



The Daily

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Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada

February 2008

This issue of Statistics Canada's free online publication, *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, contains two articles.

The first, "Literacy skills of Canadians across the ages: Fewer low achievers, fewer high achievers," summarizes the key findings of a recent report that investigated the distribution of literacy skills in the Canadian-born population and how those skills are generated. One of the key findings in this report is that literacy levels have improved at the lower level of the literacy distribution. At the same time, there is evidence that younger Canadians have lower levels of literacy than older Canadians had, at the same age and level of education. This was particularly true for more highly educated individuals.

The second article, "Student characteristics and achievement in science: Results of the 2006 Programme for International Student Assessment" summarizes the latest results from the Programme for International Student Assessment. While Canada and the majority of the provinces were among the jurisdictions where science achievement was above average and disparity in student performance was below average, differences in student achievement persist. This article identifies how those differences are related to student characteristics.

The February 2008 issue of *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 4, no. 6 (81-004-XIE, free) is now available on our website. From the *Publications* module, choose *Free internet publications*, then *Education, training and learning* and *Education Matters*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



New products

8

Releases

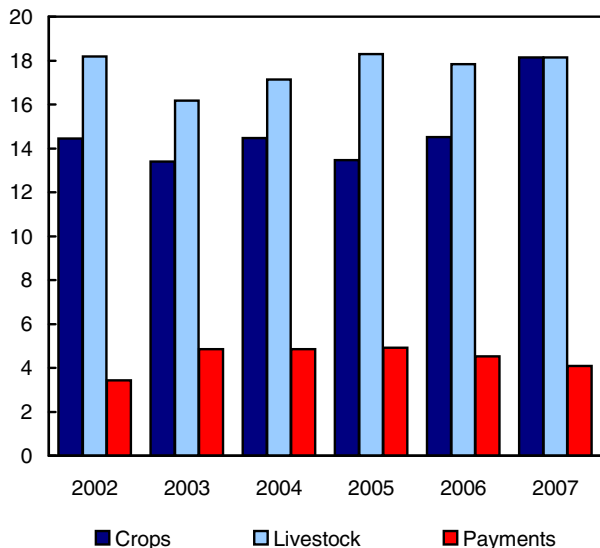
Farm cash receipts

January to December 2007

Market cash receipts for farmers hit a record high in 2007, boosted primarily by a surge in grain and oilseed prices. Dairy, poultry and egg producers received higher revenues. Meanwhile, cattle and hog farmers were squeezed by a combination of lower prices, higher feed costs, and the higher Canadian dollar.

Farm cash receipts, January to December

\$ billions



Canadian farmers received a record \$36.3 billion from the sale of crops and livestock in 2007, up 12.2% from 2006. This total was 14.9% above the previous five-year average. This period included the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) situation and some years of low commodity prices.

Receipts from crop sales hit a record \$18.1 billion, up 25.0% over 2006 and 29.1% higher than the previous five-year average. Although grain and oilseed prices were the driving force for the increase, deliveries were strong as a result of producers drawing on their stocks to benefit from the high prices.

Livestock receipts grew 1.7% to \$18.1 billion, the result of higher dairy and poultry prices and increased marketings. Cattle and hog revenues declined in the wake of lower prices, while exports of live animals to the United States climbed as the economics of feeding these

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 in November 2008.

animals supported this movement. Livestock revenues were 3.5% above the previous five-year average.

Program payments amounted to \$4.1 billion, a 9.7% decline from 2006 and 9.5% below the previous five-year average. This was due in part to improved prices in the grains and oilseeds sector.

Total farm cash receipts, which include crop and livestock revenues plus program payments, reached a record \$40.4 billion in 2007. This level was 9.5% above 2006 and 11.8% higher than the five-year average. It was the first time that receipts surpassed the \$40-billion mark.

Farm cash receipts increased in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, where they declined, and in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, where they remained stable. Gains ranged from 3.9% in Ontario to 18.0% in Manitoba.

First economic indicator

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, loans, and cover depreciation. Statistics Canada is scheduled to 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 20.8% in 2007. In addition, livestock producers faced much higher feed costs. For instance, feed barley prices were 63.0% higher than 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 has the impact of lowering returns to Canadian producers who depend heavily on international sales. The value of the Canadian dollar increased by more than 17% against its American counterpart during 2007.

