



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Profile of Selected Culture Industries in Ontario, 1996 to 2004	2
Farm Product Price Index, December 2005	2
For-hire motor carriers of freight, top carriers, fourth quarter 2005	4

New products	5
---------------------	----------

Profile of Selected Culture Industries in Ontario

1996 to 2004

Ontario is a major force in Canadian culture industries. Firms within each culture industry in the province form clusters and cross-pollinate, generating employment and industrial growth in other culture and non-culture industries.

Keeping these industries humming are the many consumers in Canada's most populous province who buy or use culture goods and services.

The new report, *Profile of Selected Culture Industries in Ontario*, produced for the Ontario Media Development Corporation, examines three culture industries in the province — publishing, sound recording, and film, video and audio-visual.

The report also analyzes recent trends in the supply of and demand for culture goods and services, examines labour force trends and characteristics, and government spending on each selected industry.

Ontario's culture industries as a whole accounted for 4.2% of employment and 4.1% of gross domestic product in the province in 2001.

Ontario's film and publishing industries thrived during the late 1990s and early 2000s, while the sound recording industry faced serious challenges.

Ontario's emergent film industry was not only strong domestically. Film and video products constituted 41% of culture goods exports from Ontario in 2004, nearly double the proportion of 24% in 1996.

Sound recording, on the other hand, saw total revenues fall 21.6% from 1998 to 2003. This decline may well reflect the competition for the consumer's entertainment dollar from a multitude of media, ranging from computer games to DVDs to cell phones.

Some industry sources suggest that file sharing may have also played a role in the revenue decline for the music industry as a whole, including in Ontario.

The trend in profitability was mixed, for these three industries. Profits as a percentage of total revenues fell for sound recording, film production and film post-production.

Ontario's book publishers and exclusive agents saw profit margins rise in 2000/01 (the most recent year for which data are available), while profit margins for periodical publishers held steady between 1998/99 and 2003/04.

Film distributors and wholesalers led the pack, with a profit margin of 27.3% in 2003/04, the highest in the seven years examined.

The motion picture theatre industry and private radio and television broadcasting in Ontario were also examined in this report.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1303, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2425, 2724, 2728, 3105, 3108, 3115, 3116, 5045 and 5088.

The report *Profile of Selected Culture Industries in Ontario* (81-595-MIE2006038, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free* then *Arts, culture and recreation*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Coish (613-951-1075; david.coish@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Farm Product Price Index

December 2005

Prices farmers received for their commodities fell 3.5% in December 2005 from the same month a year earlier as prices for both crops and livestock dropped.

Overall, producers received prices for crops that were 7.0% below levels in December 2004, continuing the downward trend in year-over-year price changes since the summer of 2003, according to the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI). Farmers received lower prices for grains, oilseeds and special crops.

Prices for livestock and animal products slipped 0.9% in December compared with the same period a year earlier, the first decline in five months and only the second decrease in 2005. Hog, egg and poultry prices continued their year-over-year slide, pulling down the overall livestock and animal product index — despite persistent strength in cattle, calf and dairy prices throughout the year.

On a monthly basis, prices farmers received for their commodities were down 1.0% in December from November. Both the overall crops and the livestock and animal products indexes recorded declines from the revised November index.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 91.5 in December, the lowest level since the end of 1999.

The overall crops index was lower in December compared to the revised November index because of lower grain, oilseed and special crops prices.

Grain and oilseed prices have been plagued by record production in both Canada and the United States, adding to already burdensome supplies. In addition, growing conditions in many parts of the country were detrimental to the quality of the crop.

The value of the Canadian dollar continued to make gains against the value of the US dollar, increasing 1.7%

between December and November. Compared to December 2004, the value of the Canadian dollar rose 5.0%.

The overall livestock and animal products index dropped 3.1% between November and December, marking the sixth monthly decrease this year. All commodities except poultry and eggs recorded decreases.

Cattle and calf prices fell 1.3% in December, the second decrease since the border reopened to trade of live animals in July 2005. Despite the decline, the index (110.1) was the third highest recorded in 2005.

