



The Daily

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canada's international transactions in securities, December 2003** 3
Foreign investors continued to add significantly to their holdings of Canadian stocks in December, but reduced their holdings of debt securities. Meanwhile, Canadian investors continued their purchases of foreign securities, but switched to mainly foreign bonds.
- **Livestock estimates, as of January 1, 2004** 6
The Canadian cattle herd soared to a record 14.7 million head as of January 1, 2004, in the wake of the worldwide ban on Canadian cattle because of mad cow disease. At the same time, hog inventories edged down 0.4% to 14.6 million head.

OTHER RELEASES

Study: Corporate financial leverage and employment in manufacturing, 1988 to 1997	8
Construction Union Wage Rate Index, January 2004	8
Stocks of frozen poultry meat, February 1, 2004	8
Wool disposition and farm value, 2002	9

NEW PRODUCTS 10

(continued on page 2)

2001 Census topic-based tabulations (various levels of geography)

Additional topic-based tabulations for the "Income of individuals, families and households" topic, at various levels of geography, are available online at no cost.

In addition, a profile of language characteristics, for Canada, provinces, territories, census divisions, census subdivisions and dissemination areas is available for a fee (costs vary depending on geography level) in Beyond 20/20 format.

From the *Census* page, choose *Data*, then *Topic-based tabulations* or *Profiles*.

For more information, contact the nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



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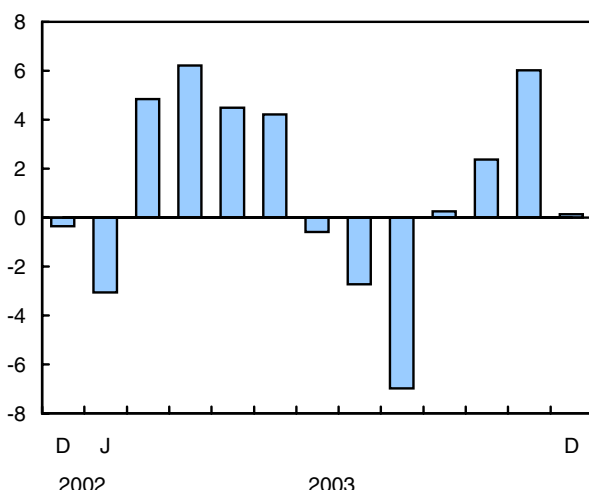
Canada's international transactions in securities

December 2003

Foreign investors continued to add significantly to their holdings of Canadian stocks in December but reduced their holdings of debt securities, both bonds and money market paper.

Foreign investment in Canadian securities¹

\$ billions



¹ Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

Meanwhile, Canadian investors continued their purchases of foreign securities, but switched their acquisitions mainly to foreign bonds in December from equities the month before.

Foreign investors again acquire sizable amounts of Canadian stocks

With Canadian stock prices posting some of their best gains of the year in December, foreign investors continued to add to their holdings of Canadian stocks, buying \$2.2 billion worth in the month. Trading volume in Canadian stocks with foreign investors was up as well, climbing to \$45.6 billion in December, the highest turnover since the \$55.0 billion in March 2001. American investors did the bulk of the buying in December, as they have for all of 2003. Of the \$12.9 billion increase in foreign holdings of Canadian equities in 2003, 70% was in existing shares. A major part of the balance

Related market information

In December, the gap between Canadian and US **short-term interest rates**, favouring investment in Canada, narrowed by 7 basis points to 167 basis points, well below the June high of 215 basis points. Canadian interest rates fell 10 basis points to 2.57% in December, their lowest level since April 2002. American rates fell marginally to 0.90%, matching the historical low set earlier in July 2003.

Canadian **long-term interest rates** fell 13 basis points to 4.66% in December, while American rates rose by 2 basis points to 4.27%. This caused the differential, which favours investment in Canada, to fall to just 39 basis points, the narrowest gap since May 2002.

Canadian **stock prices** closed the year with a strong 4.6% advance in December. The S&P/TSX composite index, at 8,220.9, represented a 24.3% advance in 2003, returning share prices to a level not witnessed in almost three full years (since January 2001).

American stock prices also ended 2003 with a strong 5.1% gain in December, bringing the year's gain to 26.4%. The Standard & Poor's composite 500 index closed December at 1,111.9, a level last recorded in March 2002.

