Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 1205-9137

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 24, 2007
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Principal field crops, March 2007 2
Prairie farmers reported they intend to plant a record area of canola, and less spring wheat and flaxseed, according to the 2007 first seeding intentions survey. In the East, grain corn acreage should move to record territory, with slightly less area devoted to soybeans.

Leading indicators, March 2007 4

Employment Insurance, February 2007 5

Cereals and oilseeds review, February 2007 7

Crushing statistics, March 2007 7

Deliveries of major grains, March 2007 7

Natural gas sales: Correction, February 2007 7

New products 8

Releases

Principal field crops

March 2007 (intentions)

Prairie farmers reported they intend to plant a record area of canola, and less spring wheat and flaxseed, according to the 2007 first seeding intentions survey. In the East, grain corn acreage should move to record territory, with slightly less area devoted to soybeans.

Seeding intentions of major grains and oilseeds

Crop	2006	2007	2006 to 2007
	thousands of acres		% change
Total wheat	**26,387**	**23,759**	**-10.0**
Spring wheat	20,273	17,080	-15.8
Canola	13,276	14,831	11.7
Barley	9,540	10,812	13.3
Summer fallow	10,710	8,045	-24.9
Oats	4,751	5,682	19.6
Durum wheat	4,350	4,950	13.8
Dry field peas	3,485	3,565	2.3
Corn for grain	2,786	3,511	26.0
Soybeans	3,059	2,931	-4.2
Flaxseed	2,080	1,430	-31.3

The March seeding intentions survey, which covered 16,800 Canadian farmers, revealed that in response to economic considerations they may seed a record area of canola and field peas, but less spring wheat and flaxseed in the Prairies. A record area of corn for grain may be planted in the East, the result of steady demand from the livestock industry and increased demand from the ethanol industry.

Soil moisture conditions appear to be improving, with many areas receiving late season snowfall. It is too early to assess planting conditions for 2007 in areas that experienced excess moisture in 2006.

It is important to remember for this report that economic and environmental conditions are always subject to change, requiring farmers to modify their plans prior to planting time.

Oilseed picture remains mixed

Prairie farmers may seed a record 14.7 million acres of canola, up 11.5% or 1.5 million acres from 2006. The previous record of 14.2 million acres was set in 1994.

Farmers in all three Prairie provinces reported that they could seed more canola. Saskatchewan is leading the way, up 1.0 million acres to a record 7.4 million acres, easily surpassing the previous record of 6.6 million acres set in 1994, 1999 and again in 2005.

The opposite may be true for flaxseed. Prairie farmers could plant 650,000 less acres of flaxseed, a decline of 31.3% from 2006 to 1.4 million acres. The five-year average is 1.9 million acres.

In Saskatchewan, where the majority of Canadian flaxseed is grown, seeded area may be down 480,000 acres to 1.2 million acres.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *As a result of the release of data from the 2006 Census of Agriculture on May 16 2007, estimates of field crop area and production contained in the* Field Crop Reporting Series *will be revised, where necessary, to align with those from the Census. Once the revisions have been made, they will be announced in the appropriate release of the* Field Crop Reporting Series *in* The Daily.

Spring wheat falls, durum wheat on the rise

Prairie farmers anticipated a 16.1% decrease in intended spring wheat plantings to a possible 16.7 million acres, well below the five-year average of 18.5 million acres. Farmers striving for improved returns may plant less spring wheat in favour of canola, field peas, barley and oats.

Spring wheat acreage should decline in all three Prairie provinces, falling to an area less than the five-year average in each province. Saskatchewan farmers reported the largest drop of 1.8 million acres to 8.8 million acres.

Farmers expected to plant a lot more durum wheat in 2007, an increase of 13.8% to 5.0 million acres. The five-year average is 5.6 million acres. Over the past decade, durum area has fluctuated considerably from over 7.0 million acres to last year's low of 4.4 million acres.

Durum area in both Alberta and Saskatchewan should rise, but remain below the corresponding five-year average.

Barley and oat areas jump

The total area seeded to barley on the Prairies is expected to rise 15.5% to an estimated 10.2 million acres. In spite of the increase, this area remains less than the five-year average of 10.6 million acres.

Farmers in all three Prairie provinces reported potential increases with Manitoba up 12.9%, Saskatchewan up 25.0% and Alberta up 8.1%.

Prairie farmers expected to plant 5.2 million acres of oats, a 23.7% gain from the 4.2 million acres seeded in 2006.

Saskatchewan farmers reported the largest increase, up 950,000 acres to 3.0 million acres. The five-year average is 2.2 million acres.

Field pea area nudges up to a possible record

Field pea acreage could rise again this year by 2.3% to 3.6 million acres, and may eclipse the record of 3.5 million acres set just last year.

Saskatchewan farmers reported the largest gain, up 95,000 acres to a record 2.9 million acres.

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

Eastern farmers set to plant record grain corn area, soybeans off slightly

Corn growers in the East reported that they intend to seed record areas of corn for grain. This may be in response to steady demand from the livestock industry and an ever increasing demand from the ethanol industry.

