



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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NEW PRODUCTS

The Canadian Labour Market at a Glance: New online publication

This new online publication, launched today, takes more than just a glance at key trends in Canada's labour market for 2003.

The 117-page publication consists of 16 sections that provide an overview of a host of labour market topics, illustrated by 88 charts.

Among these topics: labour market trends; employment by industry; trends in workplace training; reasons workers select part-time jobs; absenteeism rates; wages and income; international comparisons; labour markets in provinces and census metropolitan areas; and the labour market for immigrants and Aboriginal people.

The publication will be of particular interest to labour market specialists, economists, researchers and students and teachers — in fact, anyone interested in monitoring labour market trends. It also uses a variety of survey data and analysis, making it an invaluable reference document on labour issues.

The first issue of *The Canadian Labour Market at a Glance* (71-222-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services page*, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Labour*, then *The Canadian Labour Market at a Glance*.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-866 873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.



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OTHER RELEASES

Study: Social assistance by province 1993 to 2003

Social assistance rates fell in every province between 1993 and 2003, but nowhere was the decline more dramatic than in Alberta and Ontario, according to a new report.

In 1993, 7.4% of Alberta's population was on social assistance. By 2003, this proportion had plunged to a national low of only 1.8%.

In Ontario, 12.1% of the population was on social assistance in 1993, the highest rate among the provinces. Ten years later, this proportion had declined to 5.5%, which was also the national average.

Nearly 3.0 million people nationwide were receiving welfare benefits in 1993. A decade later, this level had plunged 41.3% to over 1.7 million.

The decline in numbers was more pronounced moving from east to west. Levels fell by 36% in the Atlantic region, 40% in central Canada and 48% in the West. The largest changes in relative position were in central Canada.

Quebec ended the 10-year period with the second highest social assistance rate in the country behind Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 1993, 10.4% of Quebec's population was receiving welfare benefits. By 2003, the proportion had declined to 7.3%. At the same time, Newfoundland and Labrador's rate fell from 11.7% to 9.9%.

Most of the decline in Newfoundland and Labrador occurred between 1997 and 2002, the province's best five years for growth in employment in a generation. The Hibernia megaproject boosted employment, and raised energy output sharply to 15% of provincial gross domestic product in 2000.

Quebec had one of the smallest declines in the number of welfare recipients in Canada. Between 1993 and 2003, the number of recipients fell 27% to 544,200. This level represented nearly one-third of Canada's total, compared with only one-quarter in 1993.

At its peak in 1993, Alberta had 196,000 people on welfare. By 2003, this level had been cut by 70% to 57,800, the fastest rate of decline in the country.

Alberta's job growth for the whole decade was by far the strongest in Canada, with jobs up by one-third.

Alberta's reductions in benefit levels were not markedly different from the other provinces during this period, as it had already made the largest cuts well before 1993, especially for single people. Their benefits were cut by half in 2003 compared with 1986, the biggest decline among the provinces.

Ontario recorded the second fastest drop in people on social assistance during the decade. At the peak in 1994, nearly 1.4 million people in Ontario received social assistance. By 2003, this level was also down by over one-half to 673,900.

Between 1992 and 2000, Ontario posted the largest declines in social assistance rates for couples without children, as well as unattached individuals. Its decline in social assistance was helped by the second strongest labour market in the country during this period, driven by growth in exports.

The article "Social assistance by province, 1993 to 2003" is now available free online. It also appears in the November 2004 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 17, no. 11 (11-010-XIB, \$19/\$182), which 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. ■

Machinery and equipment price indexes

Third quarter 2004

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (1986=100) was 129.2 in the third quarter, down 1.7% from the previous quarter. Both the domestic (-0.2%) and imported components (-3.1%) declined. The index fell 1.4% compared with the third quarter of 2003, due to a decrease in the import series (-3.2%).

All industries declined on a quarterly basis. Paper and allied products (-2.4%), primary metals (-1.8%) and transport equipment (-2.3%) contributed the most to the decline in the manufacturing sector. The decline in the transportation sector was led by electricity power (-1.2%), telephones (-2.5%) and air transport (-2.4%).

