



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, November 26, 2007**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

## Releases

<b>Farm cash receipts, January to September 2007</b>	3
Market cash receipts for farmers climbed to a record high during the first nine months of 2007 in the wake of strong gains in revenue from the sale of crops. Livestock receipts also rose, but higher prices for grain and oilseed translated into higher costs for feed, a major input for producers.	
<b>Net farm income, 2006</b>	6
Canadian producers saw their realized net income fall for the second consecutive year in 2006 and hit its lowest level since 2003. Rising interest, wage and fuel costs, together with falling hog receipts and program payments, more than offset increases in revenue from crops and cattle.	
Study: International trade by the information and communication technologies sector, 1997 to 2005	9
Survey of Canadian Attitudes toward Learning, 2007	10
Canadian Survey of Experiences with Primary Health Care, 2006-2007	10
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products, August 2007	11

(continued on page 2)

### Perspectives on labour and income

November 2007 online edition

The November 2007 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, features two articles.

"Pensions and retirement savings of families" examines the pension plan coverage and retirement savings of prime-aged couples over the last two decades, as the substantial growth in wives' labour market participation and the slight increase in their registered pension plan coverage only partially offset a substantial decline in husbands' coverage. On average, the retirement savings of these families rose, but the distribution became more unequal, mirroring the sharp increase in family earnings inequality since the early 1980s.

"Depression at work" looks at the impact of depression on job performance. In 2002, almost 4% of employed Canadians aged 25 to 64 had had an episode of depression in the previous year. These workers had high odds of reducing work activity because of a long-term health condition, of having had at least one mental health disability day in the past two weeks, and of having been absent from work in the past week.

The November 2007 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 8, no. 11 (75-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; [henry.pold@statcan.ca](mailto:henry.pold@statcan.ca)), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



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**New products**

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12

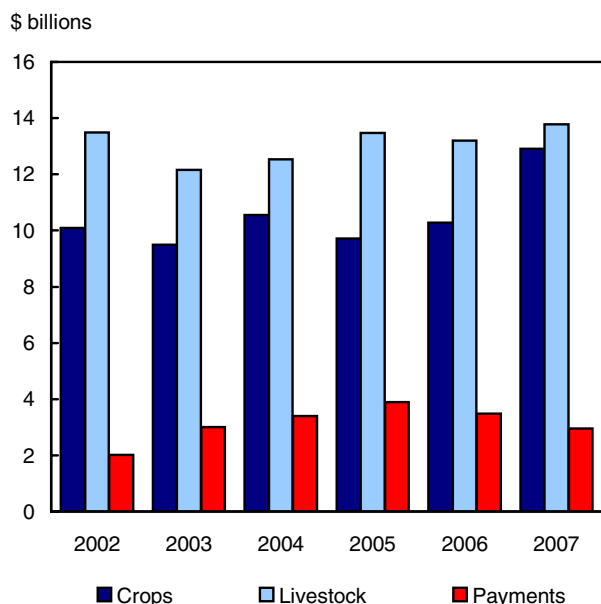
## Releases

### Farm cash receipts

January to September 2007

Market cash receipts for farmers climbed to a record high during the first nine months of 2007 in the wake of strong gains in revenue from the sale of crops. Livestock receipts also rose, but higher prices for grains and oilseeds translated into higher costs for feed, a major input for producers.

#### Farm cash receipts, January to September



Farmers received a record \$26.7 billion in market revenue between January and September, up 13.7% from the same period last year. This total was 16.1% above the previous five-year average between 2002 and 2006, a period which included the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) situation and low commodity prices.

Grain and oilseed prices, up sharply from recent lows, along with strong grain deliveries, pushed crop receipts to a record \$12.9 billion. This was up 25.6% over the same nine months last year, and 28.7% higher than the previous five-year average.

Livestock receipts rose 4.4% to \$13.8 billion, mainly due to higher exports of cattle and hogs into the United States and increased dairy and chicken prices. Livestock revenues were 6.3% above the previous five-year average.

#### Note to readers

Statistics Canada does not forecast farm cash receipts. These data are based on survey and administrative data from a wide variety of sources.