In Quebec, seeded area should rise 13.0% to 1.1 million acres, just under the record set in 2002, while Ontario acreage may rise 32.3% to 2.2 million acres, equal to the previous record set in 1981.

Soybean areas could fall in Quebec and Manitoba, and remain unchanged in Ontario.

Manitoba farmers reported a strong potential decline of 120,000 acres to 240,000 acres, Quebec farmers a 2.0% decline to 476,900 acres and in Ontario, farmers intend to plant the same acreage as last year at 2.2 million acres.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0004, 001-0010 and 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," 2007, Vol. 86, no. 2 (22-002-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publication* module of our website. A print version (22-002-XPB, $17/$95) is also 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. ■

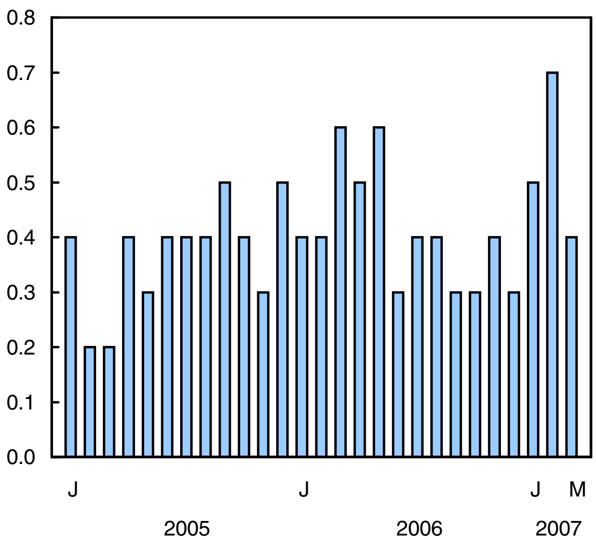
Leading indicators

March 2007

The composite index advanced 0.4% in March, reinforcing its 0.7% gain the month before. Household spending remained the driving force of growth, boosted by a robust labour market. Financial market conditions also remained buoyant, with the stock market hitting a new record. Manufacturing continued to recover slowly, as sluggish US demand was compounded by the rail strike.

Composite leading indicator

Smoothed percentage change



Household spending lost some of its élan. Durable goods sales posted their first drop in over a year, largely due to slow demand for vehicles. The housing market remained strong in the first quarter, after small declines in the second half of 2006. This helped stimulate more purchases of furniture and appliances, which posted their largest increase since last summer. Consumer services also led the growth of services employment in March.

Manufacturing continued to recover tentatively from a brief contraction last autumn. New orders for durable goods rose for a third straight month, led by transportation equipment. However, this upturn in orders has not yet been reflected in higher shipments, which continued to fall while inventories rose. Some of the problems in February reflected the impact of the rail strike. The average workweek in factories grew slightly, consistent with a levelling off of manufacturing employment in recent months, after steady declines from their peak early in 2005.

The US leading indicator fell 0.1%, resuming the slow decline seen in most of 2006 after starting 2007 with back-to-back increases. The weakness of the US leading indicator has been a poor predictor of the US economy, which has consistently performed well over the past year. However, it has been a good augur of Canadian exports to the United States, which so far this year are below the level of a year ago. This partly reflects our dependence on the US housing and auto markets, which have lagged the rest of their economy.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

For more information on the economy, consult the April 2007 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 20, no. 4 (11-010-XWB, free), now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A print version (11-010-XPB, $25/$243) is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; *ceo@statcan.ca*), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

Leading indicators

	October 2006	November 2006	December 2006	January 2007	February 2007	March 2007	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	**219.2**	**220.1**	**220.7**	**221.9**	**223.4**	**224.4**	**0.4**
Housing index (1992=100)[1]	140.4	139.8	139.2	143.4	144.1	144.9	0.6
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,756	2,769	2,781	2,795	2,807	2,822	0.5
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	11,930	12,158	12,373	12,565	12,817	12,981	1.3
Money supply, M1 ($ millions, 1992)[2]	153,439	155,228	157,277	159,492	161,796	162,698	0.6
US Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100)[3]	126.7	126.7	126.6	126.8	127.0	126.9	-0.1
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	38.3	38.3	38.3	38.3	38.4	38.5	0.3
New orders, durables ($ millions, 1992)[4]	25,750	26,075	25,841	25,880	26,317	26,537	0.8
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.87	1.85	1.83	1.82	1.81	1.80	-0.01[5]
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	2,568	2,589	2,604	2,615	2,634	2,660	1.0
Other durable goods sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	8,685	8,729	8,752	8,788	8,836	8,822	-0.2
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	**220.8**	**221.8**	**222.5**	**225.5**	**226.2**	**226.1**	**0.0**

1. *Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).*
2. *Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.*
3. *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.*
4. *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.*
5. *Difference from previous month.*

■

Employment Insurance

February 2007 (preliminary)

An estimated 485,870 Canadians (seasonally adjusted) received regular Employment Insurance benefits in February, virtually unchanged from January (+0.1%). By province, monthly fluctuations ranged from a decline of 1.0% in Nova Scotia to a 1.5% increase in Saskatchewan.

