



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Stocks of grain, March 31, 2003** 2
Total stocks of grains and oilseeds in western Canada, including commercial and on-farm inventories, were much lower than previous years, as of March 31, 2003. Two consecutive droughts reduced production and sharply decreased grain and oilseed inventories.
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NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

Stocks of grain

March 31, 2003

Total stocks of grains and oilseeds in western Canada, including commercial and on-farm inventories, were much lower than previous years, as of March 31, 2003, according to a survey of farmers and commercial grain holders.

Two consecutive droughts in western Canada reduced production and sharply decreased grain and oilseed inventories. As a result, on-farm stocks of the six major grains reached 11.1 million metric tonnes, down 5.2 million tonnes from 2002.

Total stocks of grain at March 31

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 to 2003 |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|
| | '000 tonnes | | % change |
| All wheat | 13 315 | 11 586 | -13 |
| Wheat excluding durum | 10 242 | 8 657 | -15 |
| Barley | 6 175 | 3 274 | -47 |
| Corn for grain | 4 341 | 4 580 | 6 |
| Durum wheat | 3 073 | 2 929 | -5 |
| Canola | 2 507 | 2 104 | -16 |
| Oats | 1 093 | 996 | -9 |
| Soybeans | 940 | 890 | -5 |
| Dry field peas | 930 | 770 | -17 |
| Flax | 457 | 337 | -26 |

The lack of stocks will likely adversely affect the revenues and profitability of producers, as well as the entire western Canadian grain industry, at least until the fall of 2003.

Eastern Canada had much better growing conditions throughout 2002. Consequently, on-farm stocks were higher for the major grain crops of corn, soybeans and wheat.

Wheat stocks down from 2002 levels

On-farm inventories of wheat, including durum, in western Canada were down by one-quarter from March 2002. They accounted for just over one-half of total on-farm stocks in 2001.

Farmers reported wheat stocks at just under 6.4 million tonnes in March, compared with 8.1 million tonnes in 2002 and 11.1 million tonnes in 2001.

On-farm wheat stocks in western Canada in March were well below the 10-year average of 11.2 million

Note to readers

The March survey of 12,200 farm operators was conducted by telephone interviews from March 21 to March 28, 2003. Farmers were asked to report the amounts of grain, oilseeds and specialty crops in on-farm storage.

Commercial stocks of western grains originate from the Canadian Grain Commission. Commercial stocks of corn and soybeans in Ontario and Quebec are obtained by a separate survey of commercial elevators. Commercial stocks of specialty crops originate from a survey of handlers and agents of specialty crops.

tonnes. The record low of 5.8 million tonnes was set in 1989.

Total Canadian on-farm and commercial wheat stocks combined hit 11.6 million tonnes, down 13% from March 2002.

Durum wheat stocks lowest since 1998

Stocks of durum wheat fell to 2.9 million tonnes, down 5% from 3.1 million tonnes in March 2002. Stocks were lowest since 1998, when farmers reported only 2.5 million tonnes.

Again, the level in March was well below the 10-year average for durum of 3.4 million tonnes. On-farm durum stocks were down 14% from 2002, while commercial stocks rose 19%.

The decrease in durum inventories is attributed to a reduced carry-in from last year's crop, which was cut by drought, and an increase in domestic consumption. Although durum is not a preferred feed ingredient, the poor quality of last year's crop and the high price of other grains has encouraged producers to incorporate more durum into animal rations.

Barley stocks plunge by almost one-half

Total stocks of barley, primarily used as a feed grain by the livestock industry, plunged by almost one-half to 3.3 million tonnes in March, from 6.2 million tonnes in March 2002. The 10-year average is 6.4 million tonnes.

On-farm stocks were estimated at 2.7 million tonnes this year, while commercial stocks were estimated at 584 000 tonnes.

To satisfy a threatened domestic feed deficit, the cattle industry is expecting to set a record for corn

imports from the United States for the third consecutive year.

On-farm canola stocks down; commercial stocks higher

Canola stocks on farms were estimated at 1.4 million tonnes, down from 2.1 million tonnes in 2002. This was the lowest estimate since 1995, when the on-farm March stock estimate was 1.3 million tonnes.

Commercial stocks, however, rose from 428 000 tonnes in 2002 to 691 000 tonnes in 2003, not far below the 10-year average of 721 000 tonnes.

Corn stocks up

Commercial and on-farm stocks of grain corn were both higher as of March 31, the result of an increase in production last fall.

On-farm stocks of grain corn rose 7% to about 3.6 million tonnes in March.

Commercial stocks rose 2% to 1.0 million tonnes. This was still below the 10-year average of 1.2 million tonnes.

Other crops: stocks of dry field peas, soybeans decline

Total dry field pea stocks decreased to 770 000 tonnes from 930 000 tonnes in March 2002.

Dry field peas represent the largest special crop grown in Canada. Production in 2002 reached 1.4 million tonnes, down from 2.0 million tonnes in 2001.

Total soybean stocks fell 5% to 890 000 tonnes. The 10-year average was 982 000 tonnes. On-farm soybean stocks were estimated at 420 000 tonnes, up 24% from 2002, while commercial stocks were down 22% to 470 000 tonnes.