On a year-over-year basis, declines in agriculture (-4.9%) and manufacturing (-0.9%) contributed to the general decrease in the index.

Machinery and equipment price indexes (1986=100)

	Relative importance	Third quarter 2004 ^P	Second quarter 2004 to third quarter 2004	Third quarter 2003 to third quarter 2004
			% change	
Machinery and equipment price index	100.0	129.2	-1.7	-1.4
Agriculture	11.0	145.9	-2.6	-4.9
Forestry	1.5	141.6	-1.0	-0.4
Fishing	0.6	128.6	-1.2	1.5
Mines, quarries and oil wells	6.0	134.0	-1.9	-1.0
Manufacturing	29.9	137.7	-1.6	-0.9
Construction	3.5	134.7	-2.2	-2.2
Transportation, communication, storage and utilities	25.9	124.4	-1.3	-0.6
Trade	4.0	116.2	-1.6	-1.3
Finance, insurance and real estate	1.8	109.3	-0.7	0.9
Community, business and personal services	11.1	104.8	-2.0	-1.6
Public administration	4.7	126.0	-1.7	-1.3

^P Preliminary figures.

At the commodity level, the largest declines were observed in specialized industrial equipment (-1.9%), trucks (-2.5%), automobiles (-2.3%) and tractors for farms and gardens (-3.7%).

On a quarterly basis, the Canadian dollar bounced back 4.0% versus the American dollar, which helped to lower import prices. Annually, the exchange rate of the Canadian dollar rose 5.7% over the third quarter of 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0013, 327-0014 and 327-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2312.

The third quarter 2004 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$26/\$85) will be available in January 2005.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Rebecca McDougall (613-951-3357; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Deliveries of major grains October 2004

Data on October grain deliveries are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404 and 3443.

The October 2004 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$12/\$120) will be available in December.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; sue.anderson@statcan.ca), or Client Services (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Crushing statistics October 2004

According to the monthly survey of crushing plants, Canadian oilseed processors crushed 288,740 metric tonnes of canola in October. Oil production last month totalled 119,778 tonnes while meal production amounted to 177,081 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.

The October 2004 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, \$12/\$120) will be available in December.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; les.macartney@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Cereals and Oilseeds Review September 2004

In October, Chicago soybean futures' prices slid due to the huge US crop and expectations of a record crop in Brazil. Prices later recovered with strong commercial demand, a weaker US dollar, and slow farm deliveries. Corn futures' prices traded narrowly around US \$2.05 a bushel, pressured by the official production estimates. Market support came from modest deliveries and the dollar trend.

In Winnipeg, canola futures' prices fell due to bearish soybean and oilseed fundamentals, the stronger Canadian dollar and the large European rapeseed crop. Nearby prices in mid-month fell below \$300 a tonne.

Prices later recovered as a result of higher Chicago soybean prices, good crush volume, and the delayed harvest with the possibility of 10% to 15% of the Prairie crop remaining in the field.

Data from the September 2004 issue of the *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, prices, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries, and supply-disposition analyses.

This month's issue also includes the 2003/04 price supplement.

The October situation report, an overview of current market conditions, both domestic and international, is also included in the September issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, \$12/\$120), which will soon be available.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; les.macartney@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Canadian Economic Observer, November 2004,
Vol. 17, no. 11
Catalogue number 11-010-XIB (\$19/\$182).

Imports by Commodity, September 2004, Vol. 61,
no. 9
Catalogue number 65-007-XMB (\$40/\$387).

Imports by Commodity, September 2004, Vol. 61,
no. 9
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB (\$84/\$828).

The Canadian Labour Market at a Glance, 2003
Catalogue number 71-222-XIE
(free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

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Statistics 11-001-XIE (11-001-XIE) (11-001-XIE)



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 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, each Canadian 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, 1995** 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.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Imported Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

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