

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Farm Product Price Index, April 2009	2
Railway carloadings, April 2009	3
Natural gas sales, April 2009	3
Steel wire and specified wire products, April 2009	4
Profile of Canadian importers, 2002 to 2007	4

New products	5
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Farm Product Price Index

April 2009

Prices farmers received for their commodities fell 1.7% in April from the same month a year earlier, as the crops index fell, more than offsetting the growth in the total livestock and animal products index.

The total crops index (126.4) decreased by 15.2% from April 2008, as prices were down for grains, oilseeds and specialty crops. After the crops index reached the recent high of 155.3 in June 2008, production increases that year partially replenished global stocks, contributing to the decline in the crops index.

On the other hand, the prices producers received for livestock and animal products in April were 12.3% higher compared with April 2008, continuing the growth in year-over-year prices since June 2008. Increases were recorded for all commodities except eggs, down 2.9% from April 2008. Higher cattle and hogs prices have been supported by a depreciating Canadian dollar compared with the American dollar, lower input costs and reduced inventory. As of April 1, 2009, hogs on farm were estimated to be 11.9 million, down from 13.0 million in April 2008.

On a month-to-month basis, the total index (1997=100) increased from 118.1 in March to 118.4 in April.

The total crops index rose 1.7% in April compared with the March index as oilseeds, fruits and vegetables (excluding potatoes) recorded increases.

In April, the overall livestock and animal products index stood at 111.4, down from the March level

of 111.8. Decreases were recorded for all commodities except cattle, calves and eggs. The hogs index fell by 2.0%, the first month-to-month decrease since November 2008. Hog producers exported 42.8% fewer hogs in the first quarter of 2009 compared with the same period a year earlier.

Note: The growth rate of the total Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) is not a weighted average of the growth rates of its crop and livestock components. The growth rate of the total FPPI is derived from a weighted average of the component indices using a different set of weights in consecutive months. Given this, the growth rate of the composite FPPI can lie outside the growth rate of the components.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The April 2009 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 9, no. 4 (21-007-X, free), is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *All subjects* choose *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to order data, call Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nickeisha Patterson (613-951-3249; fax: 613-951-3868; nickeisha.patterson@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division.

Farm Product Price Index

	April 2008 ^r	March 2009 ^r	April 2009 ^p	April 2008 to April 2009	March to April 2009
	(1997=100)			% change	
Farm Product Price Index	120.5	118.1	118.4	-1.7	0.3
Crops	149.0	124.3	126.4	-15.2	1.7
Grains	181.4	119.1	118.7	-34.6	-0.3
Oilseeds	143.0	117.6	120.9	-15.5	2.8
Specialty crops	191.9	169.8	169.6	-11.6	-0.1
Fruit	128.0	151.5	154.5	20.7	2.0
Vegetables	114.8	122.1	122.2	6.4	0.1
Potatoes	136.1	186.0	183.6	34.9	-1.3
Livestock and animal products	99.2	111.8	111.4	12.3	-0.4
Cattle and calves	97.0	109.0	111.4	14.8	2.2
Hogs	59.7	81.0	79.4	33.0	-2.0
Poultry	111.2	116.8	115.8	4.1	-0.9
Eggs	106.0	102.9	102.9	-2.9	0.0
Dairy	135.4	142.3	140.2	3.5	-1.5

^r revised
^p preliminary



Railway carloadings

April 2009

The Canadian railway industry loaded 19.0 million metric tonnes in April 2009, a 22.0% decline compared with the same month in 2008.

The decline in tonnage stemmed from decreased freight loadings in the railways' core transportation systems — non-intermodal and intermodal.

Compared with the same month last year, non-intermodal loadings fell 22.8% to 16.9 million metric tonnes. The decrease was the result of declines in the majority of the commodity groups carried by the railways. Among the commodity groups with the largest decreases in tonnage were potash, coal, iron ore and concentrates, lumber, and iron and steel (primary or semi-finished).

Despite the overall decline in non-intermodal loadings, wheat, colza seeds, (canola) and fresh, chilled or dried vegetables recorded strong gains in tonnage loaded compared with April 2008.

Intermodal loadings fell 15.6% from April 2008 to 2.1 million metric tonnes. The decrease stems from declines in containerized cargo (-15.6%) and trailers on flat cars (-16.9%).

Rail freight traffic coming from the United States fell 28.1% from April 2008 to 2.1 million metric tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The April 2009 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 86, no. 4 (52-001-X, 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 the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Natural gas sales

April 2009 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 5 468 million cubic metres in April, down 13.0% from April 2008.

The volumes of sales to the residential (-0.3%), commercial (-11.9%) and industrial, including direct sales (-19.0%), sectors were down in April compared with April 2008.

Total sales in April were 27.5% lower compared with March 2009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For more information, 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.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division.

Natural gas sales

	April 2008	March 2009	April 2009 ^P	March to April 2009	April to April 2009
	thousands of cubic metres			% change	
Total sales	6 286 059	7 546 126	5 467 993	-27.5	-13.0
Residential ¹	1 551 165	2 422 939	1 546 638	-36.2	-0.3
Commercial ²	1 192 014	1 639 785	1 050 177	-36.0	-11.9
Industrial ³ and direct sales ⁴	3 542 880	3 483 402	2 871 178	-17.6	-19.0

^P preliminary

1. Gas sold for domestic purposes, including space heating, water heating and cooking, to a residential dwelling unit.
2. Gas sold to customers engaged in wholesale or retail trade, governments, institutions, office buildings, etc.
3. Gas sold to customers engaged in a process that creates or changes raw or unfinished materials into another form or product. Includes mining and manufacturing establishments. Includes firm, interruptible and buy/sell agreements.
4. Represents direct, non-utility, sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

Steel wire and specified wire products

April 2009

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for April.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The April 2009 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-X, free) will soon be available.

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.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

Profile of Canadian importers

2002 to 2007

Data from the importer register are now available for 2002 to 2007. The importer register provides information by industry groupings, importer size, province or territory of residence, country of origin and/or employment size.

For more information on the importer register or custom tabulation requests, contact the Client Services (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; trade@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Nadeau (613-951-9786), International Trade Division. ■

New products

Farm Product Price Index, April 2009, Vol. 9, no. 4
Catalogue number 21-007-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Monthly Railway Carloadings, April 2009, Vol. 86,
 no. 4
Catalogue number 52-001-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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