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

*Field crop reporting series: Stocks of Canadian grain at March 31, 2003, Vol. 82, no. 3 (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 Karen Gray (204-983-2856; karen.gray@statcan.ca) or David Roeske (613-951-0572; dave.roeske@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms — weekly data

Week ending May 3, 2003 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending May 3 totalled 302 180 metric tonnes, down 4.8% from 317 562 tonnes a week earlier but up 10.0% from 274 719 tonnes in the same week of 2002.

The year-to-date total as of May 3 was 5 340 652 tonnes, down 3.5% from 5 532 014 tonnes in the same period of 2002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2131.

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. ■

Cement

March 2003

Data on cement are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0001.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2140.

The March 2003 issue of *Cement*, Vol. 55, no. 3 (44-001-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. ■

Production of eggs and poultry

March 2003 (preliminary)

Egg production was estimated at 49.2 million dozen in March, up 1.5% from March 2002.

Poultry meat production reached 91.4 million kilograms in March, up 5.5% from March 2002.

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

The March 2003 issue of *Production of eggs* (23-003-XIB, free) will be available soon 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, contact Sandy Giefeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.giefeldt@statcan.ca) or Barbara Bowen (613-951-3716; barbara.bowen@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Federal government spending on science and technology

1993/94 to 2002/03

The federal government planned to spend \$7.7 billion on scientific and technological activities for the fiscal year 2002/03, up 3.0% from spending forecast for 2001/02.

The central science and technology activity is scientific research and experimental development, on which the federal government is expected to spend \$5.1 billion in 2002/03. This includes intramural performance (activities carried out primarily by the federal government) and extramural funding (activities managed and performed by non-federal organizations) of research and development.

Of the planned total spending on science and technology activities for 2002/03, just over one-half (55%) will be performed by the federal government. Of total planned research and development spending, the federal government will perform 44%.

In 2002/03, a planned total of 32,335 person-years will be involved in federal science and technology activities, down 1.1% from 2001/02. About 53%, or 17,048 person-years, will be engaged in related scientific activities (activities which complement and extend research and development by contributing to the generation, dissemination and application of scientific and technological knowledge).

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 4212.

The working paper *Federal government expenditures and personnel in the natural and social sciences, 1993/94 to 2002/03* (88F0006XIE2003009, 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 *Science and technology*.

The publication *Federal scientific activities, 2002/03* (88-204-XIE, \$35) is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lloyd Lizotte (613-951-2188; lloyd.lizotte@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

The evolving workplace: Determinants of training

1999

It is sometimes argued that workers who receive little classroom training may overcome any resulting training short-fall by taking more on-the-job training. A new report using recent data on training does not support this view.

For instance, the report found that while employees with a high school diploma were much less likely to receive classroom training than university graduates, their chances of taking on-the-job training were very similar to those of university graduates.

The report, based on data from the 1999 Workplace and Employee Survey (WES), examines the extent to which workers combine two types of employer-sponsored training: classroom (formal) and on-the-job training. It departs from previous Canadian studies, which have restricted their attention to workers' participation in classroom training only.

The report showed that when both types of training are considered, the relative training advantage of workers most likely to receive classroom training diminishes but does not vanish.

The report confirms that small workplaces (those with fewer than 20 employees) train a smaller proportion of their workforce than large workplaces. In 1999, 26% of employees received classroom training and 24% received on-the-job training in small establishments. The corresponding numbers for large establishments (100 or more employees) were 48% and 32%. However, among firms that offer training, small firms trained a slightly higher proportion of their employees than larger firms.

The report also found that workplaces which have a provision for training in their collective bargaining agreement train a greater proportion of their workforce than other workplaces. In contrast, firms which do not have a training provision in their collective bargaining agreement do not train more employees than firms with no collective bargaining agreement.

The report is the fifth in the Evolving workplace series, a co-operative venture of Human Resources Development Canada and Statistics Canada to promote research on the workplace.

WES collects a broad range of information on a sample of employers and their employees. Previous reports of the Evolving workplace series have covered topics such as human resources practices, vacancies, technological change and gender pay differentials.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2615.

New evidence on the determinants of training in Canadian business locations (71-584-MIE, no. 5, 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 *Labour*. A paper version (71-584-MPE, no. 5, \$15) is also available. See *How to order products*.

The report is also available from Human Resources Development Canada on the Applied Research Branch's web page (www.hrhc-drhc.gc.ca/arb).

For more information, contact Media Relations (819-994-5559), Human Resources Development Canada. For more information on WES, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nathalie Caron (613-951-4051), Labour Statistics Division, Statistics Canada. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Field crop reporting series: Stocks of Canadian grain at March 31, 2003, Vol. 82, no. 3
Catalogue number **22-002-XIB** (\$11/\$66).

Field crop reporting series: Stocks of Canadian grain at March 31, 2003, Vol. 82, no. 3
Catalogue number **22-002-XPB** (\$15/\$88).

Cement, March 2003, Vol. 55, no. 3
Catalogue number **44-001-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

Labour force information, week ending April 19, 2003
Catalogue number **71-001-XIE** (\$8/\$78).
Available at 7 a.m. Friday, May 9

Federal government expenditures and personnel in the natural and social sciences, 1993/94 to 2002/03, Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division working paper no. 9
Catalogue number **88F0006XIE2003009** (free).

Federal scientific activities, 2002/03
Catalogue number **88-204-XIE** (\$35).

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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 20 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 modestly weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
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