**Farm cash receipts** measure the gross revenue of farm businesses in current dollars. They include sales of crops and livestock products (except sales between farms in the same province) and program payments. Receipts are recorded when the money is paid to farmers before any expenses are paid.

**Deferments** represent sales from grains and oilseeds delivered by western producers, for which payments were deferred until the next year. Because these receipts are based on physical deliveries, any deferred payments are deducted from the farm cash receipts of the current calendar year and included when they are liquidated (see "liquidations of deferments" in the farm cash receipts table).

**Program payments** include payments tied to current agricultural production and paid directly to farmers. However, the series does not attempt to cover all payments made to farmers, nor does it represent total government expenditures under all assistance programs. For example, the Canadian Farm Families Options Program announced in July 2006 is not included because it has been determined not to be business income for statistical purposes.

As a result of the release of data from the 2006 Census of Agriculture on May 16, 2007, estimates of farm cash receipts, operating expenses, net income, capital value and other data contained in the Agriculture Economic Statistics series are being revised, where necessary. The complete set of revisions will be released in The Daily on November 24, 2008.

Farmers received \$3.0 billion in program payments during the first nine months of 2007, down 15.4% from the previous year and 6.6% below the previous five-year average.

Total farm cash receipts—crop and livestock revenues plus program payments—hit a record high \$29.6 billion through the first nine months of 2007. This was 9.9% above the same period for the previous year and 13.3% higher than the five-year average.

Provincially, farm cash receipts fell in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, where potato receipts declined from the high levels observed in the first nine months of 2006. Overall revenues remained flat in Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Increases ranged from 6.2% in Quebec to 23.3% in Manitoba. Manitoba had a good harvest in 2006 after a disastrous year in 2005.

Farm cash receipts are the first economic indicator available from Statistics Canada for the agriculture sector. They measure gross revenue for farm businesses only. They do not represent farmers' bottom line, as farmers have to pay their expenses

and loans. Statistics Canada will publish preliminary estimates of net farm income for 2007 on May 26, 2008.

While prices for grain and oilseed producers rose substantially in 2007 from low levels, inputs also increased. For example, the Industrial Product Price Index indicated that Canadian fertilizer prices rose 20% during the first nine months of 2007 compared with the same period in 2006. In addition, livestock producers faced much higher feed costs. For instance, feed barley prices were 73.6% higher during the January to September period in 2007 than in the same period in 2006.

Both farm cash receipts and operating expenses can vary widely from farm to farm because of several factors, including commodities, prices, weather and economies of scale. In addition, a rapidly appreciating Canadian dollar against the US dollar reduces returns to Canadian producers who depend heavily on international sales. From January to September 2007, the value of the Canadian dollar increased by more than 15% against its American counterpart.

### **Higher grain and oilseed prices boost crop receipts**

With an expanding biofuel sector and production issues in many of the world's grain and oilseed production areas, prices have surged from very low levels in the 2005/2006 crop year. Large stocks of grains at the end of 2006 also contributed to strong deliveries by Canadian farmers during the first nine months of 2007.

Revenues from wheat (excluding durum) rose 59.2% as a result of higher marketings, prices and Canadian Wheat Board payments. Receipts from barley jumped 49.7%, while corn receipts rose 46.3%, bolstered in both cases by higher prices.

Canola receipts hit \$2.4 billion during the first nine months of 2007, while soybean receipts reached \$610 million, both record highs. These records were driven by a 40.6% increase in price for canola and gains in both marketing (+32.0%) and price (+22.0%) for soybeans. Although canola deliveries were slightly below the previous year level, they were almost 50% above the previous five-year average.

Potato receipts fell 9.5% to \$603 million, as a drop in prices more than offset a 5.0% increase in marketings. Very good growing conditions in 2006 had resulted in record yields. High supplies put pressure on prices, which fell 6.0% below the previous five-year average for a January-to-September period.

Farm cash receipts for the floriculture, sod and nursery industries rose 1.9%, continuing a long-established upward trend.