The **Canadian dollar** chalked up its fifth consecutive gain against the US dollar in December to close 2003 at 77.13 US cents. The Canadian dollar registered gains against its American counterpart in eleven of the twelve months of 2003, up 21.7% or 13.7 US cents over the year.

Definitions

The data series on international security transactions cover portfolio transactions in stocks and bonds (both Canadian and foreign issues) and Canadian money market instruments.

Stocks include common and preferred equities, as well as warrants.

Debt securities include bonds and money market instruments.

Bonds have an original term to maturity of more than one year.

Money market instruments have an original term to maturity of one year or less. **Government of Canada paper** includes treasury bills and US-dollar Canada bills. **Other money market instruments** include treasury bills and other paper issued by other Canadian governments or their enterprises, bankers' acceptances, bearer demand notes of banks, commercial paper and other short-term paper.

came from new treasury shares issued by a Canadian company exchanged in the acquisition of a foreign company.

Canadian stock prices closed the year with a strong 4.6% advance in December, second only to the 4.7% recorded in October. The S&P/TSX composite index closed the year at 8,220.9, a 24.3% advance for 2003 and a return to a level last witnessed almost three full years ago, in January 2001.

Foreign holdings of bonds and money market instruments go down

After accumulating \$5.3 billion worth of Canadian bonds over October and November, foreign investors reduced their holdings by \$1.6 billion in December. The reduction was concentrated in federally and provincially issued bonds. However, a large part of the decrease was offset by foreign buying of bonds issued by federal enterprises and corporations; most of this came from new bonds sold in foreign markets.

On a currency basis, foreign investors reduced their holdings of Canadian dollar-denominated bonds in December but bought issues denominated in foreign currencies. For 2003, they sold \$5.1 billion of Canadian dollar-denominated bonds, but increased their holdings of US dollar-denominated bonds by \$7.5 billion and those of bonds denominated in other foreign currencies by \$4.3 billion. The total foreign investment of \$6.7 billion in Canadian bonds came 60% from Asian investors, with the remaining 40% coming from Americans investors. Europeans recorded no new investment for the year as a whole.

Foreign holdings of Canadian money market paper fell by \$0.5 billion in December, following a similarly small reduction in November. Foreign investors have reduced their holdings of Canadian short-term paper in 9 of 12 months of 2003, for a total reduction over the year of \$4.4 billion. This more than reversed the \$3.8 billion they accumulated in 2002. The foreign divestment in 2003 was spread across paper issued by corporations and governments and their enterprises, except federal treasury bills.

In December, the gap between Canadian and US short-term interest rates narrowed by 7 basis points to 167 basis points, well below the high of 215 basis points recorded in June. Canadian interest rates, at 2.57% in December, were at their lowest level since April 2002, while American rates, at 0.90%, matched their historical low set in July 2003.

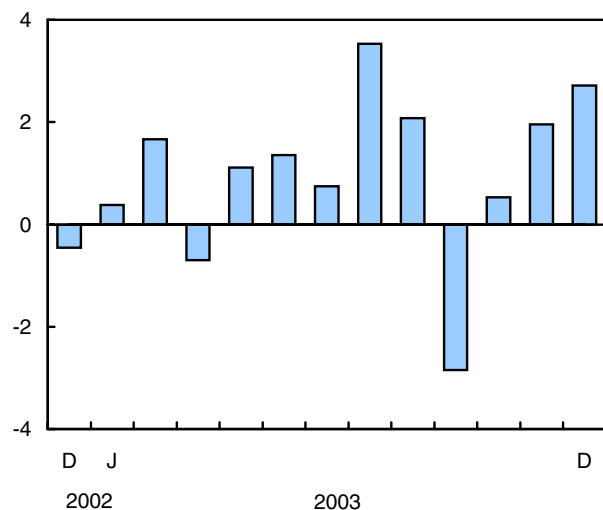
Canadian investors continue their purchases of foreign securities, especially foreign bonds

Canadian investors added a further \$2.7 billion to their holdings of foreign securities in December, \$2.3 billion of which was invested in bonds. November's investment of \$2.0 billion, however, was heavily weighted toward stocks. The \$12.5 billion investment in foreign securities for all of 2003 was directed two-thirds

to foreign bonds with one-third to foreign stocks. This investment was half the \$25.0 billion invested in foreign securities in 2002, of which 75% went to stocks and 25%, to bonds.

Canadian investment in foreign securities¹

\$ billions Reverse of balance of payments signs



¹ Includes bonds and stocks.

Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0018 to 376-0029 and 376-0058.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1532, 1534, 1535 and 1537.

The December 2003 issue of *Canada's International Transactions in Securities* (67-002-XIE, \$15/\$142) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Data on Canada's international transactions in securities for January 2004 will be released on March 18.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; infobalance@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Donald Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments Division.

□

Canada's international transactions in securities

	September 2003	October 2003	November 2003	December 2003	2002	2003
	\$ millions					
Foreign investment in Canadian securities	246	2,368	6,027	140	21,058	15,179
Bonds (net)	-659	1,219	4,110	-1,584	18,712	6,663
Outstanding	985	-1,217	1,751	-2,103	14,474	-1,299
New issues	3,386	3,692	5,318	7,249	49,956	56,132
Retirements	-4,888	-1,945	-3,145	-5,431	-45,937	-48,688
Change in interest payable ¹	-142	688	185	-1,299	220	518
Money market paper (net)	-1,214	351	-282	-464	3,782	-4,373
Government of Canada	410	-12	-592	336	1,980	323
Other	-1,624	363	310	-800	1,802	-4,696
Stocks (net)	2,119	798	2,198	2,188	-1,436	12,888
Outstanding	1,994	255	109	1,828	-8,037	8,983
Other transactions	125	544	2,089	359	6,600	3,906
Canadian investment in foreign securities	2,843	-530	-1,959	-2,715	-24,950	-12,519
Bonds (net)	2,720	293	-76	-2,260	-6,243	-8,196
Stocks (net)	123	-823	-1,883	-455	-18,707	-4,323

¹ Interest accrued less interest paid.

Note: A minus sign indicates an outflow of money from Canada, that is, a withdrawal of foreign investment from Canada or an increase in Canadian investment abroad.

■

Livestock estimates

As of January 1, 2004

The Canadian cattle herd soared to a record 14.7 million head as of January 1, 2004, in the wake of the worldwide ban on Canadian cattle because of mad cow disease.

According to the Livestock Survey of 10,000 farmers conducted last December and January, beef producers had 1.2 million more head of cattle on their farms than they did on January 1, 2003. This 8.7% gain was largely due to reduced marketings.

The survey also found that hog inventories were down 0.4% to 14.6 million head.

Survey results reflect the impact of a ban on Canadian beef following the disclosure of a single reported case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, on May 20, 2003. The border remained closed to all Canadian beef exports until September 2003. At that time, the United States, followed by a number of other countries, agreed to allow imports of Canadian boneless beef from animals younger than 30 months under a permit process.

The results do not reflect the subsequent discovery on December 23, 2003, of a dairy cow in Washington State that tested positive for BSE. The origin of this dairy cow was traced to northern Alberta.

Herd sizes rose in all provinces, as exports virtually collapsed following the ban. The herd surged 16.0% in Manitoba, the largest increase. Saskatchewan's herd went up 12.3% and Alberta's rose a more modest 6.9%.

Livestock inventories

January 1

	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	'000 head					
Canada	13,488	14,660	14,672	14,608	976	997
Atlantic	289	296	374	366	33	34
Quebec	1,303	1,420	4,280	4,250	230	250
Ontario	2,110	2,224	3,661	3,670	280	270
Manitoba	1,250	1,450	2,825	2,852	74	82
Saskatchewan	2,543	2,855	1,230	1,250	115	125
Alberta	5,310	5,675	2,140	2,050	187	175
British Columbia	683	740	162	170	57	61

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

Farmers reported increased levels of cattle on cow-calf operations and backgrounding operations, while the number of animals held on feedlots dropped. For example, cow-calf producers reported 9.0 million animals, up 11.0%.

Western Canadian farmers account for almost three-quarters of the national herd. Alberta alone represented 38.7%, or about 5.7 million animals at January 1, 2004. A year earlier, Alberta's cattle herd

had fallen 8.8%, following two years of drought coupled with scarce feed supplies and high feed prices.

After the ban, far fewer animals were placed on Alberta feed lots. They are normally finished in that province before being sent for processing.

Cattle industry worth \$7.7 billion a year

Since the late 1980s, the Canadian cattle industry has expanded to the point where it is worth an estimated \$7.7 billion a year to farmers. This expansion coincided with freer trade, and was primarily driven by exports to the United States. Domestic consumption remained stable or declined.

