



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, May 27, 2003

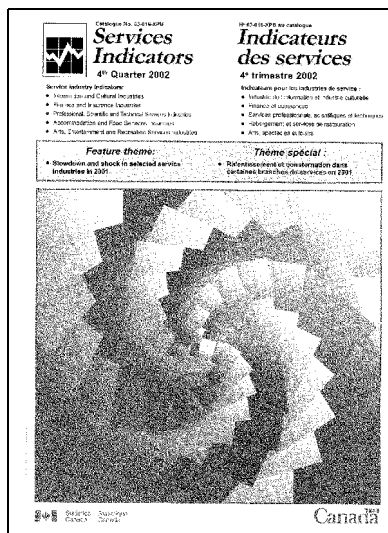
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Net farm income, 2002** 3
 Net cash income — the difference between a farmer's cash receipts and operating expenses — tumbled 10.6% to \$7.7 billion in 2002 after setting a record high in 2001. Cash receipts fell for the first time since 1998 in the wake of back-to-back droughts, while higher feed grain costs drove up operating expenses.

- **Farm cash receipts, first quarter 2003** 6
 Crop receipts for Canadian farmers tumbled to a ten-year low in the first quarter, as two consecutive droughts in Western Canada reduced production and sharply decreased grain and oilseed inventories. Revenue from livestock sales recorded a first-quarter decline for the first time since 1989.

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Services indicators Fourth quarter 2002

This issue of *Services indicators* analyses the impact of the economic slowdown in 2001 and the events of September 11 on three industries: traveller accommodation, travel agents, and food services and drinking places.

An additional article examines the impact of the slowdown on software development and computer services.

This issue also contains the regular quarterly analysis of economic developments in the services industries. According to annualized data, real economic output for services industries increased 0.6% in the fourth quarter of 2002, compared with the third quarter. This was three times the rate of growth in the goods industries.

The fourth quarter 2002 issue of *Services indicators* (63-016-XIB, \$26/\$87; 63-016-XPB, \$35/\$116) is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information, contact Richard Vincent (613-951-5097; vincric@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division.



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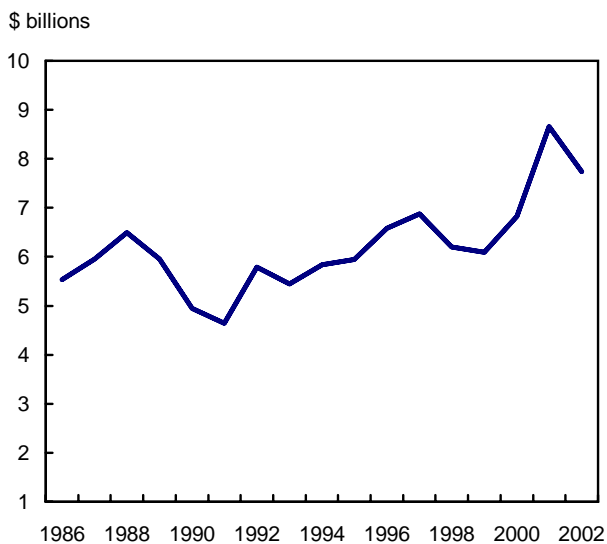
MAJOR RELEASES

Net farm income

2002

Net cash income — the difference between a farmer's cash receipts and operating expenses — tumbled 10.6% to \$7.7 billion in 2002 after setting a record high in 2001. Cash receipts fell for the first time since 1998 in the wake of back-to-back droughts, while higher feed grain costs drove up operating expenses.

Net cash income



Western farmers experienced one of the poorest growing seasons in the past quarter-century in 2002. The situation for some growers in Alberta and Saskatchewan was worse than in the depression of the 1930s.

Farmers drew heavily on their crop inventories to support sales in 2001 and 2002, as adverse weather conditions cut grain and oilseed production substantially. As a result, year-end stocks were at their lowest levels since 1984.

Cash receipts from the sale of agricultural commodities and from program payments fell to \$35.8 billion in 2002, down 1.5% from the record high in 2001 and the first decrease since 1998. Operating expenses rose 1.3% to \$28.0 billion in the wake of higher feed grain prices.