### **Increases in dairy and poultry along with modest gains in cattle and hogs improve livestock receipts**

Despite lower prices this fall, the average prices for cattle and hogs from January to September were slightly above the corresponding prices in 2006. However, producers also faced dramatically higher feed grain prices, fueled by the growing ethanol market and tighter world supplies.

Cash receipts from cattle and calves rose 2.9% to \$4.8 billion in the first nine months of 2007 as revenue from exports increased 23.2%. During this period, cattle and calf exports reached over 900,000 head, but they remained below the 1.2 million head exported for the same period in 2002, prior to the BSE situation.

Hog revenues were 2.6% higher compared with the first nine months of 2006, boosted by higher exports. Export-generated revenues increased 13.8% over the same period in 2006, while receipts from slaughter were virtually unchanged. Despite showing a higher level for this period, the overall hog price was 7.0% below the previous five-year average.

Revenue from most supply-managed commodities rose during the first nine months of 2007. Dairy receipts were up 6.8%, as were those for chickens (+10.5%), turkeys (+13.5%) and eggs (+1.2%).

### **Program payments down from record levels**

The large decrease in program payments can be primarily attributed to a decline in payments under the Grains and Oilseeds Payment Program. As a new program in 2006, it delivered \$730 million in the first nine months of that year. However, during the same period in 2007, it delivered only \$6 million as it wound down.

With better growing conditions in 2006, particularly in Manitoba, crop insurance payments were down 28.1% to \$330 million.

Payments under the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program and CAIS-related programs remained relatively stable, totaling \$1.3 billion during the first nine months of 2007. The new Cost of Production Payment program, which was designed to help address high production costs over the last four years, delivered \$311 million.

### **Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0001 and 002-0002.**

### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3437 and 3473.**

Data tables are also available from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

To order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868; agriculture@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of

this release, contact Estelle Perrault (613-951-2448; estelle.perrault@statcan.ca) or Bernie Rosien (613-951-2639; bernie.rosien@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

## Farm cash receipts

	January to September 2006	January to September 2007 <sup>P</sup>	January–September 2006 to January–September 2007	July to September 2006	July to September 2007 <sup>P</sup>	July–September 2006 to July–September 2007
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
<b>Total farm cash receipts</b>	<b>26,973</b>	<b>29,648</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>8,875</b>	<b>9,764</b>	<b>10.0</b>
<b>Total market receipts<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>23,485</b>	<b>26,696</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>7,962</b>	<b>9,062</b>	<b>13.8</b>
All wheat <sup>2</sup>	1,926	2,955	53.4	769	1,068	38.9
Wheat excluding durum <sup>2</sup>	1,523	2,424	59.2	615	912	48.3
Durum wheat <sup>2</sup>	403	531	31.8	155	155	0.0
Barley <sup>2</sup>	296	443	49.7	108	159	47.2
Deferments	-194	-327	68.6	-105	-162	54.3
Liquidations of deferments	385	492	27.8	10	8	-20.0
Canola	1,764	2,448	38.8	636	940	47.8
Soybeans	379	610	60.9	105	178	69.5
Corn	441	645	46.3	128	150	17.2
Other cereals and oilseeds	334	469	40.4	154	213	38.3
Special crops	503	766	52.3	239	357	49.4
Potatoes	666	603	-9.5	217	197	-9.2
Floriculture and Nursery	1,483	1,511	1.9	352	359	2.0
Other crops	2,298	2,293	-0.2	1,006	1,044	3.8
<b>Total crop receipts</b>	<b>10,280</b>	<b>12,909</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>3,619</b>	<b>4,509</b>	<b>24.6</b>
Cattle and calves	4,625	4,757	2.9	1,496	1,543	3.1
Hogs	2,583	2,650	2.6	876	840	-4.1
Dairy products	3,605	3,850	6.8	1,177	1,312	11.5
Poultry and eggs	1,821	1,977	8.6	611	687	12.4
Other livestock	570	553	-3.0	182	171	-6.0
<b>Total livestock receipts</b>	<b>13,205</b>	<b>13,787</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4,343</b>	<b>4,553</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Net Income Stabilisation Account	309	269	-12.9	9	3	-66.7
Crop Insurance	459	330	-28.1	176	185	5.1
Income Disaster Assistance Programs	2,115	1,705	-19.4	571	385	-32.6
Provincial Stabilization	463	608	31.3	139	126	-9.4
Other programs	143	40	-72.0	18	4	-77.8
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>3,489</b>	<b>2,952</b>	<b>-15.4</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>-23.1</b>

<sup>P</sup> preliminary

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Total market receipts is the sum of crop and livestock receipts.

