

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- Consumer Price Index, May 2004 Strong gasoline price increases were the main factor pushing the 12-month increase in the Consumer Price Index from 1.6% in April to 2.5% in May. However, excluding energy prices, the 12-month change in May was comparable with both March and April's increases.
- Leading indicators, May 2004
 The growth of the leading indicator picked up to 1.2% in May, after hovering around 0.6% since the start of the year. This was its strongest gain since April 2002. The acceleration was driven by housing, which continued to improve after regaining first place among all components in April.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index

May 2004

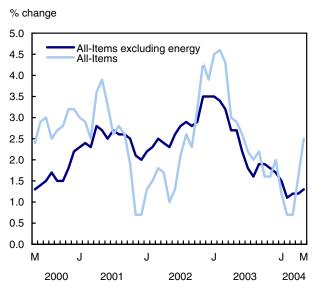
Strong gasoline price increases were the main factor pushing the 12-month increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 1.6% in April to 2.5% in May. On average, gasoline prices were 30.3% higher in May 2004 compared with May 2003. In the last month alone, they rose 13.6%.

Excluding energy prices, the 12-month change in May was 1.3%, a slight increase from the 1.2% seen in both March and April.

The CPI excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada rose 1.5% from May 2003 to May 2004, down from 1.8% in April. April's rate was affected by a jump in the 12-month electricity index, which was caused in large part by last year's refunds to Ontario customers. This was not a factor in May. The index includes electricity charges, but excludes gasoline prices.

From April to May, the CPI rose 0.9%, the largest monthly increase since May 2001. Again, gasoline prices were by far the most important contributor to this rise

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



Gasoline prices push up consumer inflation

In May, consumers paid 2.5% more for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index basket than they did in May 2003. Although gasoline prices were by far the largest factor contributing to the 12-month increase in the CPI, higher homeowners' replacement cost, cigarette prices, tuition fees, and homeowners' insurance premiums also exerted upward pressure.

Lower prices for computer equipment and supplies, automotive vehicles and fresh vegetables helped slow down the increase somewhat.

Gasoline prices were an average 30.3% higher in May compared with May 2003. This was the largest 12-month rise since February 2003. Increases ranged from 17.2% in Prince Edward Island to 34.1% in Nova Scotia. Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba residents saw jumps of more than 30%.

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn-out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), was up 6.5%, due mainly to higher house prices in Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec.

Cigarette prices were up 7.3% from May 2003. This increase was primarily due to higher tobacco taxes introduced in the last 12 months in most provinces.

Tuition fees rose an average 8.1%. Although they are only collected once a year, in September, they continue to be one of the important factors affecting the 12-month change in the CPI.

Homeowners' insurance premiums were up 12.5%, due in part to higher renewal rates in Ontario.

Computer equipment and supplies prices fell 15.5%; declines were registered for both desktops and laptops compared with May 2003.

Automotive vehicle prices dropped 1.2% in May from the same period last year, because of continuing manufacturer's incentives to counteract weak demand. Industry reports cite high gasoline prices and insurance premiums as factors contributing to this weak demand.

Fresh vegetable prices fell 7.8% from May 2003. Price decreases were especially strong for potatoes (-29.0%), due to large harvests last autumn, and lettuce (-18.5%), due to better availability than last year. However, tomatoes were more expensive (+16.6%).

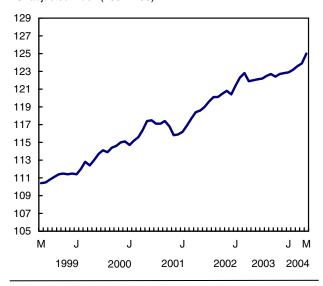
Strongest monthly increase since May 2001

The CPI increased 0.9% from April to May, after rising 0.2% the previous month. May's monthly increase is the strongest since May 2001. Higher gasoline prices

were by far the largest contributing factor to this rise. Traveller accommodation, air transportation and fresh fruit also exerted upward pressure on the CPI, but to a much lesser extent.

