



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, June 4, 2007**

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### Review of quality assurance practices

Earlier this year, Statistics Canada completed an extensive review of the quality assurance practices used in nine of its key economic programs. The documents *Quality Assurance Review Summary Report* and *Disposition of Recommendations from the Quality Assurance Review Summary Report* are now available on the *Review of quality assurance practices* page of our website.

For more information on this report, contact Don Royce (613-951-1461; [don.royce@statcan.ca](mailto:don.royce@statcan.ca)), Methodology Branch.



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## Farm Product Price Index

March 2007

Prices farmers received for their commodities rose 9.4% in March from the same month a year earlier, as most crop, livestock and animal product prices increased.

Prices for crops were 17.9% higher in March than they were a year earlier, according to the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI). This was the seventh consecutive monthly year-over-year increase and the fifth consecutive double-digit rise. After slumping to very low levels during the 2005/2006 crop year (August to July), crop prices surged to their highest level since the fall of 2004.

Prices for the overall livestock and animal product index rose 4.1% in March, as gains were made in all commodities except eggs (-1.8%). Increases ranged from 2.1% for cattle and calves to 6.6% for hogs and poultry.

On a monthly basis, prices farmers received for their commodities rose 1.6% in March over February.

The FPPI stood at 104.0 (1997=100) in March, an increase over the revised February index of 102.4.

Prices for livestock and animal products advanced 1.9% in March from the revised February index, as cattle and calves and poultry recorded increases. Hogs and dairy were down while eggs were unchanged.

Cattle and calf prices increased (+6.8%) for a third consecutive month in March, after dropping to a recent low in December 2006, when they had been at their lowest level since the border re-opened to partial trade of live cattle and calves in July 2005.

After rising for three consecutive months, hog prices dipped 4.7% in March. However, they remained above the recent low recorded in November 2006. The

United States Department of Agriculture reported that hog inventories in Canada and the US were, at the beginning of March, slightly above the level posted the same time last year.

Prices farmers received for crops were up 0.4% from February, as all commodities recorded an increase, except fruits and vegetables. Gains ranged from 0.1% for specialty crops to 6.0% for potatoes.

Grain and oilseed prices continued their upward trend, driven by the growing demand from the biofuel sector. However, it should be noted that at this time of the year, markets begin to react to climate conditions and their effects on the upcoming growing season.

Even though specialty crop production in Canada is well below that of wheat, it has grown significantly. Canada is among the world's largest producers and is the largest exporter of these crops (dry peas, lentils, mustard seed and canary seed). Specialty crop prices have trended up since the fall of 2006, supported by strong demand, production difficulties in some producing and importing countries and competition for acres in the upcoming crop year.

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

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.**

The March 2007 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 7, no. 3 (21-007-XWE, free) is now available. From the *Publications* module of 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 (613-951-2701; fax: 204-983-7543; [gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca](mailto:gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. □

## Farm Product Price Index

	March 2006 <sup>r</sup>	February 2007 <sup>r</sup>	March 2007 <sup>p</sup>	March 2006 to March 2007	February to March 2007
	(1997=100)			% change	
<b>Farm Product Price Index</b>	<b>95.1</b>	<b>102.4</b>	<b>104.0</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Crops</b>	<b>87.1</b>	<b>102.3</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Grains	74.9	91.5	93.5	24.8	2.2
Oilseeds	68.1	91.4	92.5	35.8	1.2
Specialty crops	73.2	107.4	107.5	46.9	0.1
Fruit	106.8	123.6	116.8	9.4	-5.5
Vegetables	119.2	122.8	122.3	2.6	-0.4
Potatoes	150.1	124.3	131.8	-12.2	6.0
<b>Livestock and animal products</b>	<b>102.0</b>	<b>104.2</b>	<b>106.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Cattle and calves	107.0	102.3	109.3	2.1	6.8
Hogs	70.2	78.5	74.8	6.6	-4.7
Poultry	93.7	97.6	99.9	6.6	2.4
Eggs	97.5	95.7	95.7	-1.8	0.0
Dairy	129.3	136.7	135.7	4.9	-0.7

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

## Farm Input Price Index 2006 (preliminary)

In 2006, the Farm Input Price Index for Canada was 139.3 (1992=100), up 3.3% from 2005. All major groups, except property taxes, contributed to the increase in the total index. Higher prices for machinery and motor vehicles (+3.2%), interest paid (+10.9%), crop production (+3.7%), animal production (+1.8%) and hired farm labour (+3.6%) were the major contributors to the annual rise. These increases were partly offset by the decline in property taxes (-2.0%).

Prices of farm inputs advanced 3.3% in both Western Canada and Eastern Canada. Although the price movement by major groups is comparable between

the East and West, the rise in prices for machinery and motor vehicles was much stronger in the West (+4.0%) than in the East (+2.5%). As well, property taxes decreased in the West (-3.0%) while they rose in the East (+4.5%).

**Available on CANSIM: table 328-0014.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2305.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; [prices-prix@statcan.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.ca)), Prices Division.

## Farm Input Price Index (1992=100)

	East			West			Canada		
	2005	2006 <sup>p</sup>	2005 to 2006 % change	2005	2006 <sup>p</sup>	2005 to 2006 % change	2005	2006 <sup>p</sup>	2005 to 2006 % change
<b>Farm inputs, total</b>	<b>131.3</b>	<b>135.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>138.9</b>	<b>143.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>134.9</b>	<b>139.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Building and fencing	138.6	141.4	2.0	134.2	134.6	0.2	136.3	137.7	1.0
Machinery and motor vehicles	163.6	167.7	2.5	164.1	170.7	4.0	163.6	168.7	3.2
Crop production	148.0	154.8	4.6	161.0	165.9	3.0	156.1	161.9	3.7
Animal production	120.4	122.9	2.1	127.4	129.4	1.6	124.2	126.5	1.8
Supplies and services	132.9	135.3	1.8	126.5	126.6	0.1	129.8	131.1	1.0
Hired farm labour	137.8	140.6	2.0	138.3	146.4	5.8	137.7	142.7	3.6
Property taxes	97.4	101.9	4.5	141.3	135.9	-3.9	132.5	129.9	-2.0
Interest	84.2	93.9	11.6	79.4	87.7	10.5	81.3	90.1	10.9
Farm rent	102.4	106.4	3.9	141.9	143.9	1.4	129.3	132.1	2.1

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

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**Shipments of solid fuel burning heating products**

First quarter 2007

Data on shipments of solid fuel burning heating products are now available for the first quarter of 2007.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0063.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2189.**

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; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## New products

Farm Product Price Index, March 2007, Vol. 7, no. 3  
Catalogue number 21-007-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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Statistics Canada

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**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 250 less 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 and unit labour cost in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Map-based Index: May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11



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*The Daily, June 4, 2007*

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**Release dates: June 4 to 8, 2007**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

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<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
4	<b>Farm Input Price Index</b>	Annual 2006
6	<b>Building permits</b>	April 2007
7	<b>The Canadian lumber industry: Recent trends</b>	1995 to 2006
7	<b>Electric utility construction price indexes</b>	Revised 2005 and annual 2006
8	<b>Canadian international merchandise trade</b>	April 2007
8	<b>Labour Force Survey</b>	May 2007

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