

Statistics Canada

Monday, February 9, 2004

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MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

OTHER RELEASES

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Infomat: A new electronic publication from Statistics Canada

Too busy to track all the facts and figures from Statistics Canada each day? Need a one-stop overview of emerging trends? Then the new-look *Infomat* is just the solution.

Infomat, the weekly digest of Statistics Canada's latest news releases, is now available in an electronic version. It will be published every Tuesday.

This online product provides crisp, tightly written articles that analyze trends and provide perspective on Statistics Canada's latest social and economic data. If readers want more detailed information, they can access *The Daily* and many other Agency publications through hyperlinks. The weekly feature *Spotlight* takes an in-depth look at issues, such as technology, health, education and the labour market.

The new *Infomat* (11-002-XIE, \$100 for a one-year subscription) is now available. See *How to order products*. The first issue is available for free.

For more information, contact John Flanders (613-951-8292), Communications Division.





OTHER RELEASES

Farm product prices

December 2003

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

The Alberta feeder steer price in December was \$98.96 per hundredweight, down 5% from November, but still 7% above the recent low of \$92.60 reached in August 2003. The Canadian cattle sector came to a virtual halt on May 20, 2003, when a cow in Alberta tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease). The loss of crucial export markets resulted in an oversupply which depressed prices.

The December corn price in Ontario, the lowest for 2003 at \$128.17 per tonne, was down 17% from the January 2003 price of \$153.52.

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: 204-983-3122; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

Traveller accommodation services price indexes

October to December 2003

Monthly indexes measuring price movements of accommodation services are now available for the fourth quarter. These indexes reflect changes in room rates, for overnight or short stays, with no meals or other services provided. All taxes are excluded. The indexes are available by province and by territory, for Canada, by major client group.

Available on CANSIM: table 326-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2336.

For more information, contact Prices Division (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; *infounit@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anne Williamson (613-951-0708; *willan@statcan.ca*), Prices Division.

Population of businesses with employees Fourth quarter 2003

Just over 1,016,300 Canadian businesses had employees in the fourth quarter of 2003, up 1.1% from the 1,005,400 for the fourth quarter of 2002, according to the count of payroll deduction accounts.

Ontario (+1.7%), British Columbia (+1.7%) and Alberta (+1.9%) contributed most to the increase. The largest declines occurred in New Brunswick (-1.3%) and Saskatchewan (-0.9%).

On a quarter-to-quarter basis, the total number of businesses with employees rose a slight 0.2% from the third quarter to the fourth. Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia accounted for the bulk of the increase, while Quebec saw a 0.4% decrease.

Information on Nunavut and the Northwest Territories will be available when sufficient quarterly observations are collected.

Available on CANSIM: table 178-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1105.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Joanne Proulx (613-951-9006; fax: 613-951-0104; proujo@statcan.ca), Business Register Division.

NEW PRODUCTS

Production of Eggs, December 2003 Catalogue number 23-003-XIB (free).

Service Bulletin: Surface and Marine Transport, Vol. 20, no. 1

Catalogue number 50-002-XIB (\$11).

Industry Price Indexes, December 2003, Vol. 29, no. 12

Catalogue number 62-011-XIE (\$19/\$175).

Industry Price Indexes, December 2003, Vol. 29, no. 12

Catalogue number 62-011-XPE (\$24/\$233).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -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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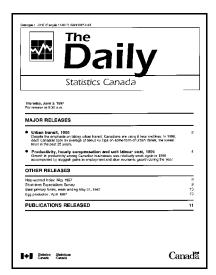
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