



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, December 8, 2004

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- **Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, November 2004** 2
It has been a roller-coaster year for Canadian farmers. The season started out with favorable conditions and much needed precipitation, but a series of mid-season frosts, cooler than normal weather and marginal harvest conditions in the West combined to create problems for the 2004 crop.

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Major releases

Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops

November 2004

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Production estimates

Crop	2003	September 2004	November 2004	November 2003 to November 2004
	thousands of tonnes			% change
Total wheat	23,552	24,462	25,860	9.8
Spring wheat	16,440	17,337	18,451	12.2
Barley	12,328	13,040	13,186	7.0
Grain corn	9,587	8,064 ¹	8,836	-7.8
Canola	6,771	7,001	7,728	14.1
Durum wheat	4,280	4,671	4,962	15.9
Oats	3,691	3,488	3,683	-0.2
Field peas	2,124	3,308	3,338	57.2
Soybeans	2,268	2,920 ²	3,048	34.4
Lentils	520	...	961	84.8
Flaxseed	754	672	517	-31.4
Rye	327	403	418	27.8
Mustard Seed	226	...	306	35.4
Canary Seed	226	...	301	33.2

1. Quebec and Ontario only.

2. Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba.

... Not applicable.

This is the third and final crop production survey for 2004. Farmers in the West reported an overall increase in yield compared with what was reported earlier, but faced below-average quality, and in some cases, higher-than-normal grain moisture content requiring drying. Some farmers in northern areas were unable to complete their harvest because of snow and inclement weather.

After a cool and wet spring, crop conditions in Ontario and Quebec improved as the season came to an end, resulting in strong yield estimates and even a record yield for corn.

Jump in total wheat production

Total wheat production rose 14% to 23.9 million tonnes in the Prairies, up 2.9 million tonnes from 2003. The recent 10-year average production is 22.4 million tonnes. Reported average yield was 38 bushels per acre, up from 32 bushels per acre in 2003. Quality

is an important issue this year, and wheat grades for more than half of the crop will not be grade number 1 or number 2.

A record yield of 38 bushels per acre pushed spring wheat production up 13% to 18.0 million tonnes this year. This was just one half bushel per acre over the previous record set in 1999. The 10-year average production is 17.5 million tonnes. Farmers in all three Prairie provinces reported higher yields, with records in Manitoba and Alberta. Harvested acreage was down in Manitoba and Saskatchewan because of frost and wet field conditions. Manitoba (-10% to 3.3 million tonnes) was the only province to report a decrease in production.

A surge in yield from 26 to 35 bushels per acre propelled durum production up 16% to 5.0 million tonnes this year. Total production was considerably above the 10-year average of 4.6 million tonnes. In Saskatchewan, where the majority of Canadian durum is grown, production rose by 735,000 tonnes to 3.9 million tonnes, the result of an increase in yield from 24 to 33 bushels per acre. On the other hand, Alberta production edged down 27,000 tonnes from a year earlier to 1.0 million tonnes.

Barley production rises

Barley production rose by 7% to 13.2 million tonnes, due to a strong increase in yield. This was the second consecutive annual increase in Canadian barley production. The 10-year average is 12.4 million tonnes.

Farmers in Alberta and Saskatchewan reported increases in barley production, while production fell slightly in Manitoba. In Saskatchewan, production rose by 653,000 tonnes to 5.0 million tonnes, and Alberta gained 305,000 tonnes to 5.8 million tonnes.

Canola production strong

Prairie farmers reported that canola production rose 14% to 7.6 million tonnes, a value well above the 10-year average of 6.4 million tonnes.

Farmers in all three Prairie provinces reported increases in canola production, with Alberta leading the way (+32% to 2.9 million tonnes), the result of strong increases in yield and harvested acreage. The 10-year average for Alberta is 2.1 million tonnes.

Canola production in Saskatchewan advanced 8% to 2.9 million tonnes, due to increases in yield and harvested area. Production in Manitoba edged up less than 1% from 2003 to 1.8 million tonnes.

Field pea production sets a record

An increase of 1.2 million acres of field peas and better yields established the second consecutive annual increase in production to 3.3 million tonnes, eclipsing the record of 2.9 million tonnes set in 2000. Overall, yields were about 12 bushels per acre more than 2003 and 7 bushels per acre over the 10-year average. In many areas, plants were well advanced before late summer frosts, and adequate rainfall was widespread in pea growing areas.

Increases in production were reported in all three provinces, with Alberta producing a record 698,000 tonnes, beating the previous record set in 2000. Manitoba production rose 16% to 160,000 tonnes while Saskatchewan harvested a record 2.5 million tonnes.

Flaxseed production the lowest since 1992

Production of flaxseed fell to 517,000 tonnes, down 31% from the 754,000 tonnes produced in 2003 and well below the 10-year average of 876,000 tonnes. Although the seeded acreage remained at the same level as 2003, yields were down 5% and an estimated 500,000 acres have not been harvested due to a combination of late plant maturity and adverse harvest conditions. Attempts may be made to harvest some of the flaxseed in the spring.

The two major flaxseed-producing provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan both reported declines in production.

Strong performance from lentils, canary seed and mustard

Prairie farmers reported strong gains in some special crops this year. Lentil (+85%) and canary seed (+33%) production rose to record levels this year. The strong performance was due to higher yields and record harvested acreage.

