

Statistics Canada

Monday, February 2, 2004

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Farm Product Price Index

November 2003

Prices received by farmers for their agricultural commodities decreased 13.2% in November compared with November 2002, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI).

The November crop index was 90.4, marking the fifth consecutive month of year-over-year decline. Before July 2003, the crop index had been rising on a year-over-year basis since September 2000. Grain prices have been supported over the last few years by two consecutive droughts in many parts of Western Canada. The livestock index was down 4.4% from November 2002, the sixth consecutive decline since May, when a cow in Alberta tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease).

The FPPI (1997=100), remained at 93.1 in November, unchanged from the revised October index.

On a monthly basis, the total crop index was down 1.1% in November, offsetting a 0.9% increase in the livestock and animal products index. The oilseed and special crops indexes recorded declines from October. For the second month in a row, the grains index was up, climbing 2.6% from October. The grains index had been sliding since January 2003, when markets began to anticipate a return to more normal growing conditions.

The total livestock and animal products index was supported mainly by cattle and calf prices, which are the largest contributors to this index. The cattle and calf index stood at 100.8 in November, continuing its steady climb from the low of 63.9 in July. However,

the index fell 12.2% from November 2002 and remained below the 121.7 recorded in May 2003 prior to the BSE situation. Slaughter cattle prices continued to climb in November, supported by strong US beef prices and a limited export market for beef.

Tempering the increase in the cattle and calf index was the lower hog index, which recorded its fifth consecutive monthly decline to reach 64.6, the lowest level in 2003. However the index remains close to November 2002's level of 64.7. Hog prices have been affected by the BSE situation, weaker consumer demand and a strong Canadian dollar.

The potato index recorded a slight increase from October, up 1.1% to 119.0, as potato prices levelled off from their slide during a record harvest. On a year-over-year basis, the potato index remained 19.2% below November 2002's level, when potato prices peaked, supported by tight supplies.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The November 2003 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 3, no. 11 (21-007-XIB, 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 Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-3122; gail-ann.breeese@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

Farm Product Price Index

(1997=100)

| | November 2002 ^r | October 2003 ^r | November 2003 ^p | November 2002 to November 2003 % change | October to November 2003 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Farm Product Price Index | 107.2 | 93.1 | 93.1 | -13.2 | 0.0 |
| Crops | 112.0 | 91.4 | 90.4 | -19.3 | -1.1 |
| Grains | 113.3 | 72.6 | 74.5 | -34.2 | 2.6 |
| Oilseeds | 103.4 | 97.0 | 94.4 | -8.7 | -2.7 |
| Specialty crops | 140.4 | 114.6 | 110.8 | -21.1 | -3.3 |
| Fruit | 107.0 | 100.7 | 118.5 | 10.7 | 17.7 |
| Vegetables | 109.6 | 105.2 | 105.9 | -3.4 | 0.7 |
| Potatoes | 147.2 | 117.7 | 119.0 | -19.2 | 1.1 |
| Livestock and animal products | 100.9 | 95.6 | 96.5 | -4.4 | 0.9 |
| Cattle and calves | 114.8 | 98.2 | 100.8 | -12.2 | 2.6 |
| Hogs | 64.7 | 69.9 | 64.6 | -0.2 | -7.6 |
| Poultry | 91.7 | 96.1 | 97.2 | 6.0 | 1.1 |
| Eggs | 103.1 | 102.1 | 103.2 | 0.1 | 1.1 |
| Dairy | 117.8 | 120.1 | 121.0 | 2.7 | 0.7 |

r Revised figures.

Electric power statistics

November 2003

Data on electric power are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 127-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.

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; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Natural gas transportation and distribution January to September 2003

Data on natural gas transportation and distribution are now available for the period from January to September 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Construction type plywood

November 2003

Data on construction type plywood are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2138.

The November 2003 issue of *Construction Type Plywood*, Vol. 51, no. 11 (35-001-XIB, \$6/\$51) 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.

Preliminary figures.

NEW PRODUCTS

Farm Product Price Index, November 2003, Vol. 3, no. 11
Catalogue number 21-007-XIB
(free).

Construction Type Plywood, November 2003, Vol. 51, no. 11

Catalogue number 35-001-XIB (\$6/\$51).

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, February 2004 Catalogue number 62-013-XIE (free).

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

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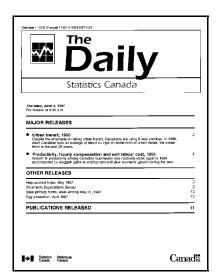
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