Still, net cash income was 11.7% above the previous five-year average from 1997 to 2001. Net cash income can vary widely from one farm to another because

Note to readers

Net cash income measures farm business cash flow (farm cash receipts minus operating expenses) generated from the production of agricultural goods. Net cash income represents the amount of money available for debt repayment, investment or withdrawal by the owner.

Realized net income measures the financial flows, both monetary (net cash income) and non-monetary (depreciation and income-in-kind), of farm businesses. Similar to net cash income, realized net income represents the net farm income from transactions in a given year, regardless of the year in which the agricultural goods were produced.

Total net income measures the financial flows and stock changes of farm businesses (net cash income minus depreciation plus income-in-kind and value of inventory change). Total net income values agriculture economic production during the year that the agricultural goods were produced. It represents the return to owner's equity, unpaid labour, management and risk.

Farm cash receipts measure the gross revenue of farm businesses in current dollars. They include sales of crops and livestock products (except sales between farms in the same province) and program payments. Receipts are recorded when the money is paid to farmers before any expenses are paid.

Deferments represent sales from grains and oilseeds delivered by western producers, for which payments were deferred until the next year. Because these receipts are based on physical deliveries, any deferred payments are deducted from the farm cash receipts of the current calendar year and included when they are liquidated (see "Liquidations of deferments" in the farm cash receipts table).

Program payments include payments tied to current agricultural production and paid directly to farmers. Examples of these payments come under the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA), the Crop Insurance Act, provincial stabilization programs and the Canadian Dairy Commission Act. The program payments series does not attempt to cover all payments made to farmers, nor does it represent total government expenditure under all assistance programs.

Farm operating expenses represent business costs incurred by farm businesses for goods and services used in the production of agricultural commodities. Expenses are recorded when the money is disbursed by the farmer.

of factors such as commodities produced, prices and weather. The impact of last year's extreme weather conditions will continue to be reflected in farm financial statistics at least through the first half of 2003.

Cash receipts: Livestock prices weaker, program payments slump

Livestock receipts fell 4.6% to \$18.0 billion, the first decline since 1998, as prices for major commodities slumped after peaking in 2001. Program payments decreased for the first time since 1997, falling 9.1% to \$3.4 billion.

In contrast, total crop receipts were up 4.8% to \$14.4 billion, as higher prices across the country more than offset lower deliveries for the major grains and oilseeds.

Overall, for 2002, total farm cash receipts of \$35.8 billion were still 12.0% higher than the previous five-year average. For details on farm cash receipts in the first quarter of 2003, see today's *Farm cash receipts* release.

Despite the decline in 2002, cash receipts from livestock were still 12.3% above the previous five-year average. Abundant supplies of red meat on the North American market, as well as higher feed grain costs, put pressure on cattle and hog prices. This followed several years of substantial growth in cattle and hog production.

Cattle and calf receipts dropped 3.5% from 2001's record level to \$7.5 billion. This was largely due to a decline in receipts for slaughter cattle and for calves sold interprovincially, as prices fell for both. However, cash receipts for cattle and calves sold internationally continued to grow, driven by record exports to the United States.

Alberta cattle producers, in particular, felt the effect of dwindling feed supplies and soaring feed prices as they sold a record 3.1 million head for slaughter, feeding and export in 2002, substantially reducing their inventories.

Hog receipts tumbled 14.0% to \$3.3 billion, but they were still 11.3% above the previous five-year average. Softer prices resulted from an abundant supply of pigs on the North American market, along with concerns about the impact of the 2002 drought on feed grain prices, which continued rising.

Even though total crop receipts were up in Canada, Alberta and Saskatchewan crop producers were hit hard as their crop receipts tumbled.

Farm stocks of major grains and oilseeds dwindled to extremely low levels by the end of 2001, primarily as a result of the drought that summer. This led to reduced deliveries in the first part of 2002. As drought hit large parts of Saskatchewan and Alberta for a second consecutive year in 2002, deliveries for major grains and oilseeds continued to decline. Prices averaged much higher in 2002, but failed to offset a drop in marketings.