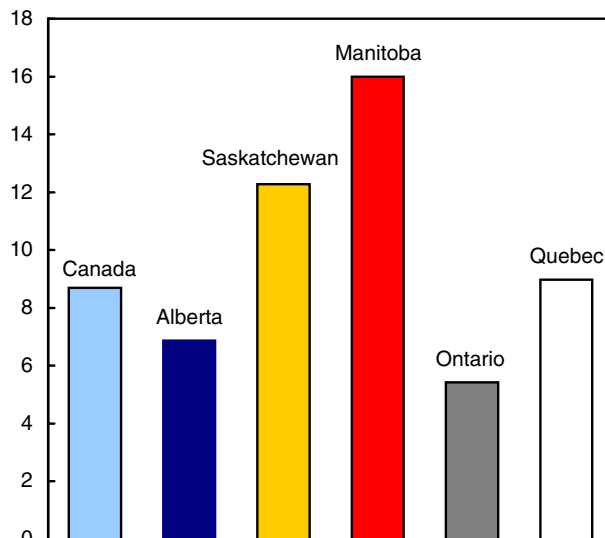
Canada's exports of cattle and beef meat to all countries virtually collapsed after the ban was imposed last May. The vast majority head south to the United States.

For 2003 as a whole, farmers exported about 509 thousand head of cattle to all countries, only 30% of 2002's level. Beef exports fell almost 40% to an estimated 300,000 tonnes.

Cattle exports plunged 70% to the United States alone, while exports of beef were down about 37%.

More cattle in all provinces at January 1, 2004

Percentage change from 2003



In dollar value, for 2002 as a whole, total cattle and beef exports reached \$3.9 billion, the equivalent of \$11 million in sales each day. This consisted of \$1.8 billion worth of cattle and calves, and \$2.1 billion in beef.

In 2002, total exports to the United States amounted to \$3.6 billion. Exports of live cattle and meat were each worth \$1.8 billion.

Prices and cash receipts tumble

Prices for all cattle — slaughter animals, feeders and calves — have tumbled because of the domestic oversupply resulting from the plunge in exports.

Prices for slaughter cattle were hardest hit. For example, the July price for slaughter cattle in Alberta was about 35% of the price before the borders closed. This collapse was mirrored across the country.

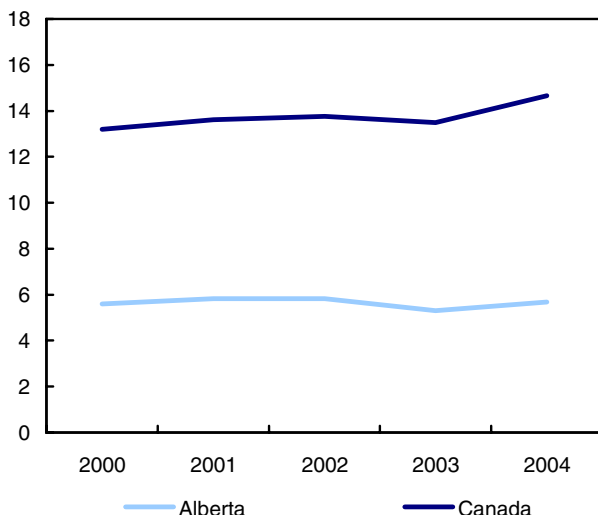
Feeder cattle prices were also adversely affected, although the impact was less severe. In Alberta, prices for feeder cattle fell about 40%.

Market receipts for cattle and calves in the third quarter of 2003 tumbled to less than \$500 million, down 73% from the \$1.8 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2002.

With less export demand for beef, some 322,000 fewer cattle were slaughtered in 2003 than in 2002, a decline of 8.4%. Stocks of frozen or chilled beef in cold-storage warehouses climbed to a peak of 39,000 metric tonnes in November, up 54% from November 2002.

Closed US border leads to record cattle inventories at January 1, 2004

Million head



Government payment programs will help cushion the shock for farmers. The main program, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Recovery Program, is

estimated to have paid 280 million dollars to producers from July to September 2003.

Also, cash receipts before the ban were considerably higher, and the situation did improve in the fourth quarter of 2003.

Consumers appear to have benefited from more favourable prices for beef. According to the Consumer Price Index, beef prices fell significantly during summer to a low in September. For example, the price for ground beef fell 24% from April to September 2003. This, coupled with concern for the industry, may have encouraged consumers to buy more beef, helping to limit the oversupply.