The hog index, down 3.8% from November, stood at its lowest level since January 2004. Hog prices continued their downward slide as the supply of North American market hogs remained strong.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The December 2005 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 5, no. 12 (21-007-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 Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-7543; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. □

Farm Product Price Index (1997=100)

	December 2004 ^r	November 2005 ^r	December 2005 ^p	December 2004 to December 2005	November to December 2005
	% change				
Farm Product Price Index	94.8	92.4	91.5	-3.5	-1.0
Crops	85.9	80.3	79.9	-7.0	-0.5
Grains	70.6	59.3	58.9	-16.6	-0.7
Oilseeds	78.7	70.8	70.0	-11.1	-1.1
Specialty crops	93.0	77.6	72.5	-22.0	-6.6
Fruit	99.7	93.7	107.8	8.1	15.0
Vegetables	115.5	116.1	119.9	3.8	3.3
Potatoes	126.8	146.3	151.2	19.2	3.3
Livestock and animal products	102.6	105.0	101.7	-0.9	-3.1
Cattle and calves	97.9	111.5	110.1	12.5	-1.3
Hogs	82.5	73.5	70.7	-14.3	-3.8
Poultry	101.8	90.5	91.3	-10.3	0.9
Eggs	106.0	97.1	97.1	-8.4	0.0
Dairy	125.0	134.6	131.9	5.5	-2.0

^r Revised.

^p Preliminary.

For-hire motor carriers of freight, top carriers

Fourth quarter 2005

The top 91 for-hire motor carriers of freight (Canadian-based trucking companies earning \$25 million or more annually) generated operating revenue of \$2.36 billion and expenses of \$2.20 billion in the fourth quarter. Average per-carrier revenue decreased 3.2% from the fourth quarter of 2004 to \$25.9 million. Average per-carrier expenses decreased 2.5% to \$24.2 million.

The top for-hire carriers' operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenue) was unchanged at 0.93 compared with the fourth quarter of 2004. A ratio greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss.

Fourth quarter 2005 data on the top for-hire carriers, taken from the Quarterly Motor Carriers of Freight Survey, provide results from 66 general freight carriers and 25 specialized freight carriers.

Note: Readers should note that, with few exceptions, additions and deletions to the top carriers are done

only for the first quarter of each calendar year, while the composition of a top carrier may change at any time due to acquisitions or divestitures. Year-over-year variations in revenue and expenses may arise from changes to the mix of companies included in the top carriers and/or changes in the financial results reported by individual carriers. The revenue and expenses attributed to top carriers may also include that of some companies with less than \$25 million in annual revenue, particularly when these companies exist in complex corporate structures where their individual activities may be difficult to accurately measure.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2748.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ron Chrétien (613-951-8774; ron.chretien@statcan.ca) or Denis Pilon (613-951-2707; fax: 613-951-0579; denis.pilon@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

New products

Farm Product Price Index, December 2005, Vol. 5,
no. 12
Catalogue number 21-007-XIE
(free).

**Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education
Statistics: Research papers: Profile of Selected
Culture Industries in Ontario**, 1996-2004, no. 38
Catalogue number 81-595-MIE2006038
(free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -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; -XCB
or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc and
-XBB or -XBE a database.

How to order products

To order by phone, please refer to:

- The title
- The catalogue number
- The volume number
- The issue number
- Your credit card number.

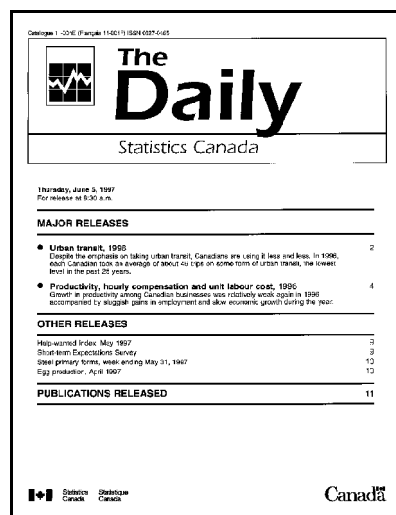
From Canada and the United States, call: **1-800-267-6677**
From other countries, call: **1-613-951-7277**
To fax your order, call: **1-877-287-4369**
For address changes or account inquiries, call: **1-800-700-1033**

To order by mail, write to: Statistics Canada, Finance, 6th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers
add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet, write to: infostats@statcan.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's
website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada,
10-G, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2004. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references.