Mustard seed production rose 35% on the strength of a 46% increase in yield.

Grain corn production in Ontario and Quebec down, but remains above average

Corn production declined in Ontario and Quebec, where a noticeable reduction in harvested area due to

a switch from corn to soybeans toned down the effect of the record yield estimates set in both provinces.

Quebec farmers reported that production dropped 1% to just under last year's record of 3.5 million tonnes. Better than expected late season conditions and a record 132 bushels per acre failed to hold back the decline in production. The previous record yield of 129 bushels per acre was set in 1999.

In Ontario, corn production was off 4% to 5.3 million tonnes, the result of a decline in harvested acreage of 7% to 1.6 million acres. Better late season growing and harvest conditions combined to produce a record 131 bushels per acre, a yield just slightly above the previous record of 129 bushels per acre set in 1998. The 10-year average yield is 117 bushels per acre.

Record soybean production in Ontario and Quebec

Soybean production in Ontario and Quebec rose to record territory, primarily the result of above-average yields, a jump in harvested area and good late season harvest conditions.

Ontario soybean production rose 43% to 2.5 million tonnes, 82,000 tonnes above the record set in 1997. A stronger-than-average yield of 40 bushels per acre, and near-record area of 2.3 million acres harvested combined to produce this year's record. The 10-year average production is 2.0 million tonnes.

Quebec farmers produced a record 520,000 tonnes of soybeans this year, up 35% or 135,000 tonnes from 2003 and easily surpassing the record of 435,000 tonnes set in 1999. This year's robust production was the result of a record harvested area of 492,000 acres, up 111,000 acres from the previous high set in 2000. Farmers planted more soybeans this year, the result of a switch from corn, a decision brought on by late spring planting conditions.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3401.

The November Crops survey of 31,300 farmers was conducted by telephone interviews and over the Internet between October 22 and November 19. Farmers were asked to report their seeded areas, harvested areas, and yields of major grains, oilseeds and special crops.

The publication *Field Crop Reporting Series: November Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops*, Vol. 83, no. 8 (22-002-XIB, \$12/\$71; 22-002-XPB, \$17/\$95) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this

release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; dave.burroughs@statcan.ca), Dave Roeske (613-951-0572; dave.roeske@statcan.ca) or Heather Smith (613-951-0730; heather.smith@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Other releases

Study: Generational Income Mobility in North America and Europe

Parenting style, and the social resources available to parents, will become increasingly important concerns if wealthy countries are to continue to promote an agenda of equal opportunity, according to the new book *Generational Income Mobility in North America and Europe*.

Children in rich countries today are growing up in a very different world than children a generation ago. But children still live in poverty, and many countries have set explicit targets to reduce child poverty.

The book, part of the research program of Statistics Canada's Family and Labour Studies Division, explores the premise that if children are raised in a state of low income, there will be long-term consequences. Will they become less than they otherwise could be, and indeed grow up to be poor adults who in turn raise poor children?

The book examines what is known as "generational income mobility." This term refers to the link between the socio-economic status of parents, particularly their income, and the status and income that their children will end up with in adulthood.

Understanding the extent of generational mobility is a first step in understanding the consequences of income inequalities, as well as the extent of "equality of opportunity."

This book contains a number of essays that analyze the degree of generational income mobility in various wealthy countries, and offers findings that may help to inform policy-makers.

It places the situation in Canada in an international context, and offers comparable estimates of the degree of mobility, how it has changed through time and the impact of government policy.

Its analysis suggests that future directions for social policy may not be so much in the area of increased access to higher education. Rather, the stress may be on circumstances much earlier in life that put individuals in the fortunate situation of being able to choose whether to go on to higher education.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Miles Corak (613-951-9047), Family and Labour Studies Division, Statistics Canada. For more information about the book *Generational Income Mobility in North America and Europe*, or to purchase a copy, visit the Cambridge University Press Web page (www.cambridge.org). ■

Farm product prices

October 2004

Prices received by farmers in October for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, fruits, vegetables, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Alberta non-board barley price was \$93.93 in October, down 6% from a month earlier and 12% lower than the October 2003 price of \$107.39.

The October slaughter calves price in Quebec was \$134.76 per hundredweight, down 2% from a month earlier and down 6% from the October 2003 price of \$142.88.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-7543; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Canadian System of Environmental and Resource Accounts: Material and Energy Flow Accounts

1990 to 2000

Data from the Material and Energy Flow Accounts on energy use (1990 to 2000), water use (1996) and greenhouse gas production (1990 to 2000) by industries, governments and households are now available. The Material and Energy Flow Accounts describe the annual flows of materials and energy between the Canadian environment and economy. These data are available at the Canada-level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 153-0031 to 153-0034.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5078.

Tables are available upon request.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts methods or data quality of this release, contact Martin Lemire (613-951-5739; martin.lemire@statcan.ca) or the information officer (613-951-0297; fax: 613-951-0634; environ@statcan.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

New products

Field Crop Reporting Series: November Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Vol. 83, no. 8
Catalogue number 22-002-XIB (\$12/\$71).

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

Field Crop Reporting Series: November Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Vol. 83, no. 8
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB (\$17/\$95).

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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Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

Catalogue 11-001-XIE (11-001-XIE) (11-001-XIE)



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
MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in the estimate on taking urban transit. Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 0.5 trip 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 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
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