Receipts for wheat excluding durum fell 8.2% to \$2.5 billion, driven by plunging deliveries. Barley receipts dropped 25.2% to \$546 million, as marketings declined one-third and producers received lower wheat board payments. Receipts from canola fell 5.1% to \$1.6 billion.

The decrease in receipts for most of the major grains and oilseeds was partly softened by higher liquidations of deferments.

In contrast, potato receipts rose 31.0% to a record \$947 million, the result of export demand for fresh and processed potato products. Prices soared 29.2%, mostly the result of a large decline in production of table potatoes in 2001, which tightened available supplies in the first half of 2002.

Producers in Eastern Canada had much better growing conditions in 2002, and capitalized on the higher grain prices. At the national level, receipts for grain corn and soybeans recorded increases, as prices for the two commodities were up 15% and 12.6% respectively. Corn marketings rose 12.1% in 2002, the result of above-average production in 2001 and 2002.

The 9.1% decline in program payments occurred despite record crop insurance payments resulting from poor growing conditions and an increased acreage insured. Total payments, however, remained 53.9% above the previous five-year average. Most of the decline occurred because of the expiry of one-time emergency assistance payments implemented in 2001.

Crop insurance payments soared to a record \$1.5 billion, up 43.4% from 2001 and almost triple the previous five-year average. These payments continued at record levels into the first quarter of 2003.

Farmer withdrawals from the government portion of the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) climbed 39.4% to a record \$616 million.

Operating expenses: Smallest increase in 12 years

The overall 1.3% increase in operating expenses last year was the smallest since 1990. Farmers in every province reported increases, except in drought-stricken Alberta, where expenses fell 5.4%.

Tight supplies of grains put upward pressure on prices and boosted the cost of commercial feed by 15.1% to \$4.8 billion. Purchases of livestock and poultry declined 21.1% to \$1.4 billion, in response to higher feed expenses and lower grain supplies.

For crop growers, the drought resulted in some lower expenses; the largest declines were in fertilizer and lime, machinery fuel and pesticides. However, the drought was a big factor in a 28.1% increase in premiums for crop and hail insurance. Farmers purchased insurance for more of their crops, at higher levels of protection.

Also contributing to the increase in total operating expenses were wages (+3.1%), machinery repairs (+3.2%) and commercial seed (+6.5%).

Total net income: Lowest level in almost two decades

Total net income, which adjusts net cash income for changes in farmer-owned inventories of crops and

livestock, depreciation and income-in-kind, plunged to \$2.0 billion in 2002, the lowest level since 1983.

Total net income levels can fluctuate substantially with large swings in grain production. Last year's production season, one of the worst in the past 25 years, forced Canadian farmers to empty their bins to their lowest levels since 1984.

Hardest hit were producers in Saskatchewan and Alberta, who accounted for almost the entire decline. In 2002, Canadian producers experienced the largest decline in the value of farmer-owned crop inventories, which fell \$1.4 billion.

The drought also took its toll on cattle producers, who trimmed their herd size 2.8% in the wake of higher feed prices and lower supplies. Alberta, the largest cattle producer, was hardest hit, as its cattle herd plunged 10.4%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0003, 002-0005, 002-0007 to 002-0009, 002-0012 and 003-0025.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3436, 3437, 3439, 3471, 3472, 3473 and 3474.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca) or Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; bernie.rosien@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

