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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Releases

Livestock estimates

As of January 1, 2006

The national cattle herd has declined for the first time in three years in the wake of the reopening of the American border to Canadian cattle, easing the situation for farmers who had to feed record numbers of animals.

Cattlemen had an estimated 14.8 million head on their farms as of January 1, 2006, a drop of about 233,000 head from the record 15.1 million head established a year earlier, according to the January Livestock Survey of 10,000 producers.

Despite the decline, the total was still over 1.3 million higher than levels as of January 1, 2003, before the worldwide ban on Canadian cattle resulting from mad cow disease.

Livestock inventories at January 1

	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep	
	'000 of head					
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Canada	**15,063**	**14,830**	**14,675**	**14,496**	**980**	**919**
Atlantic	289	286	356	334	33	34
Quebec	1,415	1,405	4,280	4,200	245	255
Ontario	2,189	2,139	3,610	3,560	265	230
Manitoba	1,490	1,490	2,870	2,900	70	65
Saskatchewan	3,040	2,950	1,342	1,315	130	110
Alberta	5,930	5,900	2,045	2,020	171	155
British Columbia	710	660	172	167	66	70

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

The ban on Canadian cattle and beef took effect following the disclosure of a single reported case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) on May 20, 2003. The border remained closed to all Canadian beef until September 2003 and to live cattle until July 18, 2005, when it was opened to cattle under 30 months of age.

The BSE crisis left Canadian cattlemen having to feed record-high levels of cattle on their farms. It also crippled the nation's multi-billion-dollar cattle and beef exports to the world for 26 months.

Quick jump in exports of live cattle

Exports of live cattle to the United States rose rapidly once the border was reopened in July. By October 2005, they were closing in on pre-BSE levels.

Exports for October reached 133,000 head, approaching average monthly exports for 2002 (pre-BSE) of 140,000 head. In November 2005, cattle exports dipped to 118,000 head.

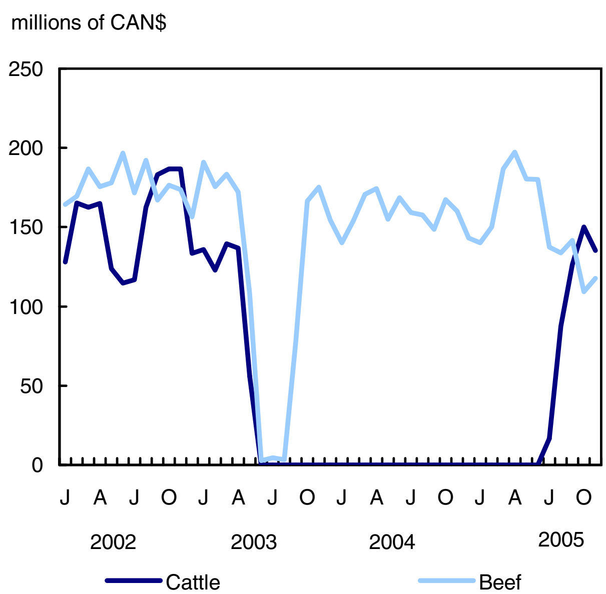
Partially offsetting the surging cattle exports was a drop in beef meat exports during the second half of 2005. Beef exports spiked in April 2005 but declined 36% to 28 600 metric tonnes in November.

Part of the decline can be attributed to a three-week strike at a packing plant in Alberta in late October and early November of 2005.

In 2002, pre-BSE, total cattle and beef exports hit $3.9 billion, the equivalent of $11 million in sales each day.

By 2004, the value of these exports had plunged to only $1.9 billion, less than half of the 2002 levels. With the border open to both cattle and beef, the value of daily exports has recently climbed to $8.4 million.

World exports of Canadian cattle and beef



Cattle herd declines in all regions

Cattle numbers have declined in all cattle producing provinces except in Manitoba where they remained stable. Alberta's herd, the largest of any province, edged down 0.5% from the same date in 2005, while Saskatchewan's fell 3.0%.

Alberta and Saskatchewan combined accounted for almost 60% of all cattle on Canadian farms as of January 1, 2006.

