

# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

**Friday, July 25, 2008**

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#### Canadian agriculture and food on the move

More and more, consumers seem to be keeping tabs on where the food they eat is grown. A new study, published today in the online version of *Canadian Agriculture at a Glance*, examines the source of several agricultural products commonly consumed by Canadians.

Many factors play a role in whether the product in supermarkets is grown locally, or in the same province, or whether it originates in another country. They include the limitations of climate, and such economic factors as government support programs and farm labour prices.

These same factors also influence what local products are featured in neighbourhood farmers' markets, or are exported to Canada's trading partners.

Canadians can get an idea of what is being grown or raised in their local municipalities by accessing Statistics Canada's 2006 Agriculture Community Profiles database. This module on our website provides community-level information from the 2006 Census of Agriculture.

The article, "Fork in the Road: Canadian agriculture and food on the move" 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, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Sarah Morrison (613-951-2304), Agriculture Division.



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## Canada's largest farms

2005

Canada's largest farms, those with annual revenues of \$500,000 or more, are becoming a major economic force in the country. Large farms are growing in numbers, the people who run them invest more in their businesses, and more large farms are profitable than smaller ones.

While smaller farms dominate in numbers, large farms dominate both revenue and profits. Farms with annual revenue over \$500,000 represented only 11.0% of all Canadian farms in 2005, but accounted for 55.0% of revenue.

Below \$250,000 in annual revenue, the majority of farm family income came from off-farm sources. Within the \$250,000 to \$499,999 revenue category, on-farm income and government payments were the major earning sources for the farm families. Above \$500,000 in annual revenue, net farm income became the largest contributor to family income.

There was a clear trend towards greater capital investment for farms with at least \$1.0 million in revenue, particularly those in the higher ranges.

Large farms had sizeable levels of debt and high debt-to-equity ratios. But they also had more efficient sales-to-asset ratios and a higher return on equity.

Operating margins have fallen for all farms, but they fell less in percentage terms among the large farms. The average margin in 2005 for farms with revenues between \$250,000 and \$499,999 was 6.5%, down from 16.7% in 1999. In contrast, the average margin for farms with revenues between \$1.0 million and less than \$2.5 million was 12.1%, compared with 14.0% in 1999.

The trend toward larger farms seems to be strongly reinforced by the financial results achieved by those farms. Debt appears to be an essential component of growth but for most farms, the payoff resulting from investment is significant.

**Note:** Data for this article are from the 2006 Farm Financial Survey, which collected financial data on Canadian farms up to the end of 2005. Information was reported by a representative sample of farms operators at the time of the survey. Where comparisons of financial values are made between years, values for all years have been expressed in equivalent 2005 dollars.

The July 2008 issue of *Vista on the Agri-food Industry and the Farm Community* (21-004-XWE, free) 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 Bishnu Saha (613-951-8718; [bishnu.saha@statcan.ca](mailto:bishnu.saha@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Crushing statistics

June 2008

Oilseed processors crushed 337 149 metric tonnes of canola in June, while oil production totalled 140 895 tonnes and meal production amounted to 203 731 tonnes.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.**

The June 2008 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will soon be available.

For more 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](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Cereals and oilseeds review

May 2008

Data from the May issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* are now available.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3403, 3404, 3443, 3464, 3476 and 5046.**

The May 2008 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review*, Vol. 31, no. 5 (22-007-XIB, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. The May issue contains an overview of June's market conditions.

For more 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](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

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## **Deliveries of major grains**

June 2008

Data on grain deliveries are now available for June.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404, 3443 and 5046.**

The June 2008 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will soon be available.

For more 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](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## New products

**VISTA on the Agri-food Industry and the Farm Community**  
**Catalogue number 21-004-XWE**  
 (free).

**Cereals and Oilseeds Review**, May 2008, Vol. 31,  
 no. 5  
**Catalogue number 22-007-XIB**  
 (free).

**Canadian Agriculture at a Glance: "Fork in the Road: Canadian agriculture and food on the move"**,  
 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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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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**Release dates: July 28 to August 1, 2008**

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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>
29	<b>Payroll employment, earnings and hours</b>	May 2008
30	<b>Industrial product and raw materials price indexes</b>	June 2008
31	<b>Gross domestic product by industry</b>	May 2008

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