2. Includes Canadian Wheat Board payments.

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

## Provincial farm cash receipts

	January to September 2006	January to September 2007 <sup>P</sup>	January–September 2006 to January–September 2007	July to September 2006	July to September 2007 <sup>P</sup>	July–September 2006 to July–September 2007
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>26,973</b>	<b>29,648</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>8,875</b>	<b>9,764</b>	<b>10.0</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	69	79	14.5	23	26	13.0
Prince Edward Island	289	270	-6.6	80	79	-1.3
Nova Scotia	335	336	0.3	109	111	1.8
New Brunswick	341	323	-5.3	99	100	1.0
Quebec	4,682	4,974	6.2	1,550	1,679	8.3
Ontario	6,439	6,869	6.7	2,158	2,369	9.8
Manitoba	2,637	3,251	23.3	874	1,100	25.9
Saskatchewan	4,739	5,347	12.8	1,516	1,638	8.0
Alberta	5,743	6,491	13.0	1,909	2,090	9.5
British Columbia	1,698	1,707	0.5	558	572	2.5

<sup>P</sup> preliminary

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

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

## Net farm income

2006 (revised)

Canadian producers saw their realized net income fall for the second consecutive year in 2006 and hit its lowest level since 2003. Rising interest, wage and fuel costs, together with falling hog receipts and program payments, more than offset increases in revenue from crops and cattle.

Realized net income (the difference between a farmer's cash receipts and operating expenses minus depreciation, plus income in kind) dropped to \$844 million in 2006. This figure was also below the previous five-year average between 2001 and 2005. New Brunswick and Saskatchewan were the only provinces to record gains in realized net income in 2006.

Total farm cash revenue from livestock and crop receipts, as well as program payments, edged up 0.5% to \$36.9 billion. Meanwhile, higher interest rates as well as higher energy and labour costs drove up farm operating expenses 3.5% to \$31.6 billion.

Realized net income can vary widely from farm to farm because of several factors, including commodities, prices, weather and economies of scale. This and other aggregate measures of farm income are calculated on a provincial basis employing the same concepts used in measuring the performance of the overall Canadian economy. They are a measure of farm business income, not farm household income. For details on farm cash receipts for the first three quarters of 2007, see today's "Farm cash receipts" release.

Financial data, collected at the individual farm business level using surveys and other sources, will soon be tabulated and made available for 2006. These data will help explain differences in performance of various types and sizes of farms.

In recent years, for example, data from Statistics Canada's Whole Farm Data Base have shown that net operating income of farms with revenues of \$250,000 and over has been trending upwards. On the other hand, net operating income of smaller farms has not, even though many of these smaller operations still have positive net farm incomes.

### Higher crop revenues boost market cash receipts

Market cash receipts, the revenues from the sale of crops and livestock, increased 1.9% to \$32.4 billion in 2006. Crop receipts jumped 7.9% to \$14.5 billion as prices began to recover from their 2005 levels. Tempering the increase in market receipts were weak hog prices, which pushed livestock receipts down 2.5% in 2006.

#### Note to readers

**Net cash income** measures farm business cash flow (farm cash receipts minus operating expenses) generated from the production of agricultural goods. Net cash income represents the amount of money available for debt repayment, investment or withdrawal by the owner.

**Realized net income** measures the financial flows, both cash and non-cash, attributable to the farm businesses, similar to an income statement (net cash income minus depreciation plus income in kind). Realized net income represents the net income from transactions in a given year in that it includes the sale of commodities regardless of the year they were produced.