Net farm income

	Canada	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
	\$ millions										
2001 ^r											
+ Total farm cash receipts including payments	36,323	78	336	423	410	5,727	8,566	3,691	6,503	8,340	2,249
- Total operating expenses after rebates	27,666	66	284	343	325	4,460	6,827	2,709	4,707	6,250	1,695
= Net cash income	8,657	12	52	80	85	1,267	1,739	982	1,797	2,090	553
+ Income-in-kind	154	1	2	3	3	52	47	9	12	17	8
- Depreciation	4,128	4	39	46	39	548	969	362	891	1,030	201
= Realized net income	4,683	9	15	37	50	771	817	630	917	1,076	360
+ Value of inventory change	-1,115	0	-66	-1	-4	90	-102	-71	-704	-277	19
= Total net income	3,568	9	-51	36	46	862	716	559	213	800	379
2002 ^p											
+ Total farm cash receipts including payments	35,775	83	366	409	421	5,493	8,492	3,827	6,156	8,285	2,242
- Total operating expenses after rebates	28,033	70	291	356	340	4,638	7,097	2,729	4,797	5,912	1,803
= Net cash income	7,741	13	75	53	81	855	1,395	1,098	1,360	2,373	439
+ Income-in-kind	152	1	2	3	3	52	47	9	11	17	8
- Depreciation	4,211	4	40	46	40	581	1,002	358	887	1,036	218
= Realized net income	3,682	10	37	10	45	326	439	749	483	1,354	229
+ Value of inventory change	-1,714	0	67	-1	24	71	194	-54	-725	-1,354	65
= Total net income	1,969	9	104	9	69	397	633	695	-242	0	293

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Farm cash receipts

First quarter 2003

Crop receipts for Canadian farmers tumbled to a ten-year low in the first quarter, as two consecutive droughts in Western Canada reduced production and sharply decreased grain and oilseed inventories. Revenue from livestock sales recorded a first-quarter decline for the first time since 1989.

However, total cash receipts edged up 2.3% from the first quarter of 2002, but only because record program payments offset the declines in revenue from both crops and livestock.

In total, farmers received just under \$9.1 billion from all three sources — livestock and crop receipts and program payments — in the first quarter, compared with \$8.9 billion in the first quarter of 2002.

Crop producers continued to face difficulties as their receipts fell just short of \$3.1 billion, down 10.3% from the first quarter of 2002 and the lowest level since 1993. This was 18.0% below the previous five-year average from 1998 to 2002.

Revenue from livestock nearly reached \$4.6 billion, down 2.5% from a record high in the first quarter of 2002, mainly the result of declines in hog and cattle receipts.

However, program payments nearly doubled to a first-quarter record of \$1.4 billion, almost triple the previous five-year average. This was the result of record payments through crop insurance programs, following two consecutive years of drought for Prairie producers.

Farm cash receipts provide an overall measure of gross revenue for farm businesses. They do not account for expenses incurred by farmers. Cash receipts can vary widely from farm to farm because of several factors, including commodities, prices and weather. In addition, the impact of last year's extreme weather conditions will continue to be reflected in farm financial statistics at least through the first half of 2003. For the most recent information about net farm income in 2002, please see today's *Net farm income* release.

In the Prairies, the situation was brightest for farmers in Manitoba, where cash receipts rose 7.0%. Revenue from both crops and livestock rose for Manitoba farmers, while program payments declined marginally.

Cash receipts also increased in Saskatchewan (+3.7%) and Alberta (+4.8%), but only because soaring program payments offset plunging receipts from livestock and particularly crops.

Crops: One of the worst growing seasons in 25 years

Western farmers experienced one of the poorest growing seasons in the past quarter-century in 2002. The situation for some growers in Alberta and Saskatchewan was worse than in the depression of the 1930s.

Low western Canadian production in 2001 and 2002 helped push grain costs higher. This also hit the livestock industry hard as shortages caused by extremely tight grain and forage supplies forced users to import corn from United States.