Consumer Price Index

Unadjusted index (1992=100)



However, consumers paid less for women's clothing as well as for seeds, plants and cut flowers.

Excluding the influence of energy prices, the CPI was up 0.3 %.

Gasoline prices jumped an average 13.6% from April to May. This is the highest monthly rise since June 1983 (+19.1%). Increases were seen in all provinces, ranging from 3.6% in Prince Edward Island, where prices are regulated, to 17.5% in Manitoba.

Higher crude oil prices, strong demand and uncertainty about future supply have resulted in higher pump prices.

Traveller accommodation prices were up 7.9%, as many hotel operators introduced their summer rates. This increase contrasts with the 9.9% average increase recorded for the month of May over the last six years.

Air transportation prices rose 5.7%. This is partly explained by seasonal changes in rates and rising fuel costs being passed along to the consumer in the form of fare increases for certain routes.

Price increases for certain fresh fruits contributed to the upward pressure on the monthly CPI. Increases were due to poor weather in the growing regions of producer countries. After falling 2.6% in April, the women's clothing index fell a further 3.3% in May. This reduction was due to widespread sales in most categories of women's clothing. Price drops of this magnitude are typical for women's clothing at this time of year.

The index for seeds, plants and cut flowers fell 4.0%; widespread sales were reported on many categories.

The seasonally adjusted CPI increased from April to May

After seasonal adjustment, the CPI rose 0.6% from April to May.

The impact of higher seasonally adjusted indexes for transportation (+3.3%), food (+0.7%), shelter (+0.2%) and clothing and footwear (+0.5%) was partly offset by the decrease posted for health and personal care (-0.2%). The seasonally adjusted indexes for household operations and furnishings; recreation, education and reading; and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products remained stable.

All-items index excluding the eight most volatile components

The all-items index, excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada, rose 1.5% in May compared with May 2003, down from April's 1.8% increase.

The exclusion of the effect of increasing gasoline and cigarette prices explains most of the difference between the 2.5% rise in the all-items CPI and the 1.5% rise in this index.

From April to May 2004, the all-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada increased 0.2%. Price rises for traveller accommodation and homeowners' replacement cost were among the main factors exerting upward pressure; price drops for women's clothing partly offset these pressures.

Energy

Nearly all of the 16.2% increase in the energy index between May 2003 and May 2004 was due to increases in the price of gasoline (+30.3%); electricity (+3.8%) and fuel oil (+10.7%) made much smaller contributions. The natural gas index fell a slight 0.5%.

Gasoline prices jumped across Canada—an average 13.6%—from April to May. This 20-year record increase accounted for almost all of the upward pressure on the energy index (+6.8%). Added pressure came from higher fuel oil prices (+1.5%); electricity prices remained unchanged. Natural gas prices dipped a slight 0.4% over the same period.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0001, 326-0002, 326-0009, 326-0012 and 326-0016 to 326-0018.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-XIB, free).

Available at 7 a.m. on the Internet. From our home page, choose *Today's news releases from The Daily,* then *Latest Consumer Price Index*.

The May 2004 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XIB, \$9/\$83; *62-001-XPB*, \$12/\$111) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The June 2004 Consumer Price Index will be released on July 16.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Rebecca McDougall (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Consumer Price Index and major components (1992=100)