**Total net income** measures the financial flows and stock changes of farm businesses (net cash income minus depreciation plus income in kind and value of inventory change). Total net income values agriculture economic production during the year that the agricultural goods were produced. It represents the return to owner's equity, unpaid labour, management and risk.

**Farm cash receipts** measure the gross revenue of farm businesses in current dollars. They include sales of crops and livestock products (except sales between farms in the same province) and program payments. Receipts are recorded when the money is paid to farmers before any expenses are paid.

**Farm operating expenses** represent business costs incurred by farm businesses for goods and services used in the production of agricultural commodities. Expenses are recorded when the money is disbursed by the farmer.

As a result of the release of data from the **2006 Census of Agriculture** on May 16, 2007, estimates of farm cash receipts, operating expenses, net income, capital value and other data contained in the Agriculture Economic Statistics series are being revised, where necessary. The complete set of revisions will be released in the November 24, 2008 version of The Daily.

Increases in both deliveries and prices helped the recovery of crop receipts. There were strong increases in the deliveries of canola and wheat in 2006, as farmers made use of the record or near-record stocks gleaned from the harvests of 2005 and 2006.

Prices gained strength during 2006 as the biofuel industry expanded and adverse growing conditions were experienced by some of the major grain-exporting countries. Late in the year, prices also benefited from the improved harvest conditions in 2006 that resulted in the marketing of higher quality crops.

A 31.0% jump in marketings helped canola revenues soar 37.0% to \$2.5 billion. Producers of wheat (excluding durum) saw their receipts climb by 16.4%. Both stronger prices and marketings supported this growth.

The gain in crop revenues was also aided by a 13.7% rise in potato receipts as prices jumped 17.0%.

Plunging hog receipts drove down revenue in the livestock sector. The 13.2% drop left hog receipts at \$3.4 billion in 2006, 8.7% below the previous five-year

average. The main factor was prices, which were on average 12.9% below those of 2005.

Increased cattle and calf receipts moderated the drop in livestock revenues, climbing 1.8% to \$6.4 billion. Cattle exports regained strength following the reopening of the American border to live cattle under 30 months of age on July 18, 2005.

The 1.0 million cattle and calves exported in 2006, while almost doubling the figure from the previous year, remained 40.0% below the pre-BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) peak in 2002. Canadian exports were hampered by a strengthening Canadian dollar and reduced US demand for Canadian cattle as drought-stricken US ranchers shipped cattle early to feedlots.

In the supply-managed sector, receipts declined a marginal 0.8%, the first decrease since 2002. A 4.3% drop in chicken receipts was more than enough to counteract small increases in egg and turkey receipts. Dairy receipts remained virtually unchanged from 2005.

#### **Program payments fall from record levels**

Program payments decreased for the first time in three years, falling to \$4.5 billion in 2006, 8.1% below the record level of 2005. Despite the drop, the 2006 level was 3.7% above the previous five-year average.

Certain programs linked to cash flow problems and difficulties in the cattle sector were terminated in 2006, including the Farm Income Payment Program and BSE-related programs. However, new programs helped to prevent a precipitous fall in payments. These included the Grains and Oilseeds Payment Program and the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Inventory Transition Initiatives, as well as other CAIS enhancements.

Crop insurance payments also played a role, declining 21.1% as a result of better growing conditions in 2006.

#### **Operating expenses: Producers hit by increased interest charges, labour costs and fuel prices**

Farm operating expenses were up 3.5% from 2005, the highest annual increase since 2001. Increases in interest rates, fuel prices and labour costs contributed, pushing up operating expenses to \$31.6 billion in 2006. However, this rise was marginally below the average percentage increase in expenses over the previous 10-year period (1996 to 2005).

Interest expenses shot up 16.4%, the largest increase since 1981. Prime business rates jumped by over 30%, while one-year mortgage rates rose by more than 20% from their recent lows in the past couple of years. Farm debt continued to rise, increasing 4.3%

in 2006, slightly below the average increase of 5.1% over the previous five-year period.