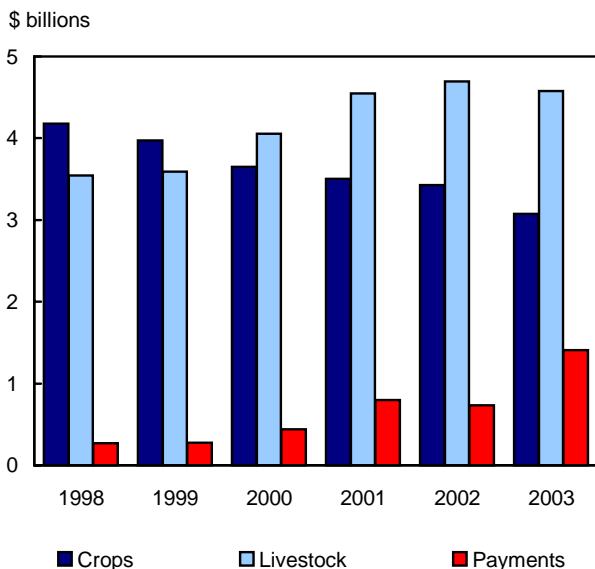
Farmers dipped heavily into their grain and oilseed inventories to provide needed revenues and to feed their livestock, causing farm stocks to dwindle to extremely low levels by the end of 2002. Lower deliveries for most of the major grains and oilseeds in the first quarter of 2003 more than offset the increase in prices for all of them.

As a result of the back-to-back droughts, reduced production and low marketings in 2002, farmers deferred fewer receipts into 2003. This led to liquidations falling 25.5% to \$590 million in first quarter, well below the previous five-year average.

The drought had a major impact on grain and oilseed receipts in the first quarter. Hardest hit were producers of wheat (excluding durum), barley and canola, whose overall receipts fell 20%. Receipts from wheat (excluding durum) reached \$390 million, receipts from canola reached almost \$268 million and those from barley, \$78 million. Substantial increases in prices for each could not offset deliveries, which were less than half of their five-year averages.

Receipts from corn and soybeans, however, rose substantially from the first quarter of 2002. Price

Farm cash receipts, January to March



increases were mainly responsible for the rise, although deliveries were also up. Eastern Canada, where corn and soybeans are predominantly grown, had much better growing conditions throughout 2002.

Softer hog prices force livestock receipts down

Hog farmers reported cash receipts of \$847 million in the first quarter, down 10.7% from the first quarter of 2002. Prices slumped below the previous five-year average as farmers shipped a record number of hogs to market.

Abundant supplies of hogs on the North American market accompanied concerns among farmers over the impact of last year's drought on feed grain prices, which continued to rise.

Cattle receipts fell 4.5% to \$1.7 billion, halting six straight years of increases. Revenue from cattle exports, predominately to the United States, dropped 14.0%, as both the number of head and the average price were down.

Soaring program payments fracture 10-year-old record

First-quarter program payments this year broke a 10-year-old record high. Producers received \$1.4 billion in the first quarter, up substantially from \$736 million in the first quarter of 2002.

The bulk of the payments were delivered through crop insurance programs, which paid out a record \$1.1 billion. This was a \$670-million increase from the first quarter of 2002, and more than triple the previous five-year average.

Farmers withdrew \$137 million from the government portion of the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) during the first quarter of 2003, up almost one-third. Payments from income disaster assistance programs fell 11.8% to \$109 million.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0001 and 002-0002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 3437.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kim Boyuk (613-951-2510; kimberley.boyuk@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

□

Farm cash receipts

	January to March 2002 ^r	January to March 2003 ^p	January–March 2002 to January–March 2003
	\$ millions		% change
Canada	8,858	9,061	2.3
All wheat ¹	613	501	-18.3
Wheat excluding durum ¹	483	390	-19.3
Durum wheat ¹	130	111	-14.6
Barley ¹	124	78	-37.1
Deferments	-67	-47	-29.9
Liquidations of deferments	792	590	-25.5
Canola	316	268	-15.2
Soybeans	113	143	26.5
Corn	179	214	19.6
Other cereals and oilseeds	103	89	-13.6
Special crops	147	177	20.4
Other crops	1,106	1,061	-4.1
Total Crops	3,426	3,074	-10.3
Cattle and calves	1,913	1,831	-4.3
Hogs	949	847	-10.7
Dairy products	1,046	1,097	4.9
Poultry and eggs	564	571	1.2
Other livestock	224	232	3.6
Total Livestock	4,696	4,578	-2.5
Net Income Stabilisation Account	105	137	30.5
Crop Insurance	387	1,057	173.1
Income Disaster Assistance Programs	123	109	-11.4
Provincial Stabilization	71	50	-29.6
Dairy Subsidy	7	0	0
Other programs	42	56	33.3
Total Payments	736	1,408	91.3

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

¹ Includes Canadian Wheat Board payments.

Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

Provincial farm cash receipts

	January to March 2002 ^r	January to March 2003 ^p	January–March 2002 to January–March 2003
	\$ millions		% change
Canada	8,858	9,061	2.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	19	20	5.3
Prince Edward Island	95	102	7.4
Nova Scotia	100	97	-3.0
New Brunswick	111	99	-10.8
Quebec	1,260	1,225	-2.8
Ontario	1,920	1,913	-0.4
Manitoba	954	1,021	7.0
Saskatchewan	1,769	1,835	3.7
Alberta	2,130	2,233	4.8
British Columbia	501	515	2.8

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance

March 2003 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in March moved up a slight 0.7% from February to 535,160. This was the first monthly rise in five months and was primarily due to increases in Ontario (+3.1%), Alberta (+2.3%) and British Columbia (+1.3%). Quebec remained virtually unchanged, increasing only 0.2%.

Also on a seasonally adjusted basis, regular benefit payments in March totalled \$809.1 million, while the number of people making initial and renewal claims was 249,310.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	March 2003 ^P	Feb. to March 2003	March to March 2003
Seasonally adjusted			
		% change	
Canada	535,160	0.7	-2.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	37,320	0.6	2.4
Prince Edward Island	8,100	0.2	-1.8
Nova Scotia	29,960	0.1	-0.8
New Brunswick	33,660	-0.4	-2.4
Quebec	176,550	0.2	-4.4
Ontario	130,530	3.1	-2.9
Manitoba	13,010	0.5	-4.6
Saskatchewan	11,280	-0.3	-0.7
Alberta	31,800	2.3	3.2
British Columbia	60,730	1.3	-6.2
Yukon Territory	840	0.0	15.1
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	1,080	-2.7	6.9
Unadjusted			
Northwest Territories	790	-7.1	5.3
Nunavut	310	0.0	-6.1

^P Preliminary figures.

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

	March 2003	Feb. 2003	March 2002	Feb. to March 2003	March 2002 to March 2003
Seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	535,160 ^P	531,280 ^P	550,320	0.7	-2.8
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	809.1	711.7	710.1	13.7	13.9
Claims received ('000)	249.3	233.1	204.9	7.0	21.7
Unadjusted					
				% change	
All beneficiaries ('000)	968.7 ^P	980.5 ^P	1003.1	-1.2	-3.4
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	685.8 ^P	694.0 ^P	710.2	-1.2	-3.4
Claims received ('000)	223.3	187.4	182.9	19.1	22.1
Payments (\$ millions)	1,573.5	1,370.9	1,334.7	14.8	17.9
Year-to-date (January to March)					
			2003	2002	2002 to 2003
					% change
Claims received ('000)			763.5	733.0	4.2
Payments (\$ millions)			4,392.5	4,245.1	3.5

^P Preliminary figures.

Note: "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result 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. ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

April 2003

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

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0004.

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

The April 2003 issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation*, Vol. 55, no. 4 (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. ■

Meat consumption

1960 to 2002

Estimates of the quantities of beef, pork, poultry and fish consumed by Canadians are now available. This experimental data, based on estimates of food available for consumption, have been adjusted to account for retail, household, cooking and plate losses.

The *Canada food stats CD-ROM* (23F0001XCB, \$75/\$120) and *Food consumption in Canada: Part 1* (32-229-XIB, \$26) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

For more information on the meat consumption series, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Conrad Ogrodnik (613-951-2860; conrad.ogrodnik@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation,
April 2003, Vol. 55, no. 4
Catalogue number **44-004-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

Services indicators, Fourth quarter 2002, Vol. 9, no. 4
Catalogue number **63-016-XIB** (\$26/\$87).

Services indicators, Fourth quarter 2002, Vol. 9, no. 4
Catalogue number **63-016-XPB** (\$35/\$116).

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

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The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 65.1% of Canadians took an average of about 40 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 initially weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **High-waged index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada

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