



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Principal field crops, March 2006

2

Prairie farmers anticipate reducing their canola plantings in favour of more spring wheat and oats, according to the 2006 first seeding intentions survey. In Ontario and Quebec, grain corn acreage should remain unchanged, and signs point to a smaller area devoted to soybeans.

Consolidated government finance: Assets and liabilities, March 31, 2004

4

Local government finance: Assets and liabilities, December 31, 2003

5

Crushing statistics, March 2006

6

Deliveries of major grains, March 2006

6

New products

7



Releases

Principal field crops

March 2006 (intentions)

Prairie farmers anticipate reducing their canola plantings in favour of more spring wheat and oats, according to the 2006 first seeding intentions survey. In Ontario and Quebec, grain corn acreage should remain unchanged, and signs point to a smaller area devoted to soybeans.

Seeding intentions of major grains and oilseeds

Crop	2005	2006	2005 to 2006 % change
thousands of acres			
Total wheat	24,943	25,620	2.7
Spring wheat	17,905	19,843	10.8
Summerfallow	10,160	11,710	15.3
Canola	13,570	11,597	-14.5
Barley	10,972	10,389	-5.3
Oats	4,580	5,390	17.7
Durum wheat	5,785	4,050	-30.0
Dry field peas	3,375	3,454	2.3
Soybeans	2,907	3,142	8.1
Corn for grain	2,778	2,818	1.4
Flaxseed	2,080	2,245	7.9

The March seeding intentions survey, which covered 17,100 farmers, showed that they have tough decisions to make in 2006 in attempts to determine where their best returns can be found, while they deal with rising costs and maintain cash flow.

Many farmers were not sure what they were going to plant. On the Prairies, this uncertainty was reflected in an anticipated 14.9% increase in summerfallow area. It is projected to rise to 11.6 million acres, just below the 10-year average of 11.9 million acres.

On a positive note, soil moisture conditions are ideal in many parts of the country, hinting at a good start to the 2006 crop.

However, it is important to remember that economic and environmental conditions change constantly, forcing farmers to modify their decisions as planting time approaches.

Oilseed picture mixed

The survey pointed to a mixed picture for oilseeds on the Prairies — a potential decline in canola acreage, but a gain in flaxseed.

Farmers anticipate planting 11.5 million acres of canola, down 14.2% from 2005. The 10-year average for canola is 11.6 million acres.

Projections show the decline in canola, the equivalent of 1.9 million acres, will be shared

proportionately by all three Prairie provinces. One factor may be higher input costs for canola compared with the cost of producing alternative crops, despite excellent canola yields last year in Saskatchewan and Alberta and expectations for bio-diesel demand.

Flaxseed plantings are anticipated to rise 7.9% to an estimated 2.2 million acres. This increase is the equivalent of 165,000 more acres of flaxseed, despite a large carry-over from 2005.

Price premiums this spring may have made this hardy crop more attractive in the rotation. Producers in all three Prairie provinces reported strong plantings of flaxseed, with all areas above the five-year average.

Saskatchewan's projected 1.8 million acres would account for over three-quarters of total flaxseed area.

Spring wheat area on rise, big decline in durum

Prairie farmers anticipated an 11.1% increase in intended spring wheat plantings to an estimated 19.5 million acres. This would be slightly lower than the 10-year average of 19.8 million acres.

Delivery opportunities for some varieties of wheat have been steady this crop year, and recent price spikes on the Chicago Board of Trade may have encouraged seeding intentions. Some farmers were also able to lock in fixed price contracts at relatively attractive prices.

Saskatchewan farmers, who grow over one-half of the spring wheat area on the Prairies, anticipated a 15.8% increase in area to 10.4 million acres. Manitoba farmers reported an 11.4% gain, and Alberta farmers 3.7%.

Farmers expected to plant much less durum wheat this year, the result of anticipated reduced delivery opportunities for export, as well as poor prices.

Indications are that durum acreage will plunge 30.0% to an estimated 4.1 million acres, well below the 2005 level of 5.8 million acres. The 10-year average is 5.8 million acres.

Barley area declines while oat area jumps

The total area seeded in barley on the Prairies is expected to drop 5.5% to an estimated 9.6 million acres.

Farmers in Saskatchewan anticipate a 12.5% decline to 4.2 million acres of barley, the biggest drop, followed by Alberta with a 1.3% decline to 4.4 million acres. On the other hand, Manitoba farmers, recovering from the 2005 flooding, would plant about 1.0 million acres, an 11.1% increase.

Prairie farmers expected to plant 4.8 million acres of oats in 2006, a 19.9% gain from the 4.0 million acres seeded in 2005.

