all three Prairie provinces, where feed supplies have been limited because of two years of drought. In Ontario, where feed supplies are more plentiful, inventories continued to climb and stood 3.9% above April 1, 2002. Hog numbers remained stable in Quebec, Canada's major hog producing province. Expansion in Quebec has been limited by a two-year moratorium on hog production.

In Canada, a record 5.8 million hogs have been slaughtered in each of the past two quarters, coinciding with additional capacity and a drop in the number of slaughter pigs exported. Shipments of slaughter pigs to the United States declined to 1.8 million head in 2002, the smallest volume since 1996.

Hog inventories

April 1, 2003

	Breeding		Market hogs				Total hogs	
	2003	2002 to 2003	2003	2002 to 2003	2003	2002 to 2003	2003	2002 to 2003
			Under 20 kg		20 kg and over			
	'000 head	% change	'000 head	% change	'000 head	% change	'000 head	% change
Canada	1,554	2.0	4,386	3.1	8,626	-0.2	14,566	1.0
Atlantic	34	-8.5	105	-8.5	224	-5.1	363	-6.4
Quebec	423	1.9	1,285	2.4	2,572	-0.8	4,280	0.4
Ontario	416	6.3	1,106	5.6	2,193	2.6	3,715	3.9
East	873	3.5	2,496	3.3	4,988	0.5	8,358	1.6
Manitoba	335	1.5	908	6.5	1,498	-0.8	2,740	1.8
Saskatchewan	114	-1.6	319	-2.1	778	-1.1	1,211	-1.4
Alberta	213	-0.9	615	0.4	1,272	-0.7	2,100	-0.4
British Columbia	19	-3.1	49	0.6	91	-9.7	158	-6.0
West	681	0.1	1,890	2.8	3,638	-1.0	6,209	0.2

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0004.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 3460.

The report *Hog statistics* (23-010-XIE, free) will be available in May on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

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

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

March 2003

Data on mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0004.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2110.

The March 2003 issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation*, Vol 55, no. 3 (44-004-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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 the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Red meat consumption

2002

Red meat consumption totalled 61.4 kilograms per person in 2002, down 1.9% from 62.6 kilograms in 2001. This decrease was due mainly to declining beef and pork consumption.

Beef consumption fell 2.0% to 30.0 kilograms per person. Pork consumption, at just over 28 kilograms per person in 2002, dropped 2.8% from 2001. A surge in exports, fuelled by strong demand for Canadian pork in the United States and Japan, offset increased supplies.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0035 to 003-0037.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3423 and 3460.

The report *Hog statistics* (23-010-XIE, free) will be available in May on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

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

Input–output structure of the Canadian economy

1997–1998

The publication *The input–output structure of the Canadian economy*, 1997–1998, (15-201-XIE, \$51) is now available in an electronic format, and incorporates the national and provincial input–output tables. See *How to order products*.

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. ■

Survey of Financial Security

1999

The public-use microdata file for the 1999 Survey of Financial Security is now available on CD-ROM (13M0006XCB, \$2,000). See *How to order products*.

The report describing the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, *1999 Survey of Financial Security — Public use microdata file user guide* (13F0026MIE, 2003, no. 2, free) is available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and service*, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Personal finance and household finance*.

For more information about the survey and related products and services, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Survey of Financial Security — Public use microdata file, 2003, no. 2
Catalogue number **13M0006XCB** (\$2,000).

1999 Survey of Financial Security — Public use microdata file user guide, 2003, no. 2
Catalogue number **13F0026MIE**
(free).

The input–output structure of the Canadian economy, 1997–1998
Catalogue number **15-201-XIE** (\$51).

Farm product price index, February 2003, Vol. 3, no. 2
Catalogue number **21-007-XIB**
(free).

Sub-provincial disparity in Canada: Evidence from 1992 to 1999, Agriculture and rural working paper series, no. 63
Catalogue number **21-601-MIE**
(free).

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation, March 2003, Vol. 55, no. 03
Catalogue number **44-004-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

Exports by commodity, February 2003, vol. 60, no. 2
Catalogue number **65-004-XMB** (\$37/\$361).

Exports by commodity, February 2003, vol. 60, no. 2
Catalogue number **65-004-XPB** (\$78/\$773).

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-based index: May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production: Apr 19 13

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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