At the same time, the number of head of cattle on British Columbia's farms plunged 7.0%, while in

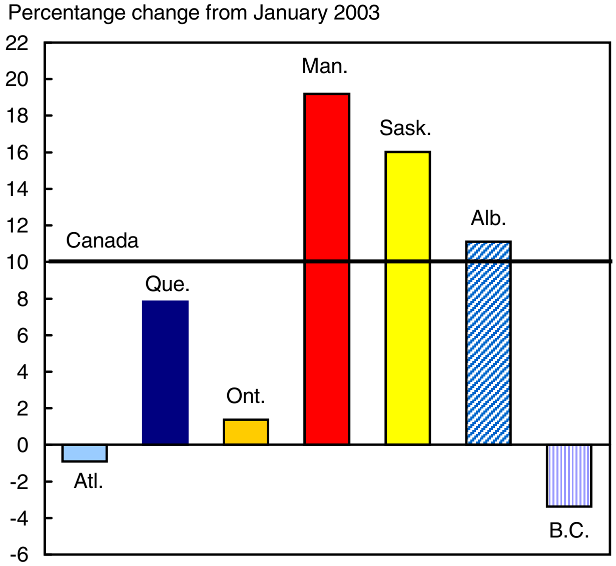
Manitoba, the herd lingered at the January 2005 level. In Central Canada, Quebec's cattle herd shrunk 0.7%, while Ontario's was 2.3% lower.

The Prairie provinces accounted for the vast majority of the increase in cattle numbers during the three-year period before January 1, 2006. Combined, those three provinces climbed by 1.2 million head, 92% of the overall gain of 1.3 million.

Manitoba's cattle numbers shot up 19.2% over the past three years, while in Saskatchewan the herd expanded 16.0%. Alberta's cattle inventories rose 11.1%, accounting for some 44% of the national gain.

The impact of BSE on cattle inventories as of January 1, 2006

Percentange change from January 2003



Slaughter remains at unprecedented levels

Slaughter levels have been a key factor that has also affected the cattle business.

First, slaughter has climbed to record levels. In 2005, slaughter was only 1.0% above the 2004 record levels but an impressive 27.5% above those in 2003.

These gains were fuelled by increased slaughter capacity, domestic demand, strong international demand for Canadian beef, and lower levels of beef imports.

Slaughter prices improved during the fall of 2005 rising 20% above the same period in 2004. The December 2005 prices amounted to 94% of prices experienced during December 2002, before the ban was imposed.

Hog industry growth slows

Farmers had 14.5 million hogs on their farms as of January 1, 2006, 1.2% lower than the same date in 2005 and 2.8% down from the previous quarter.

Although international exports of Canadian hogs, principally to the United States, rose a substantial 16.2% from the first quarter to the fourth quarter, exports were down 3.4% in 2005 compared with a year earlier. At the same time, births were down modestly as was domestic slaughter.

Hog prices were generally lower in 2005 than in 2004. However, producers benefited from low feed costs. These costs are expected to escalate following the December 15, 2005 countervail duty on US corn entering Canada. It should also be noted that the moratorium on hog expansion in Quebec was lifted in December 2005.

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. 5, no. 1 (23-012-XIE, free), *Hog Statistics*, Vol. 5, no. 1 (23-010-XIE, free) and *Sheep Statistics*, Vol. 5, no. 1 (23-011-XIE, free) are now available on our Web site. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

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. ■

Study: Canada's trade in beer

2003

Canada's trade surplus in beer with the United States has expanded significantly in recent years as Canadian beer producers have made inroads into the US market, according to a new report.

Beer from Canada is among the top-selling imported beers in the United States, ranking third after Mexico and the Netherlands.

Canada's annual beer exports to the United States rose following the implementation of the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement, reaching $270 million by 1994.

Exports stabilized at about $323 million in 2003 after peaking at $367 million in 2001.

The increase in Canada's beer exports south of the border has far exceeded the modest rise in beer imported from the United States in recent years. This has resulted in a growing trade surplus.

In 2003, Canada's trade surplus in beer with the United States stood at $265 million, almost $43 million higher than the level just four years earlier.

The surplus remained stable through most of the 1990s at about $225 million. But since 1999, it has increased 19.2%.