Manitoba led the way in oats, rebounding from excess water conditions in 2005, with an expected increase of 38.9% to 1.0 million acres. Saskatchewan farmers reported a rise of 26.0%. The area dedicated to oats in Alberta is expected to remain unchanged.

Field pea area edges up

Field pea acreage should rise by a modest 2.3% to 3.5 million acres, well above the 10-year average of 2.8 million acres.

Peas are used in domestic animal rations and are exported. Strong export demand for yellow peas has provided farmers with a solid cash market so far this crop year.

Farmers may also be taking advantage of the reduced need for expensive nitrogen fertilizers and of rotational considerations when planting peas in 2006.

Fewer soybeans, but same level of grain corn, anticipated in the East

Anticipated grain corn acreage in Quebec and Ontario should remain unchanged from 2005, despite low prices and uncertainty, during the survey period, whether Canada's anti-dumping duty on American corn would be maintained.

Corn growers in Quebec and Ontario reported that they intend to seed 2.6 million acres, slightly below the 10-year average of 2.8 million acres.

The soybean seeded area in Ontario and Quebec should decline a modest 42,000 acres to an estimated 2.7 million acres.

In Manitoba, farmers may plant more soybeans as they rebound from the 2005 wet spring that prevented seeding as much area as normal. Indications are that the increase could be an incredible 275,000 acres, bringing the total area to 385,000 acres. However, recent flooding in the Red River valley and the availability of seed may temper this estimate.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0004, 001-0010, 001-0017 to 001-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3401.

The publication *Field Crop Reporting Series: March Intentions of Principal Field Crop Areas, Canada, 2006*, Vol. 85, no. 2 (22-002-XIB, free; 22-002-XPB, \$17/\$95) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; dave.burroughs@statcan.ca), or Dave Roeske (613-951-0572; dave.roeske@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Consolidated government finance: Assets and liabilities

March 31, 2004

The consolidated net financial debt of the federal, provincial, territorial, and local governments, defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets, increased to \$798.4 billion as of March 31, 2004, up \$3.9 billion or 0.5% from March 31, 2003. An increase of \$17.2 billion in financial assets and \$21.1 billion in liabilities accounted for the rise.

The federal government net financial debt declined by \$2.8 billion, while the net financial debt of the provincial, territorial, and local governments rose by \$6.7 billion.

The consolidated net financial debt of these governments represented 63.7% of gross domestic product in 2004, down from 65.5% the year before. This decline was due mainly to the growth in gross domestic product (GDP). Net financial debt, as a percent of GDP has gone down every year since it peaked at 102.1% in 1996.

On a per capita basis, net financial debt fell from \$25,164 in 2003 to \$25,044. The highest per capita net financial debt was recorded in 1997 at \$28,543.

Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest per capita net financial debt in 2004 (\$20,666), followed by Quebec (\$14,961) and Nova Scotia (\$12,848).

Governments in the Yukon, Alberta and the Northwest Territories did not register any net financial debt. In each case, their financial assets exceeded their liabilities on a per capita basis: by \$9,065 in the Yukon; \$4,893 in Alberta; and \$1,907 in the Northwest Territories.

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial, territorial and local governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ.

The FMS adjusts data from governments' Public Accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as national aggregates that are consistent over time. As a result, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements.

Click on the *National Economic Accounts* module, accessible from the home page of our Web site, for an up-to-date portrait of national, provincial, territorial and local economies and their structure.

Available on CANSIM: tables 385-0014 and 385-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1709.

Data are available through custom tabulation. For more information, or general enquiries on our products or services, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767; jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division.

Data on debt guaranteed by provincial and territorial governments has been moved from CANSIM table 385-0014 to the new CANSIM table: 385-0026 (Debt guaranteed by provincial and territorial governments).

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bruce Orok (613-951-9456) or Robert Larocque (613-951-1836), Public Institutions Division.