May April May April May
2004 2004 2003 to 2003

May to
2004 May
2004 May
2004

| | unadjusted | | | | |
|---|------------|-------|-------|----------|------|
| _ | | | | % change | |
| All-items | 125.0 | 123.9 | 122.0 | 0.9 | 2.5 |
| Food | 124.4 | 123.4 | 122.8 | 0.8 | 1.3 |
| Shelter | 119.8 | 119.6 | 117.1 | 0.2 | 2.3 |
| Household operations and furnishings | 115.4 | 115.6 | 114.5 | -0.2 | 0.8 |
| Clothing and footwear | 102.8 | 103.8 | 103.4 | -1.0 | -0.6 |
| Transportation | 148.2 | 143.5 | 139.8 | 3.3 | 6.0 |
| Health and personal care | 119.0 | 119.0 | 117.1 | 0.0 | 1.6 |
| Recreation, education and reading | 128.4 | 127.1 | 127.2 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products | 143.4 | 142.2 | 136.2 | 0.8 | 5.3 |
| All-items (1986=100) | 160.1 | | | | |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar, | | | | | |
| expressed in cents, compared with 1992 | 80.0 | 80.7 | 82.0 | | |
| Special aggregates | | | | | |
| Goods | 120.8 | 119.1 | 117.8 | 1.4 | 2.5 |
| Services | 129.8 | 129.3 | 126.8 | 0.4 | 2.4 |
| All-items excluding food and energy | 122.0 | 121.7 | 120.4 | 0.2 | 1.3 |
| Energy | 156.2 | 146.2 | 134.4 | 6.8 | 16.2 |
| All-items excluding the eight most volatile | | | | | |
| components ¹ | 124.6 | 124.3 | 122.7 | 0.2 | 1.5 |
| • | | | | | |

^{1.} Excluded from the All-items CPI are the following eight volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. The Bank of Canada further adjusts this series to obtain their measure of core inflation, which also excludes the effect of changes in indirect taxes. For data and information on core inflation, please consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation./index.htm).

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit (1992=100)

| | May 2004 | April 2004 | May 2003 | April to | May 2003 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | | | | May 2004 | to May 2004 |
| | | | unadjusted | | 2001 |
| | | | | % change | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 122.8 | 121.6 | 120.7 | 1.0 | 1.7 |
| Prince Edward Island | 124.3 | 123.9 | 121.9 | 0.3 | 2.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 126.0 | 125.1 | 123.5 | 0.7 | 2.0 |
| New Brunswick | 124.6 | 123.5 | 122.1 | 0.9 | 2.0 |
| Quebec | 121.1 | 119.9 | 118.3 | 1.0 | 2.4 |
| Ontario | 126.1 | 125.1 | 122.7 | 0.8 | 2.8 |
| Manitoba | 128.1 | 126.4 | 125.1 | 1.3 | 2.4 |
| Saskatchewan | 129.7 | 128.4 | 126.4 | 1.0 | 2.6 |
| Alberta | 131.7 | 130.6 | 129.4 | 0.8 | 1.8 |
| British Columbia | 123.4 | 122.4 | 120.4 | 0.8 | 2.5 |
| Whitehorse ¹ | 121.5 | 120.2 | 119.8 | 1.1 | 1.4 |
| Yellowknife ¹ | 119.1 | 118.4 | 118.9 | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| Igaluit (Dec. 2002=100) ¹ | 101.4 | 100.8 | 100.1 | 0.6 | 1.3 |

^{1.} View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of Iqaluit.

Leading indicators

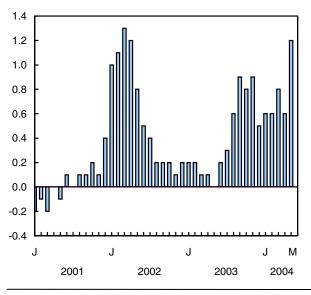
May 2004

The growth of the leading indicator picked up to 1.2% in May, after hovering around 0.6% since the start of the year. This was its strongest gain since April 2002. The acceleration was driven by housing, which continued to improve after regaining first place among all components in April. The US leading indicator also continued to contribute significantly to overall growth. Nine of the 10 components increased, two more than the month before, as manufacturing rebounded.

The housing index posted a 1.9% gain in May, its largest in three months. Existing home sales in May hit their fifth highest level ever. As well, low vacancy rates encouraged a high level of housing starts.

Composite index

Smoothed % change



Elsewhere, the improvement was widespread. Household spending on furnishings was spurred on by the boom in housing; furnishings posted its fastest growth since February 2002. Sales of other durable goods firmed after auto demand regained the ground it had lost at the turn of the year.

The US leading indicator registered a twelfth straight monthly increase. As in Canada, growth was broad-based; 8 of the 10 components saw increases. The upturn accompanied a 12.3% gain in our exports to the United States since January, the best four-month period since January 1995.