Nationally, the number of regular beneficiaries was 3.5% lower in February compared with the same month a year earlier. Alberta had the largest year-over-year decline at 14.6%.

In the last five years, the number of regular beneficiaries in Canada has fallen by 14%, largely due to declines in Alberta and British Columbia.

Regular benefit payments in February totalled $702.3 million, while 211,550 people made initial and renewal claims.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures. The number of beneficiaries for this month is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits from the 11th to the 17th of the month. This coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. The regular benefit payments figure measures the total of all monies paid to individuals from the 1st to the end of the month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for March will be released on May 29.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-4090 or toll-free 1-866-873-8788; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division. □

Employment Insurance statistics

	February 2007	January 2007	February 2006	January to February 2007	February 2006 to February 2007
	Seasonally adjusted				
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	485,870p	485,420r	503,620	0.1	-3.5
Regular benefits paid ($ millions)	702.3p	718.0r	698.7	-2.2	0.5
Initial and renewal claims received ('000)	211.6p	237.2r	218.2	-10.8	-3.1
	Unadjusted				
All beneficiaries ('000)[1]	895.2p	889.4p	952.2		
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	629.1p	630.7p	648.0		
Initial and renewal claims received ('000)	162.5	351.5	171.4		
Payments ($ millions)	1,420.9	1,636.8	1,416.5		
	Year-to-date (January to February)				
			2007	2006	2006 to 2007
					% change
Claims received ('000)			513.9	502.2	2.3
Payments ($ millions)			3,057.7	3,035.8	0.7

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *"All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week which is usually the week containing the 15th.of the month.*

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	February 2007p	January to February 2007	February 2006 to February 2007
	seasonally adjusted		
		% change	
Canada	**485,870**	**0.1**	**-3.5**
Newfoundland and Labrador	36,330	-0.9	-5.1
Prince Edward Island	7,570	-0.9	-3.9
Nova Scotia	27,330	-1.0	-4.2
New Brunswick	31,590	-0.6	-4.2
Quebec	176,580	1.3	0.1
Ontario	129,330	-0.5	-1.4
Manitoba	10,610	-0.3	-5.3
Saskatchewan	9,610	1.5	-3.9
Alberta	16,430	0.1	-14.6
British Columbia	38,600	-0.5	-13.2
Yukon Territory	780	2.6	-6.0
Northwest Territories	700	0.0	-9.1
Nunavut	380	-2.6	-7.3

p *Preliminary*
Note: *The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.*

■

Cereals and oilseeds review

February 2007

Data from the February 2007 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review*, Vol. 30, no. 2 (22-007-XIB, free) are now available from the *Publications* module of our website. The February issue contains an overview of March's market conditions.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3403, 3404, 3443, 3464 and 3476.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Crushing statistics

March 2007

Oilseed processors crushed 283,754 metric tonnes of canola in March. Oil production totalled 122,056 tonnes while meal production amounted to 167,719 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.

The March 2007 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available in May.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Deliveries of major grains

March 2007

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.

The March 2007 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available in May.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991 or *agriculture@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Natural gas sales: Correction

February 2007 (preliminary)

Please note that corrections have been made to the data in the February 2007 "Natural gas sales" release, which appeared in *The Daily* on April 23.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number, including related surveys, 2149.

For more information, or 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. ■

New products

Field Crop Reporting Series, Vol. 86, no. 2
Catalogue number 22-002-XIB
(free).

Field Crop Reporting Series, Vol. 86, no. 2
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB ($17/$95).

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, February 2007, Vol. 30, no. 2
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB
(free).

Retail Trade, February 2007, Vol. 79, no. 2
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.

How to order products

To order by phone, please refer to:

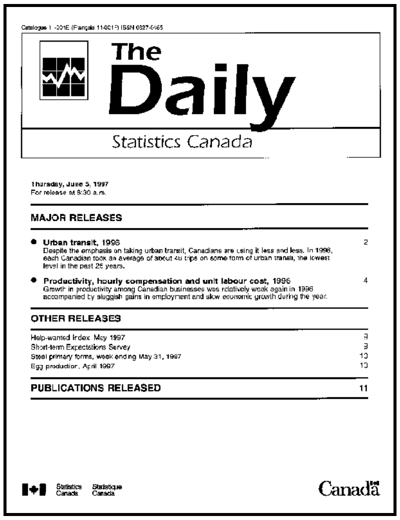
- The title
- The catalogue number
- The volume number
- The issue number
- Your credit card number.

From Canada and the United States, call:	**1-800-267-6677**
From other countries, call:	**1-613-951-2800**
To fax your order, call:	**1-877-287-4369**
For address changes or account inquiries, call:	**1-877-591-6963**

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 6% 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 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

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".