Consolidated net financial debt of federal, provincial, territorial and local general governments as of March 31

Year	Consolidated net financial debt	% of GDP	Per capita	GDP first quarter	Population at April 1
	\$ millions		\$	\$ millions	thousands
1991	532,636	78.5	19,066	678,172	27,936
1992	593,797	85.7	21,008	692,940	28,265
1993	667,196	93.3	23,331	714,776	28,597
1994	739,122	98.5	25,571	750,696	28,905
1995	797,582	99.5	27,304	801,904	29,211
1996	836,993	102.1	28,358	819,976	29,515
1997	851,118	98.1	28,543	867,828	29,819
1998	847,318	93.4	28,167	906,904	30,082
1999	848,660	89.4	27,993	949,136	30,317
2000	832,687	79.9	27,215	1,042,100	30,597
2001	800,373	71.8	25,891	1,115,212	30,913
2002	796,743	71.2	25,483	1,118,780	31,266
2003	794,509	65.5	25,164	1,212,808	31,573
2004	798,361	63.7	25,044	1,252,380	31,878

Consolidated net financial debt of provincial, territorial and local general governments as of March 31, 2004

Province/Territory	Consolidated net financial debt	Per capita	Population at April 1
	\$ millions	\$	thousands
Newfoundland and Labrador	10,705	20,666	518
Prince Edward Island	1,361	9,862	138
Nova Scotia	12,039	12,848	937
New Brunswick	6,330	8,418	752
Quebec	112,674	14,961	7,531
Ontario	107,025	8,661	12,357
Manitoba	11,498	9,844	1,168
Saskatchewan	9,242	9,298	994
Alberta	-15,620	-4,893	3,192
British Columbia	19,513	4,659	4,188
Yukon	-281	-9,065	31
Northwest Territories	-82	-1,907	43
Nunavut	309	10,655	29

Local government finance: Assets and liabilities

December 31, 2003

The net financial debt of local governments, defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets, hit \$11.4 billion as of December 31, 2003, down 6% (-\$699 million) from a year earlier.

Their financial assets stood at \$53.9 billion, while total liabilities reached \$65.4 billion.

Among the provinces, local governments in Quebec had the highest per capita net financial debt at \$1,995, followed by those in Newfoundland and Labrador at \$1,481 and those in New Brunswick at \$560.

Local governments in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut were again in a position where their financial assets exceed liabilities.

These statistics are based on annual reports of municipalities and school boards as well as provincial and territorial governments reports dated December 31, 2003. Data were converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System.

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial, territorial and local

governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ. The FMS adjusts data from governments Public Accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as national aggregates that are consistent over time. As a result, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements.

Click on the new *National Economic Accounts* module, accessible from the home page of our Web site, for an up-to-date portrait of national, provincial, territorial and local economies and their structure.

Available on CANSIM: tables 385-0014 and 385-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1709.

Data are available through custom tabulation. For more information, or general enquiries on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767; jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca).

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Aldo Diaz (613-951-8563) or Diana-Lynn Walters (613-951-1833), Public Institutions Division. □

Local government finances: Excess of liabilities over financial assets

Province/Territory	Excess of liabilities over financial assets			Per capita		
	millions of dollars			\$		
	1993	1998	2003	1993	1998	2003
Newfoundland and Labrador	676	731	767	1,174	1,366	1,481
Prince Edward Island	126	33	70	947	243	507
Nova Scotia	202	417	309	218	447	330
New Brunswick	326	380	421	435	507	560
Quebec	14,593	14,568	15,027	2,031	1,992	1,995
Ontario	1,792	141	-1,678	166	12	-136
Manitoba	820	671	451	731	588	386
Saskatchewan	-451	-719	-892	-447	-708	-897
Alberta	2,566	-36	-1,275	954	-12	-399
British Columbia	2,791	-252	-1,742	765	-63	-416
Yukon	-13	-21	-16	-433	-677	-516
Northwest Territories	29	8	2	446	119	47
Nunavut	-8	-276
Net financial debt	23,457	15,921	11,436	812	525	359

... not applicable

Crushing statistics

March 2006

Oilseed processors crushed 298,908 metric tonnes of canola in March, according to Statistics Canada's monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production last month totalled 128,806 tonnes while meal production amounted to 177,494 tonnes.

The cumulative volume of canola crushed during the first two-thirds of the current crop year totalled 2,260,068 metric tonnes, slightly ahead of the pace in 2003/04 when a record 3,389,554 tonnes were crushed.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.

The February 2006 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available shortly.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714), les.macartney@statcan.ca, Agriculture Division. ■

Deliveries of major grains

March 2006

Data on March grain deliveries are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404 and 3443.

For the first time, data on deliveries of wheat excluding durum, all wheat, oats, barley and canola in Eastern Canada back to August 2001 are available in this table.

The February 2006 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available shortly.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; sue.anderson@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

New products

Field Crop Reporting Series, Vol. 85, no. 2
Catalogue number 22-002-XIB
(free).

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

Field Crop Reporting Series, Vol. 85, no. 2
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB (\$17/\$95).

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.

Catalogue 11-001-XIE (if article 11-001-XIE) 11-001-XIE



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES



- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in the number of people taking urban transit. Canadians are riding it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

11

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.