Although fuel price increases did moderate in 2006, price rises in diesel and gasoline were the major contributors to a 5.6% climb in machinery fuel costs. Labour costs continued their ascent, rising by 3.0% in 2006. Farm operators struggled to find workers in an increasingly tight labour market.

Manitoba producers incurred a 6.8% rise in operating expenses, the largest percentage increase in Canada. Added to factors already mentioned was an increase in crop expenses linked to a return to more normal levels of seeded acres. In 2005, seeded acres of field crops had declined by 9.3% as a result of excessive moisture that prevented planting in much of southeastern Manitoba.

#### **Declining farm inventories drag down total net income**

The value of inventories fell by \$849 million in 2006, largely due to the conversion of on-farm stocks of canola and durum wheat into market deliveries, and lower stocks of feed grains. Increases in on-farm stocks of potatoes and soybeans helped moderate these declines.

While droughts in 2001 and 2002 had caused on-farm stocks of grains and oilseeds to drop to levels not seen since the late 1980's, bountiful harvests in recent years had brought stocks up to record or near-record levels in 2005. And despite the large value of inventory change in 2006, on-farm stocks remained at very high levels.

Declining on-farm stocks of livestock were also a major contributor to the drop in the value of inventories. Cattle inventories fell 3.6% in the wake of renewed live cattle exports to the United States, while hog inventories declined 1.3%.

The reduction of on-farm inventories were a major factor in the decline of total net income, which fell from \$2.3 billion to -\$6 million in 2006, well below the previous five-year average of \$2.7 billion. Total net income adjusts realized net income for changes in the value of farmer-owned inventories of crops and livestock.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0001, 002-0003, 002-0005, 002-0007 to 002-0009, 002-0012 and 003-0025.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3436, 3437, 3439, 3471, 3472, 3473 and 3474.**

The publications *Net Farm Income: Agriculture Economic Statistics*, Vol. 6, no. 2 (21-010-XWE, free),

*Farm Cash Receipts: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 6, no. 2 (21-011-XWE, free), Farm Operating Expenses and Depreciation Charges: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 6, no. 2 (21-012-XWE, free), Value of Farm Capital: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 6, no. 2 (21-013-XWE, free) and Farm Debt Outstanding: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 6, no. 2 (21-014-XWE, free) are now available online. From the Publications module of our website, under Free Internet publications, choose Agriculture.*

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Stephen Boyd at 613-951-1875 ([stephen.boyd@statcan.ca](mailto:stephen.boyd@statcan.ca)), or Gail-Ann Breese at 204-983-3445 ([gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca](mailto:gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division.

## Net farm income

	2005 <sup>r</sup>	2006 <sup>r</sup>	2005 to 2006
	\$ millions		% change
+ Total farm cash receipts including payments	36,684	36,884	0.5
- Total operating expenses after rebates	30,498	31,568	3.5
= Net cash income	6,186	5,316	-14.1
+ Income-in-kind	126	119	-5.6
- Depreciation	4,615	4,591	-0.5
= Realized net income	1,697	844	-50.3
+ Value of inventory change	589	-849	...
= Total net income	2,286	-6	...

<sup>r</sup> revised

... not appropriate or not applicable

## Net farm income

	Canada	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
	\$ millions										
2005 <sup>r</sup>											
+ Total farm cash receipts including payments	36,684	91	367	459	433	6,185	8,903	3,788	6,221	7,832	2,405
- Total operating expenses after rebates	30,498	85	331	386	375	5,006	7,478	3,054	5,273	6,470	2,040
= Net cash income	6,186	6	36	73	58	1,178	1,424	733	948	1,362	366
+ Income-in-kind	126	1	1	2	2	39	35	8	12	20	7
- Depreciation	4,615	6	40	54	46	621	1,112	409	915	1,147	265
= Realized net income	1,697	1	-3	21	15	597	347	333	45	235	107
+ Value of inventory change	589	0	-20	-2	10	-50	-6	-225	628	297	-44
= Total net income	2,286	1	-22	19	25	546	342	107	673	532	63
2006 <sup>r</sup>											
+ Total farm cash receipts including payments	36,884	95	378	448	452	6,198	8,863	3,675	6,629	7,813	2,333
- Total operating expenses after rebates	31,568	89	347	400	389	5,195	7,705	3,263	5,374	6,715	2,090
= Net cash income	5,316	6	31	48	64	1,003	1,158	411	1,255	1,098	243
+ Income-in-kind	119	1	1	2	2	38	34	7	10	16	7
- Depreciation	4,591	6	41	54	45	599	1,111	404	903	1,154	273
= Realized net income	844	0	-9	-4	21	442	81	15	362	-40	-24
+ Value of inventory change	-849	1	27	-2	24	-93	-130	284	-592	-319	-47
= Total net income	-6	1	18	-6	44	348	-49	299	-231	-359	-71