The three manufacturing indicators grew in unison for the first time in two years, reflecting the upturn in both domestic and export demand. The increase in the average work week was the first since August 2002. New orders bounced back from a dip in April. The ratio of shipments to inventories rose briskly, as manufacturers continued to meet rising demand by running down stocks.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

A more detailed analysis of the components is available online. From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, then click on the banner ad for *Canadian economic observer*. From that page, choose *Issues of CEO*, then *Composite Index*.

For more information on the economy, consult the June 2004 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Vol. 17, no. 6 (11-010-XIB, \$19/\$182; 11-010-XPB, \$25/\$243), now available. See *How to order our products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca) Current Economic Analysis Group.

Leading indicators

| | December 2003 | January 2004 | February 2004 | March 2004 | April 2004 | May 2004 | Last month |
|---|------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--|
| | | | | | | | of data <u>available</u> % change |
| Composite leading indicator (1992=100) | 188.4 | 189.5 | 190.7 | 192.2 | 193.4 | 195.7 | 1.2 |
| Housing index (1992=100) ¹ Business and personal services employment | 140.7 | 137.1 | 135.0 | 136.6 | 139.0 | 141.7 | 1.9 |
| ('000) | 2,633 | 2,633 | 2,633 | 2,628 | 2,622 | 2,615 | -0.3 |
| S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000) | 7,757 | 7,959 | 8,232 | 8,395 | 8,472 | 8,511 | 0.5 |
| Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ² | 117,985 | 117,951 | 118,475 | 119,790 | 121,410 | 123,459 | 1.7 |
| US composite leading indicator (1992=100) ³ | 112.8 | 113.1 | 113.5 | 113.8 | 114.2 | 114.5 | 0.3 |
| Manufacturing | | | | | | | |
| Average work week (hours) | 38.7 | 38.7 | 38.7 | 38.7 | 38.6 | 38.9 | 0.8 |
| New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴ | 20,447 | 20,637 | 20,978 | 21,671 | 21,473 | 21,641 | 0.8 |
| Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴ | 1.70 | 1.72 | 1.74 | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.81 | 0.03^{5} |
| Retail trade | | | | | | | |
| Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴ | 1,951 | 1,964 | 1,983 | 1,998 | 2,024 | 2,055 | 1.5 |
| Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴ | 7,764 | 7,718 | 7,587 | 7,473 | 7,490 | 7,537 | 0.6 |
| Unsmoothed composite leading indicator | 189.4 | 191.2 | 193.9 | 196.0 | 196.4 | 200.9 | 2.3 |

Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).
 Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.
 The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.
 The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.
 Difference from previous month.

OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance Coverage Survey 2003

The proportion of unemployed Canadians potentially eligible for Employment Insurance benefits remained virtually unchanged in 2003, according to data from the Employment Insurance Coverage Survey.

About 707,000 people, or 57.3% of unemployed individuals, were potentially eligible to receive Employment Insurance benefits, up from 55.4% in 2002. This was the highest ratio of unemployed effectively eligible for employment insurance benefits since the survey began in 1997.

Of those who were potentially eligible, an estimated 592,000, or 83.7%, accumulated enough hours of paid work to make a claim.

The most common reason for not being covered by the Employment Insurance program was still the lack of paid employment during the previous 12 months. However, in 2003, only about 24% of unemployed individuals were not potentially eligible for this reason. This proportion has been declining steadily since 1997, when it was 34.7%.

In 2003, 64.8% of mothers with a child up to 12 months of age received maternity or parental benefits at some point during their pregnancy, or after the birth or adoption of their child. This was up slightly from 63.3% in 2002. The proportion of mothers with insurable employment remained virtually unchanged at 75.0%.

Among paid workers, the average duration of the leave or planned leave reached 11 months in 2003. Similar data are not available for self-employed mothers,

because the survey does not gather information on the return intentions of self-employed individuals who are still on leave at the time of the interview. However, nearly one in three self-employed mothers had already gone back to work two months after the birth of their child, compared with only 3% of paid workers.