The report explores trends in Canada's beer trade during the past decade, particularly the extent to which imported beer has made its way into Canada.

Beer is by far the most popular alcoholic beverage among Canadian consumers. However, beer drinkers are increasingly swinging more and more to imported brands to quench their thirst.

With annual beer sales in Canada at nearly $8 billion in 2003, this growing trend has implications for Canada's domestic beer industry, which makes a significant contribution to the economy.

Beer industry accounts for more than 200,000 jobs and directly adds more than $2 billion to gross domestic product.

Nearly two-thirds of the value of all beer imported into Canada in 2003 was from three countries — Mexico, which accounted for 24%, the Netherlands (22%), and the United States (17%).

These three countries together with Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Brazil, Denmark and the Czech Republic accounted for about 98% of the value of total imports.

Mexico and the Netherlands have led the growth in Canada's beer imports, accounting for over half the increase in the annual value of beer imported into Canada over the past decade.

In particular, beer from Mexico has been virtually gushing into Canada. In 2000, Mexico replaced the United States as Canada's leading source of imported beer in terms of value.

By 2003, beer imports from Mexico had increased almost 10-fold to more than $80 million from only $8 million in 1994.

Beer imports from the Netherlands have also been rising dramatically. In 2003, they reached $75 million, more than eight times higher than they were 10 years earlier.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2201.

The study *Canada's Beer Trade: A Swing to Imported Brands* (65-507-MIE2006005) is now available free online in the publication *Canadian Trade Review* (65-507-MIE). Click on the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*; choose *Free*, and then *Trade*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

December 2005

Data on industrial chemicals and synthetic resins for December are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2183.

The December 2005 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins*, Vol. 48, no. 12 (46-002-XIE, $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. ■

Steel pipe and tubing
December 2005

Data on the production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The December 2005 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire*, (41-019-XIE, $6/$51) will soon be available.

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. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products
December 2005

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The December 2005 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire*, (41-019-XIE, $6/$51) will soon be available.

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. ■

Large urban transit
December and annual 2005 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 1.5% higher in 2005 than it was the year before.

A total of about 1.32 billion passenger trips were taken on these transit systems, which account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated $2.05 billion in revenue for 2005 (excluding subsidies), a 5.3% increase over 2004.

Available on CANSIM: table 408-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Wool disposition and farm value
2004

The quantity, price and farm value of purchased wool and wool for home use are now available for 2004 by province and for Canada.

The farm value of wool purchased increased by 19.0% from a year earlier to nearly $1.9 million in 2004, reaching levels not seen since 1995. 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 29.1% of the value with Ontario second at 23.1%.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3460.

The publication *Sheep Statistics*, Vol. 5, 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. ■

New products

Hog Statistics, 2006, Vol. 5, no. 1
Catalogue number 23-010-XIE
(free).

Sheep Statistics, 2006, Vol. 5, no. 1
Catalogue number 23-011-XIE
(free).

Cattle Statistics, 2006, Vol. 5, no. 1
Catalogue number 23-012-XIE
(free).

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, December 2005, Vol. 48, no. 12
Catalogue number 46-002-XIE ($6/$51).

New Motor Vehicle Sales, December 2005, Vol. 77, no. 12
Catalogue number 63-007-XIE ($14/$133).

Canadian Trade Review: Canada's Beer Trade: A Swing to Imported Brands, no. 5
Catalogue number 65-507-MIE2006005
(free).

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

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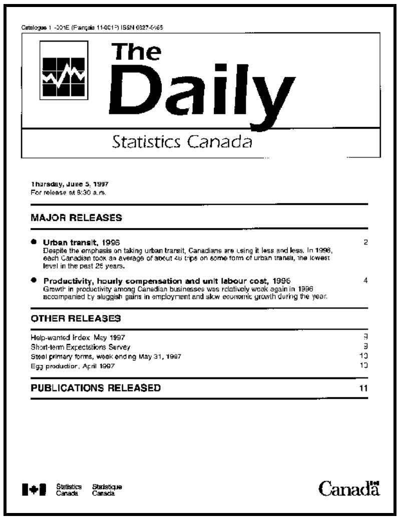
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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

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