<sup>r</sup> revised

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



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## Study: International trade by the information and communication technologies sector

1997 to 2005

The information and communication technologies (ICT) sector has had a moderating effect on the size of Canada's overall deficit in international transactions of services, according to a new study.

The study, published today in the *Analysis in Brief* series, found that between 1997 and 2005 the ICT sector recorded trade surpluses in commercial services of between \$2.3 billion and \$5.6 billion annually. In contrast, other sectors were posting deficits for these services of between \$5.1 billion and \$8.0 billion.

In 2005, international transactions in commercial services posted a trade deficit of just over \$1.6 billion. However, this deficit would have been much larger without the ICT sector, which recorded a surplus of \$4.0 billion in commercial services.

This study examined the impact of the ICT sector on the international trade balance in commercial services. It explored the evolution of the sector's impact by type of service, by industry and by affiliation of the companies involved.

In 2005, Canadian firms had transactions in both exports and imports totalling nearly \$75.4 billion in commercial services. In the ICT sector alone, transactions amounted to \$16.4 billion, about one-fifth of total commercial services transactions.

The merchandise trade surplus is the largest part of the overall current account balance. Nonetheless, international transactions in services are an important component of the account and comprise four major categories: travel, transportation, commercial services and government services.

Commercial services, the largest of these four categories, accounted for 6.4% of exports and 7.0% of imports in Canada's current account in 2005. This category covers a broad range of activities such as insurance, management, royalties, fees and licences, informatics and information, architecture, engineering and technical services and research and development.

Many of the firms dealing in commercial services are in the ICT sector. These firms are involved in various components of information and communication technology such as computer services, software publishing and telecommunications. The ICT sector is one of the driving forces that largely influence the size of the trade balance in commercial services.

Of the four industrial groups making up the ICT sector, the two largest ones produced surpluses

in their international trade in commercial services between 1997 and 2005. They were the information and cultural industries group and the professional, scientific and technical services group.

Industries in the other two groups—manufacturing and trade, transportation and others—experienced deficits for the first time in 2005.

ICT industries in the information and cultural industries group were the largest, representing 44% of ICT exports and 54% of the total corresponding surplus in 2005. Computer services had the largest impact on the surplus of these industries. The combined impact over the years of increased exports and lower imports expanded the surplus of these industries in computer services transactions.

ICT industries are the main importers and exporters of computer services in Canada. In 2005, computer services accounted for \$2.4 billion, or about 60%, of the \$4.0 billion ICT trade surplus, and 34% of ICT exports.

**Note:** The ICT sector includes industries operating mainly in the production of goods and services or in the implementation of technologies used to capture, process, transmit, receive or display data and information by electronic means. This sector accounted for almost 6% of the gross domestic product in 2005.

The balance of payments covers all economic transactions between Canadian residents and non-residents. It includes the current account and the capital and financial accounts.

The current account covers transactions on goods, services, investment income and current transfers. Transactions in exports and interest income are examples of receipts, while imports and interest expenses are payments. The balance from these transactions determines if Canada's current account is in surplus or deficit.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1534, 1535 and 1536.**

The analytical article *International trade by the information and communication technologies sector* (11-621-MWE2007064, free), part of the *Analysis in Brief* series, is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nicole Charron (613-951-0087), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

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## Survey of Canadian Attitudes toward Learning

2007

Most Canadians agreed that homework enhances learning and helps students develop good work habits. But for almost three-quarters of Canadian parents of school-aged children, homework has often been a source of household stress.