The proportion of fathers who claimed or intended to claim parental benefits was little changed in 2003 (11.1%). The mother's desire to stay with her child was the most frequently reported reason for the father's not taking parental leave. Half the mothers who themselves received maternity related benefits reported that reason. Another 16% said it was more financially advantageous if they, not their husband or partner, stayed home, and 12% said it was easier for them to take the time off work.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4428.

Note: The Employment Insurance Coverage Survey has been conducted for Human Resources Development Canada since 1997. The survey is conducted in four cycles each year, in April, July, November and January. In 2000, the survey was expanded to help monitor the effect of the extended parental benefit program. In 2003, 2,570 unemployed and 1,213 mothers of a child less than one year old were surveyed.

To order custom tabulations, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1 800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527; ssd@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division.

Coverage and eligibility of the unemployed for Employment Insurance benefits

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 to 2003 |
|--|-------|-------|--------------------|
| | '000 | | |
| All unemployed ¹ | 1,228 | 1,235 | |
| | % | | % change |
| As a proportion of all unemployed | | | |
| Potentially eligible | 55.4 | 57.3 | 1.9 |
| Eligible—Received or will receive employment | | | |
| insurance benefits | 42.3 | 44.4 | 2.1 |
| Eligible—Did not receive but eligible based on | | | |
| reported hours worked | 4.2 | 3.6 | -0.6 |
| Not eligible based on reported hours worked | 8.9 | 9.3 | 0.4 |
| Not potentially eligible | 44.6 | 42.7 | -1.9 |
| Left job for reason not deemed valid by the | | | |
| Employment Insurance Act | 14.2 | 14.0 | -0.2 |
| No insurable employment | 5.5 | 4.7 | -0.8 |
| Has not worked in a paid job in the | | | |
| previous 12 months | 25.0 | 24.0 | -1.0 |
| Eligible as a proportion of potentially eligible | 83.9 | 83.7 | -0.2 |

^{1.} Average number of unemployed for the months of March, June, October and December.

Eligibility of mothers for maternity and parental benefits and duration of leave

| | 2002 | 2003 |
|--|---------|---------|
| Mothers with child aged 12 months or less | 329,000 | 332,000 |
| As a proportion of total | | |
| With insurable employment (%) | 74.4 | 75.0 |
| Received maternity or parental benefits (%) | 63.3 | 64.8 |
| Did not claim or receive maternity or parental | | |
| benefits (%) | 11.1 | 10.2 |
| Without insurable employment (%) | 25.6 | 25.0 |
| Not worked in two years or more (%) | 14.2 | 16.1 |
| Other (includes self-employed) (%) | 11.5 | 9.0 |
| Mothers who received maternity or parental | | |
| benefits as a proportion of mothers with | | |
| insurable employment (%) | 85.1 | 86.4 |
| Mothers with known return plans or already | | |
| returned to work ¹ | 203,000 | 211,000 |
| Average duration of planned leave (in months) | 10 | 11 |
| Median duration of planned leave (in months) | 11 | 11 |
| 0 to 4 months (%) | 12.9 | 8.3 |
| 5 to 8 months (%) | 17.5 | 13.5 |
| 9 to 12 months (%) | 52.7 | 59.0 |
| More than 12 months (%) | 16.9 | 19.2 |
| Spouse or partner claiming or intending to | | |
| claim parental benefits | 34,000 | 34,000 |
| Percentage of mothers with spouse claiming or | · | • |
| intending to claim benefits (%) | 11.4 | 11.1 |

^{1.} Excludes mothers who have not worked in two years and self-employed mothers for whom the survey did not collect planned duration of leave.

Study: Literacy scores, human capital and growth

1960 to 1995

Investment in human capital, such as education and skills training, is three times as important to economic growth over the long run as investment in physical capital, according to a new study.

The study found that education just isn't the product of economic growth. It shows clearly that education, and the skills it creates, play a role in creating economic growth, and that gains in skills actually lead gains in economic growth.

It attempts to estimate the impact that the level and distribution of literacy and numeracy skills have had on long-run levels of economic growth, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) and labour productivity.

