



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, March 28, 2008

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Releases

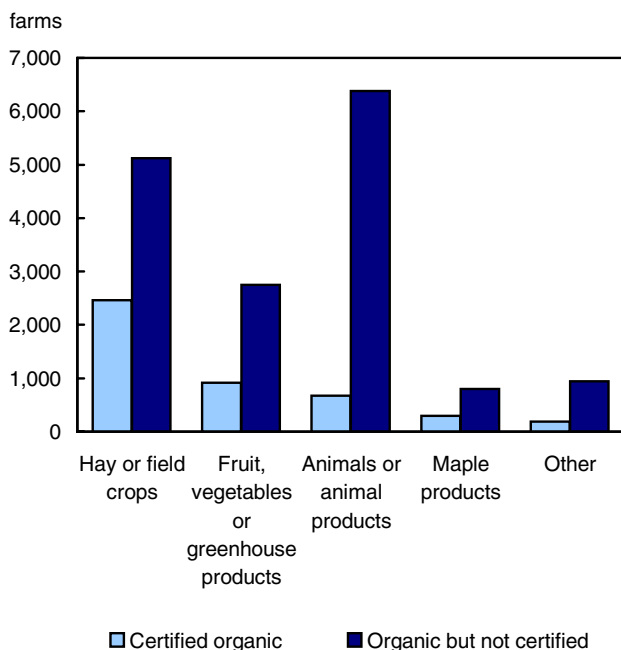
Study: Organic from niche to mainstream

2006

Consumers by now are used to seeing a range of organic fruits and vegetables for sale in their local grocery store, but the most common certified organic product reported by Canadian farmers is probably not what they think.

In fact, the most commonly reported certified organic class consists of field crops and hay, according to a new study published today in the online version of *Canadian Agriculture at a Glance*. The study analyzed the evolution in the organic farming sector in Canada between 2001 and 2006.

Organic production by product type, 2006



The study, based primarily on data from the 2006 Census of Agriculture, showed that 2,462 farming operations reported growing certified organic field crops and hay, nearly half of them in Saskatchewan.

Canada has a competitive advantage for growing grains and oilseeds because of the climate and large expanses of cropland suited to mechanization. So it

makes sense that organic field crops and hay would be the most common certified organic product.

Many of the field crops grown organically are sold internationally — not processed, sold or eaten in Canada.

In 2006, the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada oversaw a study on sales of certified organic products through traditional mainstream supermarkets. It found that in spite of impressive growth, sales of certified organic products accounted for less than 1% of the \$46.5 billion Canadians spent in national grocery stores in 2006.

Increase in number of certified organic farms

The 2006 Census of Agriculture questionnaire asked farmers whether their products were certified by an organic certifying agency, whether they were organic, but not certified, or whether they were in transition to becoming certified.

Farms producing organic but not certified commodities outnumbered both certified organic farms and farms that are in transition to becoming certified.

In 2006, 11,937 farms reported producing organic but not certified agricultural products.

Additionally, 3,555 farms reported growing certified organic products, an increase of nearly 60% from 2,230 in 2001, while 640 farms were in transition.

Combined, farms in Quebec and Saskatchewan accounted for over half of the large increase in farms growing certified products.

Despite the large gain, the farm operations growing certified organic products represented only 1.5% of all farm operations.

Saskatchewan reported the most farms growing certified organic products, 1,181, as it did in 2001. Quebec placed second with 765 farms reporting. Saskatchewan also had the greatest increase in the number of such farms, while Quebec had the second largest increase.

While Canada has had national organic standards since 1999, these have been voluntary. As such, standards applied by individual certification bodies were subject to variation.

Federal regulations for organic products, the Organic Products Regulations, are scheduled to take effect on December 14, 2008. On this date, organic

products marketed interprovincially or internationally must be certified by a certification body accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Fruits and vegetables second most common certified organic products

A significant number of certified organic operations, 916, reported producing fruits and vegetables.

In 2006, as in 2001, the second most commonly reported certified organic product category was "fruit, vegetable and greenhouse products".

While the number of farms reporting under this category increased in every province since 2001, some provinces stand out.

In 2006, almost 80%, or 358, of all certified organic farms in British Columbia reported growing certified fruit, vegetable and greenhouse products, as did 76%, or 105 farms, in Atlantic Canada.

Quebec, with 208 farms, had the second-highest number of certified producers in Canada reporting the fruit and vegetable and greenhouse category.

According to the Canadian Wheat Board, over 71,000 metric tonnes of Western Canadian certified organic wheat, durum, and barley were sold in 2005. Just over half (50.7%) went to the United States, 31.2% to the European Union, 1.4% to Japan. Only 16.7% was sold to the domestic market.

From the crop years 2000/2001 to 2005/2006, the amount of certified organic grain sold through the Canadian Wheat Board increased 87.3%.

Animal products most common organic but not certified products

The census question asking farmers to report "organic but not certified" products provided a chance for producers on the nearly 12,000 farms who use organic practices, but do not go through formal certification, to identify themselves.