The views of parents of children aged 5 to 24 are among the findings of the second Survey of Canadian Attitudes toward Learning. This survey covers various aspects of learning in early childhood, elementary, secondary and postsecondary school, and as adults.

Nearly half the parents surveyed reported that the amount of homework assigned in elementary school is appropriate, while about 30% said that there was too much. At the high school level, 42% said the amount of homework was appropriate and the remaining parents were split fairly closely between those who said there was too much and those who said there was too little.

Many parents of school-aged children are not satisfied with the amount of time that parents in general spend helping students with their homework. About 47% said that parents of elementary students were spending either too much (19%) or too little time (28%) helping. At the high school level, 46% said that parents were spending too little time helping their children.

Altogether, 72% felt homework was often a source of household stress. One in three parents had hired a tutor for their children at some point.

The survey found that today's parents are not only interested in assisting their children in achieving better grades. Almost one-quarter of parents of school-aged children reported having enrolled their children in a language immersion program.

To explain their choice, most of these parents said they wanted their children to learn and maintain additional language skills or to have better future job opportunities.

When parents who did not choose an immersion program were asked why, one-quarter said that the program or the space was not available.

About two-thirds of the parents believed that Canadian elementary and secondary schools met or exceeded their expectations on several general learning outcomes. Parents rated the schools most highly on teaching the basics (reading, writing and arithmetic), teaching computers skills, and preparing students for further education after high school.

But only 54% of parents said that the schools met or exceeded their expectations in terms of preparing students for work. About 59% felt the same about how

successful schools are at teaching students to love learning. Just under half of the parents agreed that administrators, teachers and parents are doing enough to prevent and address bullying when it occurs.

**Note:** The annual Survey of Canadian Attitude toward Learning (SCAL) was designed in cooperation with, and sponsored by, the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL). More than 5,000 adults aged between 18 and 74 responded to the survey. The preceding analysis only includes the views of parents of children aged 5 to 24. "Don't know" was considered as a valid response when calculating the percentages presented above.

Data from the 2007 Survey of Canadian Attitudes toward Learning are now available.

CCL has prepared a report with further analysis of the findings on learning in the elementary and secondary years. The report is available online ([www.ccl-cca.ca/scal](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/scal)).

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5122.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; [educationstats@statcan.ca](mailto:educationstats@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

## Canadian Survey of Experiences with Primary Health Care

2006-2007

This survey, sponsored by the Health Council of Canada, provides national information on the experiences of Canadians with primary health care.

Its purpose was to measure experiences with primary health care services, including access to various types of doctors and clinics, and access to different types of health care including emergency rooms and prescription medication use.

The information gathered in this survey is valid for the 12 months leading up to the interviews, which were conducted in January and February 2007. The sample consisted of 3,800 adults in the 10 provinces and 3 territories.

Previous data from the Canadian Community Health Survey showed that the majority of Canadians (86% in 2005) had a regular medical doctor. This new survey provides information regarding access to a usual place of care.

Overall, survey results showed that 96% of Canadians aged 18 and older had either a regular medical doctor or a usual place of care.

The survey also provided the first national level estimates regarding access to multidisciplinary primary health care teams. This would include health professionals such as nurses, other doctors, dieticians and nutritionists.

Nearly one third (30%) of Canadians reported that a nurse, working with their primary care provider, was regularly involved in their health care. The corresponding rate for those with a chronic condition, such as arthritis or diabetes, was 33%.

A full report on the survey results is scheduled for publication by the Health Council of Canada on December 13.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5138.**

For information about the survey results, contact Diane Watson (604-214-0418), Health Council of Canada.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release,

contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527; [ssd@statcan.ca](mailto:ssd@statcan.ca)), Special Surveys Division. ■

**Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products**

August 2007

Data on the net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons, liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products, pipeline exports of crude oil and deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries are now available for August.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 133-0001 to 133-0005.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148 and 2191.**

For more information, 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](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

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