The analysis was based on data for 14 OECD economies between 1960 and 1995. It uses the estimated literacy and numeracy skills of young adults aged 17 to 25 in each period as a proxy for the quality of educational investment, which is a key determinant of the available stock of human capital. These estimates

were derived from the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS), the world's first multi-country, multi-language direct assessment of adult literacy and numeracy skills.

As defined by the OECD, human capital refers to knowledge, skills, competencies and other attributes embodied in individuals that are relevant to economic activity.

The estimated relationship of skill to GDP growth, based on average test scores of these young adults, indicates that the long-run impact of investment in literacy is much more important—around three times—than investment in physical capital.

Thus, a country that achieves literacy scores 1% higher than the average ends up, in a steady state, with labour productivity 2.5% higher than other countries, and GDP per capita 1.5% higher, on average. These results hold whether literacy is measured by prose, quantitative or document skills.

Investment in the human capital of women appears to have a much stronger impact on subsequent growth than investment in the human capital of men. For both GDP per capita and GDP per worker, and for all measures of human capital investment, the impact of a unit increase in skill is always larger and more statistically significant for the literacy levels of women.

The study suggests that differences in average skill levels among OECD countries explain fully 55% of differences in economic growth since 1960.

This implies that investments in raising the average level of skills might yield large economic returns. If the relationships that have characterized the 35 years surveyed hold into the future, then a 1% increase in average skill could be expected to yield a permanent 1.5% increase in GDP per capita.

The fact that adults with Level 1 skills (the lowest skill level measured by the IALS study) appear to exert a strong negative influence on economic growth suggests that investments in increasing the skill level of this group would, because of the large negative impact their skill has on economic growth, pay for themselves.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4406.

The study *Literacy scores, human capital and growth across 14 OECD countries,* no. 11 (89-552-MIE, free; 89-552-MPE, \$11) is now available. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Education*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (telephone: 1 800 307-3382 or 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; TTY: 1 800 363-7629; educationstats@statcan.ca), or

Scott Murray (613-951-9035, scott.murray @ statcan.ca) Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

Farm Product Price Index

April 2004

Prices received by farmers for their agricultural commodities decreased 9.7% in April compared with April 2003, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI).

The crop index was down 14.4% from its April 2003 level of 108.0, continuing the monthly year-over-year decreases that began last July. The livestock and animal products index was down 5.6% from a year earlier, marking the eleventh consecutive year-over-year decrease. The only crop index that recorded an increase compared with April 2003 was oilseeds. The only livestock and animal products index that recorded a decrease was the cattle and calves index.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 98.1 in April, down a slight 0.2% from the revised March index. The total index had peaked in February 2003 at 111.3, and then slid to the recent low of 93.8 in September.

The livestock and animal products index rose to 102.8 in April, up 0.6% from March. All of the livestock indexes rose except eggs, which was unchanged, and hogs, which dipped a slight 0.9%. The increases ranged from 0.4% for dairy to 1.6% for cattle and calves.

The cattle and calves index rose to 100.7 in April. Cattle and calf prices have been suffering since one cow in northern Alberta tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease. The United States and several other countries banned Canadian ruminants and all associated products on May 20, 2003. The index had ranged from 125.0 to 128.4 during the first four months of 2003, but plunged to 63.6 by July. Speculation on when the border will open to live cattle exports and record-level herds has contributed to price fluctuations.

The hog index dipped to 86.9, off slightly from the 87.7 posted in March. However, the index still stands well above the recent low of 64.1 set in December 2003. Growth in domestic consumer demand, strong export demand and tighter supplies have all contributed to the recent increases in hog prices.

On a month-to-month basis, the crop index was down 0.8% in April. All of the crop indexes recorded increases except potatoes (-2.5%) and grains (-0.4%). The increases ranged from 0.7% for vegetables to 4.7% for fruit. All of the crop indexes except oilseeds remained below what they were last year, when prices

were supported by tight supplies after two consecutive droughts in Western Canada.