High grain and oilseed prices push crop receipts to double-digit increase

Grain and oilseed prices have been increasing since the fall of 2006, boosted by expansion in the bio-fuel sector. Since that time, weather-related production issues in many of the world's major producing countries have tightened supplies, pushing prices to levels not seen in recent years.

Revenues from wheat (excluding durum) rose 43.4% to a record \$3.2 billion in 2007. Durum receipts climbed to \$962 million, up 68.2% from 2006. In both cases, the increase was the result of higher prices and Canadian Wheat Board payments, as marketings were down.

Barley receipts climbed to \$793 million in 2007, the highest level since 1997 and an increase of almost 80% over 2006. This rise was supported by record prices and strong deliveries, especially in the fourth quarter, as producers harvested an above-average crop in 2007.

Canola revenues, which accounted for almost one-fifth of the overall crop receipts, hit a record \$3.4 billion, up 37.0% from 2006.

Soybean revenues reached a record high of \$1.0 billion, a 49.3% gain from 2006. This surge was the result of a 25.7% rise in prices and 18.7% higher deliveries.

The increasing use of corn in ethanol production drove prices 29.7% over 2006 levels, while a record crop in 2007 helped boost revenues to a record \$1.0 billion.

Increases in supply-managed sectors support livestock receipts

Supply-managed commodities (dairy, poultry and eggs), which made up 43% of total livestock revenues, were the main force behind the 1.7% increase in livestock receipts in 2007.

Supply-managed revenues reached \$7.9 billion, up 8.6% over 2006, the largest increase in the last 10 years.

Receipts for cattle and hog producers were adversely affected by the combination of reduced prices resulting from the appreciation of the Canadian dollar and higher feed costs. With more animals shipped south of the border for cheaper feeding, domestic slaughter decreased.

Cattle and calf revenues decreased 2.8% to \$6.2 billion in 2007, as both prices and marketings declined. Despite higher receipts from the export of live animals, lower domestic slaughter and interprovincial trade pulled down overall cattle and calf receipts.

Receipts from cattle and calf slaughter, which accounted for almost two-thirds of the total, fell 6.0%, largely the result of reduced marketings. Revenues from interprovincial trade declined 20.9% as both marketings and prices fell. The dramatic rise in feed costs put downward pressure on feeder cattle prices.

Exports of live cattle and calf to the United States have been rising rapidly since the border was reopened in July 2005. Exports jumped over 35% in 2007 to 1.4 million head. Even so, exports remained well below the pre-BSE level of 1.7 million head in 2002.

Hog receipts fell 2.5% in 2007 to \$3.3 billion, the result of lower prices. Marketings were up 1.0%. Prices were pressured mainly by a rising Canadian dollar, higher feed costs and ample supplies. Slaughter hog receipts, which accounted for about 80% of total hog revenues, fell 5.4% to \$2.6 billion as both prices and marketings declined.

Farmers continued to export hogs to the United States at a record pace. Exports amounted to 9.9 million animals during 2007, surpassing the previous record set in 2006.

Program payments decreasing

The decrease in program payments can be primarily attributed to the phasing-out of the Grains and Oilseeds Payment Program. As a new program in 2006, it delivered \$747 million over the course of the year. However, in 2007, it delivered only \$7 million as it wound down.

Payments under the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program (CAIS) and CAIS-related programs declined 10.1% to \$1.7 billion in 2007.

Cushioning the decrease, payments made under the Cost of Production Payment totalled \$319 million. Provincial stabilization and crop insurance payments, to which producers contribute through premiums, both increased. Stabilization payments rose largely because of higher payout made to hog producers in Quebec.

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

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

A data table is 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 Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca) or Bernie Rosien (613-951-2639; bernie.rosien@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