Hog numbers edge down as prices soft

The 0.4% decline in hog inventories follows a softening in hog prices during the past two years, which has resulted in low profits or losses for producers. Prices have declined since June, falling over 25% from June to December.

Many hog producers are not immediately affected by market price changes, as they produce under contract. Even so, growth in the hog sector has been limited following recent years of expansion that often averaged 5.0% annually.

Exports in 2003, primarily to the United States, expanded during the first three quarters before dropping back in the fourth quarter. As Canada is shipping younger pigs to the United States for feeding, the breeding herd actually expanded marginally, even though the total number of hogs on farms declined.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0004 and 003-0030 to 003-0032.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3460.

The reports *Cattle Statistics*, Vol. 3, no. 1 (23-012-XIE, free), *Hog Statistics*, Vol. 3, no. 1 (23-010-XIE, free) and *Sheep Statistics*, Vol. 3, no. 1 (23-011-XIE, free) are now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

The analytical article *Mad Cow Disease and Beef Trade: An Update* (11-621-MIE2004010, free) is now available online in the *Analysis in Brief* series.

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

OTHER RELEASES

Study: Corporate financial leverage and employment in manufacturing

1988 to 1997

Firms with high levels of debt tend to reduce their workforce somewhat more when their sales decline than other firms, especially during periods of economic slack, according to a new study.

From 1988 to 1997, firms with relatively high levels of debt facing a 10% drop in sales reduced their workforce 4.3%. In contrast, typical firms — those with average debt proportions — tended to reduce employment 3.9% in similar circumstances.

Hence, high-debt firms reduced their workforce 10% more in response to a sales decline than average-debt firms.

The study also shows that the propensity of high-debt firms to shed more labour was higher during the recession. From 1990 to 1992, high-leveraged firms downsized their workforce 4.7% for a 10% drop in demand, compared with 4.2% for typical firms.

For the purpose of this study, firms with high levels of debt are defined as those with a higher ratio of liabilities over assets.

Several researchers have argued that because of costs associated with hiring and severance of employees, firms typically prefer to maintain their workforces when sales drop. A firm with higher debt levels will have a harder time doing this because they have more capital tied up in interest payments and find it more difficult to borrow additional capital. These views are supported by the findings of this study.

Since the proportion of debt in Canadian firms increased substantially in the last four decades, the results of this study also suggest that higher debt proportions may have contributed to employment instability.

The research paper *Corporate Financial Leverage in Canadian Manufacturing: Consequences for Employment and Inventories* (11F0019MIE2004217, free) is now available online. From our home page, select *Studies* from the left side-bar; then, under *Browse*

periodicals and series, select *Free and for sale*, then *Analytical Studies Branch*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sébastien LaRoche-Côté (613-951-0803), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

January 2004

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index for Canada (including supplements) remained unchanged in January compared with the December level of 128.2 (1992=100). The Composite index increased 2.1% from the January 2003 index.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 urban centres for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes (1992=100) are calculated for the same urban centres and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The first quarter 2004 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$26/\$85) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Louise Chagné (613-951-3393), Prices Division. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

February 1, 2004 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on February 1 totalled 45,997 metric tonnes, down 10.5% from a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandy Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Wool disposition and farm value 2002

The quantity, price and farm value of purchased wool and wool for home use are now available for 2002 by province and for Canada.

Following several years of reduced values, the total farm value of wool purchased in 2002, pegged at \$1.4 million, increased to levels comparable to 1998.

This was an increase of 59% from 2001. This upward trend is due to a combination of stronger prices and an increase in the quantity purchased.

Alberta continues to be the major player with 42% of the value with Ontario second at 18%.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3460.

The publication *Sheep Statistics*, Vol. 3, no. 1 (23-011-XIE, free) is now available online. 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 Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251; bernadette.alain@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

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Cattle Statistics, 2004, Vol. 3, no. 1

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Energy Statistics Handbook, Third quarter 2003

Catalogue number 57-601-XCB (\$54/\$161).

Energy Statistics Handbook, Third quarter 2003

Catalogue number 57-601-XIE (\$38/\$107).

Imports by Commodity, December 2003, Vol. 60,
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Catalogue number 65-007-XMB (\$40/\$387).

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
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• Urban transit, 1996 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.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 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.	4
OTHER RELEASES	
Help-wanted index, May 1997	3
Short-term Expectations Survey	2
Steel primary forms, steel ending May 31, 1997	12
Egg production, Apr. 1997	13
PUBLICATIONS RELEASED	11
 	

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