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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, January 24, 2007
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

New products

Farm Product Price Index

November 2006

Prices farmers received for their commodities were virtually unchanged (-0.1%) in November 2006 from the same month a year earlier, as an increase in the overall prices for crops mitigated the decrease in overall livestock and animal products prices.

On the whole, producers received prices for livestock and animal products that were 5.5% below levels in November 2005. This was the third consecutive decrease, as lower prices were recorded for cattle and calves, hogs and dairy.

Meanwhile, prices for crops were 5.2% above the year earlier level as all categories recorded an increase, ranging from 3.6% for grains to 22.3% for specialty crops.

On a monthly basis, prices farmers received for their commodities increased 0.6% from October 2006, again as an increase in the overall crops index outstripped the 2.7% decrease in the livestock and animal products index.

The Farm Product Price Index stood at 93.5 (1997=100) in November, up from a revised October index of 92.9.

The overall crops index was higher in November compared to October as all crops recorded increases.

Grain prices were up in November, as concerns continue over domestic and worldwide supplies. Poor growing conditions in many of the major wheat producing countries have yielded forecasts of very low ending wheat stocks. Feed grain prices are higher as supplies tighten, despite near-record United States corn production. The strong demand for corn is being fuelled by the growing ethanol industry.

Oilseed prices were also up, driven by similar factors to grain, including rising demand from the bio-fuel industry. In addition, canola is also considered a healthy alternative to trans-fat oils. The domestic crush was 50% higher in 2006 compared to 2005.

The overall index for livestock and animal products was down in November from the revised October level, as prices for cattle and calves, hogs and poultry all declined.

The cattle and calf index fell to its lowest level since the US border re-opened in July 2005 to restricted trade of live animals. Prices for feeder cattle and calves are being pressured by rapidly rising feed grain prices. Also, the United States border still remains closed to live animals over 30 months of age, limiting the market options.

Hog prices fell for the fifth consecutive month, but still remained above the recent low of April 2006. Ample North American supplies and higher feed costs are affecting the hog market.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The November 2006 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 6, no. 11 (21-007-XWE, free) is now available online from the *Publications* module on our website. Under *Free internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, call (toll-free 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

	November 2005[r]	October 2006[r]	November 2006[p]	November 2005 to November 2006	October to November 2006
	(1997=100)			% change	
Farm Product Price Index	**93.6**	**92.9**	**93.5**	**-0.1**	**0.6**
Crops	**82.2**	**82.4**	**86.5**	**5.2**	**5.0**
Grains	67.4	68.0	69.8	3.6	2.6
Oilseeds	69.9	69.9	78.1	11.7	11.7
Specialty crops	77.2	82.6	94.4	22.3	14.3
Fruit	96.2	104.0	104.4	8.5	0.4
Vegetables	111.0	113.3	115.1	3.7	1.6
Potatoes	141.2	146.9	155.3	10.0	5.7
Livestock and animal products	**104.9**	**101.9**	**99.1**	**-5.5**	**-2.7**
Cattle and calves	108.2	103.3	97.5	-9.9	-5.6
Hogs	73.6	73.8	70.8	-3.8	-4.1
Poultry	90.6	91.6	91.4	0.9	-0.2
Eggs	97.1	97.9	97.9	0.8	0.0
Dairy	134.6	131.9	133.8	-0.6	1.4

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

■

Natural gas sales

November 2006 (preliminary)

Colder than normal temperatures in the western provinces led to an overall increase in natural gas sales in November.

Natural gas sales totalled 6 843 million cubic metres in November, up 9.6% from November 2005. Sales to the residential sector increased 13.9% while the commercial sector was up 9.7%. The industrial sector (including direct sales) showed a lesser increase in sales of 7.5%.

On a year-to-date basis, sales at the end of November were down 1.2% compared with the same period last year.

Sales volume of natural gas to the industrial sector (including direct sales) have shown a negligible increase so far in 2006, while sales were down in both the residential (-3.0%) and commercial (-2.6%) sectors.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ❑

Natural gas sales

	November 2006^p	November 2005	November 2005 to November 2006
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total sales	**6 843 195**	**6 243 159**	**9.6**
Residential	1 854 515	1 627 772	13.9
Commercial	1 317 236	1 201 171	9.7
Industrial and direct	3 671 444	3 414 216	7.5
	Year-to-date		
	2006^p	2005	2005 to 2006
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total sales	**61 377 028**	**62 093 723**	**-1.2**
Residential	14 114 549	14 551 647	-3.0
Commercial	10 460 483	10 743 570	-2.6
Industrial and direct	36 801 996	36 798 506	0.0

^{p} *preliminary*

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Consumer goods rental industry

2005

Buoyed by strong demand for home renovations and home entertainment products, Canada's consumer goods rental industry grew by a robust 8% to $2.5 billion in 2005.

The total operating revenues earned by videotape and DVD rental establishments grew by a more modest 4%, as the average household's spending on home entertainment services, including rentals of pre-recorded media did not increase. Advances in technology have created alternative services such as video on demand which are now available to television subscribers. As well, consumers are increasingly opting to buy, rather than rent, their DVDs and videos. The 2005 Survey of the Household Spending reported that purchases of audio and video equipment, including both pre-recorded and blank media such as CDs, DVDs and tapes rose 6% to an average of $470 per household.

Looking at the consumer goods rental industry as a whole, DVD and video tape rentals continue to generate 60% of the consumer goods rental industry's total operating revenue. The remainder comes from general rental centres (15%), specialized rental of home health, party or recreational equipment (14%), consumer electronics and appliance rental establishments (8%), followed by formal wear and costume rental (3%). This industry excludes companies engaged primarily in sales (versus rental); and cable subscription video on demand.

The largest firms continue to be the strongest industry performers. The 9% profit margin earned by the 20 largest firms exceeded the 7% profit margin for the rest of the industry. Market share of the largest firms rose to 51% of the industry's operating revenues in 2005, up from 49% in 2004. The overall consumer goods rental industries' operating profit margin of 8% was virtually unchanged from 2004.

Results from the 2005 Annual Survey of Consumer Goods Rental (and revised 2004 data) for Canada are now available. These data provide information such as the industry's revenue; expenses; salaries, wages and benefits; and operating profit margins.

Available on CANSIM: table 352-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2434.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daphne Bennett (613-951-3429; fax: 613-951-6696; *daphne.bennett@statcan.ca*), or Candace Brookbank (613-951-5239; fax: 613-951-6696; *candace.brookbank@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

New products

Farm Product Price Index, November 2006, Vol. 6, no. 11
Catalogue number 21-007-XWE
(free).

Retail Trade, November 2006, Vol. 78, no. 11
Catalogue number 63-005-XWE
(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; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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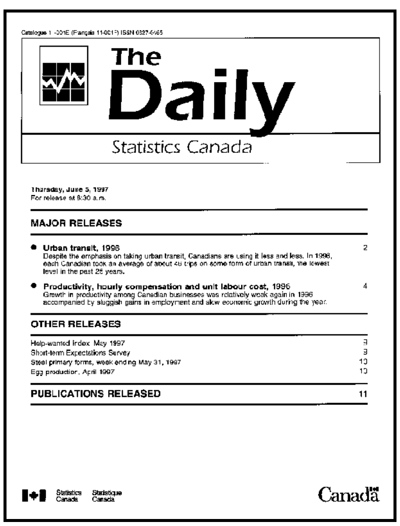
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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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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