Farm cash receipts

	January to December 2006	January to December 2007 ^P	January–December 2006 to January–December 2007	October to December 2006	October to December 2007 ^P	October–December 2006 to October–December 2007
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Total farm cash receipts	36,884	40,379	9.5	9,910	10,892	9.9
Total market receipts¹	32,357	36,290	12.2	8,872	9,757	10.0
All wheat ²	2,825	4,193	48.4	899	1,282	42.6
Wheat excluding durum ²	2,253	3,231	43.4	730	852	16.7
Durum wheat ²	572	962	68.2	169	431	155.0
Barley ²	441	793	79.8	145	351	142.1
Deferments	-517	-776	50.1	-323	-452	39.9
Liquidations of deferments	411	539	31.1	26	39	50.0
Canola	2,502	3,427	37.0	739	982	32.9
Soybeans	681	1,017	49.3	303	407	34.3
Corn	754	1,048	39.0	314	390	24.2
Other cereals and oilseeds	506	714	41.1	172	233	35.5
Special crops	860	1,227	42.7	357	460	28.9
Potatoes	895	839	-6.3	230	241	4.8
Floriculture and nursery	1,950	2,048	5.0	468	492	5.1
Other crops	3,212	3,077	-4.2	915	837	-8.5
Total crop receipts	14,523	18,147	25.0	4,243	5,263	24.0
Cattle and calves	6,398	6,220	-2.8	1,778	1,613	-9.3
Hogs	3,427	3,342	-2.5	843	677	-19.7
Dairy products	4,833	5,197	7.5	1,228	1,346	9.6
Poultry and eggs	2,416	2,673	10.6	595	696	17.0
Other livestock	760	712	-6.3	185	162	-12.4
Total livestock receipts	17,834	18,143	1.7	4,629	4,494	-2.9
Net Income Stabilisation Account	317	272	-14.2	8	3	-62.5
Crop Insurance	739	762	3.1	280	432	54.3
Income Disaster Assistance Programs	2,760	2,149	-22.1	646	444	-31.3
Provincial Stabilization	497	838	68.6	34	230	576.5
Other programs	214	69	-67.8	70	26	-62.9
Total payments	4,527	4,090	-9.7	1,038	1,136	9.4

^P preliminary

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

2. Includes Canadian Wheat Board payments.

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

Provincial farm cash receipts

	January to December 2006	January to December 2007 ^P	January–December 2006 to January–December 2007	October to December 2006	October to December 2007 ^P	October–December 2006 to October–December 2007
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	36,884	40,379	9.5	9,910	10,892	9.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	95	102	7.4	26	27	3.8
Prince Edward Island	378	365	-3.4	89	92	3.4
Nova Scotia	448	454	1.3	113	119	5.3
New Brunswick	452	439	-2.9	111	115	3.6
Quebec	6,198	6,773	9.3	1,516	1,771	16.8
Ontario	8,863	9,208	3.9	2,424	2,457	1.4
Manitoba	3,675	4,338	18.0	1,037	1,148	10.7
Saskatchewan	6,629	7,593	14.5	1,890	2,257	19.4
Alberta	7,813	8,745	11.9	2,069	2,249	8.7
British Columbia	2,333	2,362	1.2	635	657	3.5

^P preliminary

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



Sawmills

December 2007

Monthly lumber production by sawmills fell 22.5% to 4,322.0 thousand cubic meters in December.

Sawmills shipped 4,472.1 thousand cubic meters of lumber in December, down 19.3% from November. Compared with the same month in 2006, lumber shipments dropped 19.1%.

Between November and December, stocks declined 2.7% to 7,976.4 thousand cubic meters.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2134.

The December 2007 issue of *Sawmills*, Vol. 61, no. 12 (35-003-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

To order data, obtain 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), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Production and disposition of tobacco products

January 2008

Canadian manufacturers sold 1.3 billion cigarettes in January, down 23.0% from December and 2.1% lower compared with January 2007.

Cigarette production in January increased 23.1% from December to 1.5 billion cigarettes, up 9.0% from January 2007.

At 1.7 billion cigarettes, the level of closing inventories for January increased 14.1% from December to stand 9.5% higher compared with January 2007.

Note: This survey collects data on the production of tobacco products in Canada by Canadian manufacturers and the disposition or sales of this production. It does not collect data on imported tobacco products. Therefore, sales information in this release is not a proxy for domestic consumption of tobacco products.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0062.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2142.

The January 2008 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products*, Vol. 37, no. 1 (32-022-XWE) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

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

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

January 2008

Data on mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation are now available for January.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2110.

Data are available upon request only. 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), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

The Canadian Productivity Review: "Productivity: What is It? How is it measured? What has Canada's performance been"?, no. 17
Catalogue number 15-206-XIE2008017
(free).

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products,
January 2008, Vol. 37, no. 1
Catalogue number 32-022-XWE
(free).

Sawmills, December 2007, Vol. 61, no. 12
Catalogue number 35-003-XWE
(free).

Retail Trade, December 2007, Vol. 79, no. 12
Catalogue number 63-005-XWE
(free).

Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada, Vol. 4, no. 6
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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 six 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 and relatively weak wages in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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