Many sell through farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture or other direct-sales ventures. Ontario had the highest number of farms reporting in this category, followed by British Columbia and Alberta.

The most common "organic but not certified" product was animal products, reported by 6,380 operations.

Three provinces accounted for nearly three-quarters of these operations: British Columbia (27%), Ontario (24%), and Alberta (23%).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3438.

The analytical article, "Organic from niche to mainstream," is now available as part of the 2006 edition of *Canadian Agriculture at a Glance* (96-325-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Erik Dorff (613-951-2818), Agriculture Division.

Certified organic production by province, 2006 and 2001

Province	Farms reporting certified organic products		Hay or field crops		Fruit, vegetable or greenhouse products		Animals or animal products		Maple products		Other	
	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001
Newfoundland and Labrador	4	3	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
Prince Edward Island	31	23	19	11	24	17	4	3	0	0	2	6
Nova Scotia	61	23	16	6	50	20	12	10	3	0	14	5
New Brunswick	42	25	14	6	27	16	8	6	8	4	7	3
Quebec	765	372	303	105	208	125	161	53	279	119	42	35
Ontario	593	405	467	308	174	120	172	120	8	6	34	32
Manitoba	196	90	170	74	21	7	44	17	0	0	3	8
Saskatchewan	1,181	773	1,170	720	19	18	102	59	1	0	11	46
Alberta	230	197	193	142	31	21	84	60	0	0	13	30
British Columbia	452	319	110	70	358	267	86	53	0	0	63	45
Canada	3,555	2,230	2,462	1,442	916	614	673	381	299	129	190	211

Electric utility construction price indexes

Annual 2006 (final) and the annual 2007 (preliminary)

Construction costs for distribution systems increased 3.5% in 2007. The increase in the material component for this period (+6.5%) was the major contributor to this change. The final 2006 data for distribution systems represented an advance of 6.6% over 2005.

Construction costs for the transmission line system series rose 3.9% in 2007 compared with a 4.0% increase for all of 2006. The transmission line component climbed 2.9% during the same period in 2007, while in 2006 there was a 4.2% annual gain. The rise in prices of materials (+4.7%) significantly contributed to this increase. The substation component rose by 4.5% in 2007, following a 3.8% increase the previous year. The station equipment subcomponent posted the largest gain (+5.3%).

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0011.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2316.

The fourth quarter 2007 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in April.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.ca) or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612; adrian.fisher@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

February 2008 (preliminary)

Placements of hatchery chicks onto farms were estimated at 54.4 million birds in February, up 5.8% from February 2007. Placements of turkey poults on farms increased 3.0% to 1.8 million birds.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

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

release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Sawmills

January 2008

Monthly lumber production by sawmills advanced 21.3% to 5,241.0 thousand cubic meters in January.

Sawmills shipped 4,663.3 thousand cubic meters of lumber in January, up 4.3% from December. Compared with January 2007, lumber shipments dropped 23.0%.

Between December and January, stocks increased 5.0% to 8,377.0 thousand cubic meters.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2134.

The January 2008 issue of *Sawmills*, Vol. 62, no. 1 (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. ■

Commercial Software Price Index

February 2008

The Commercial Software Price Index (CSPI) is a monthly series measuring the change in the purchase price of pre-packaged software typically bought by businesses and governments. The CSPI for February was 66.75 (2002=100), up 0.20% from January.

This index is available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 331-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5068.

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; prices-prix@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lu Li (613-951-1290; lu.li@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Extraction System of Agricultural Statistics

The database *Extraction System of Agricultural Statistics* is an easy-to-use tool which provides the means to evaluate agriculture policies and programs as well as analyze the viability, stability and competitiveness of farm businesses.

This product is a comprehensive and timely database of administrative and survey sources of agricultural statistics, containing thousands of cross-classified data series, spanning two decades.

The database offers detailed operating revenues and expenses; sources and levels of farm and off-farm

income for operators and farm families; assets, liabilities and capital investment for farms; and information on land use and livestock inventories by region, farm type and revenue class.

The database *Extraction System of Agriculture Statistics*, 2008 (21F0001XBB, free) is now available on our website. From the *Publications* module, choose *Free Internet publications*, then *Agriculture*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

New products

Extraction System of Agricultural Statistics, 2008
Catalogue number 21F0001XBB
(free).

Sawmills, January 2008, Vol. 62, no. 1
Catalogue number 35-003-XWE
(free).

Canadian Agriculture at a Glance: "Organic from niche to mainstream", Census year 2006
Catalogue number 96-325-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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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (if applicable) 11-001-XIE (if applicable) 11-001-XIE (if applicable)



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian rode an average of about 40 trips 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 has noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, year ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Big ironmaster, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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Release dates: March 31 to April 4, 2008

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
31	Gross domestic product by industry	January 2008
31	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	January 2008
1	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	February 2008
2	2006 Census: Ethnic origin, visible minorities, place of work and mode of transportation	Census 2006
3	Culture services trade	1996 to 2005
4	Labour Force Survey	March 2008