The oilseeds index reached 102.2, up 1.1% from March and the highest level since December 2002, when it reached 104.0. The index then declined steadily to 85.1 last August, and has since been climbing. Canadian oilseed prices found support from increased world oilseed consumption, tight United States soybean supplies and very strong soybean prices. U.S. soybean prices continued hitting record high levels, as concerns persisted over tight supplies and strong demand.

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

Farm Product Price Index

(1997=100)

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The April 2004 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 4, no. 4 (21-007-XIB, free) is now available. 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: 204-983-7543; gail-ann.breeese@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

| | April | March | April | April | March |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|
| | 2003 ^r | 2004 ^r | 2004 ^p | 2003 | to |
| | | | | to | April |
| | | | | April | 2004 |
| | | | | 2004 % change | |
| | | | | % Change | |
| Farm Product Price Index | 108.6 | 98.3 | 98.1 | -9.7 | -0.2 |
| Crops | 108.0 | 93.1 | 92.4 | -14.4 | -0.8 |
| Grains | 112.9 | 80.1 | 79.8 | -29.3 | -0.4 |
| Oilseeds | 96.9 | 101.1 | 102.2 | 5.5 | 1.1 |
| Specialty crops | 129.5 | 106.1 | 110.2 | -14.9 | 3.9 |
| Fruit | 114.5 | 99.5 | 104.2 | -9.0 | 4.7 |
| Vegetables | 111.8 | 108.7 | 109.5 | -2.1 | 0.7 |
| Potatoes | 145.7 | 104.0 | 101.4 | -30.4 | -2.5 |
| Livestock and animal products | 108.9 | 102.2 | 102.8 | -5.6 | 0.6 |
| Cattle and calves | 125.7 | 99.1 | 100.7 | -19.9 | 1.6 |
| Hogs | 75.0 | 87.7 | 86.9 | 15.9 | -0.9 |
| Poultry | 94.8 | 96.7 | 97.3 | 2.6 | 0.6 |
| Eggs | 101.5 | 103.2 | 103.2 | 1.7 | 0.0 |
| Dairy | 121.0 | 121.8 | 122.3 | 1.1 | 0.4 |

r Revised figures.

Aircraft movement statistics

May 2004 (preliminary)

The 42 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers reported 380,368 take-offs and landings in May, down 8.9% from May 2003 (417,552). This was the third consecutive decline in year-over-year comparisons of monthly movements. Thirty-one airports showed year-over-year decreases in aircraft movements in May 2004 compared with May 2003. Ten airports showed decreases greater than 20% in May; 12 airports did so in April.

Itinerant movements (flights from one airport to another) fell 2.1% (down 5,860 movements) in May compared with May 2003. This represents the first decrease in monthly year-over-year percentage changes following three months of increases. Local movements (flights that remain in the vicinity of the

airport) dropped 22.1% (down 31,324 movements) in May, the third consecutive month of decline.

The top 10 airports, measured by volumes of itinerant movements, posted year-over-year variations in May ranging from 14.2% (4,166 movements) at Toronto-LB Pearson International to -10.9% (-993 movements) at Montréal-St-Hubert. Four of the top 10 airports recorded increases in itinerant movements in May; all 10 did so in April.

The top 10 airports measured by local movements showed year-over-year variations ranging from 11.5% (392 movements) at Oshawa to -29.8% (-3,242 movements) at Abbotsford. Seven of the top 10 airports recorded decreases in local movements, 6 airports did so in April.

The May issue of *Aircraft movement statistics*, Vol. 3, no. 5 (51F0001PIE, TP1496, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services*

Preliminary figures.

page, choose *Free publications*, then *Transport and warehousing*.

Preliminary statistics for the 57 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA flight service stations are also available for May.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

Crude oil and natural gas

April 2004 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for April.

Available on CANSIM: tables 126-0001 and 131-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

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.

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat, a weekly review, June 22, 2004 Catalogue number 11-002-XWE (\$100).

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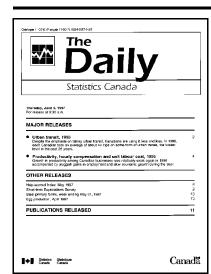
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