

# The Daily

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## Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, June 9, 2009**

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### Releases

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Human Activity and the Environment: Food in Canada, 2009	2
Farm product prices, April 2009	3
Periodical publishing, 2007	3

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<b>New products</b>	<b>4</b>
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### Human Activity and the Environment

2009

*Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics, 2009*, released today, is Statistics Canada's flagship publication for environmental statistics. It includes a data compendium of maps, tables and figures punctuated with simple analysis and interpretation.

The publication also includes a feature article, "Food in Canada," which explores the impact of the Canadian food system on the environment. The food system includes all the products produced, and the processes and activities carried out, to put food on tables at home, in restaurants and to provide food products for export. This article combines new research done within Statistics Canada with information from a variety of sources, including other federal government departments, international bodies and scientific journals.

The publication *Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics, 2009* (16-201-X, free), is now available online from the *Publications* module of our website. A printed version (16-201-X, \$68) will soon be available.

For more information, contact the Information Officer (613-951-0297; fax: 613-951-0634; [environ@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:environ@statcan.gc.ca)), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division.



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## Human Activity and the Environment: Food in Canada

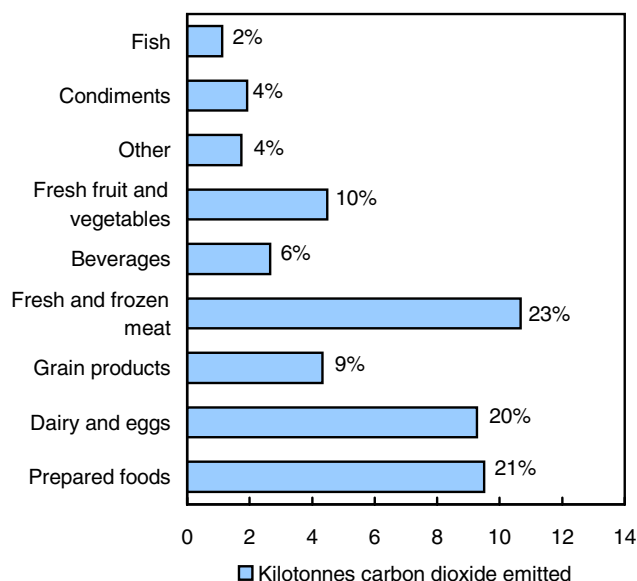
2009

Spending on food and non-alcoholic beverages in 2003 resulted in almost 46,000 kilotonnes of greenhouse gases, according to the first comprehensive national estimate of food-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Canada. This was equivalent to 6.4% of total national GHG emissions that year.

This national estimate was the result of integrating the most recent detailed data on the structure of the economy with data on energy use and GHG emissions.

Almost one-quarter (23%) of these food-related GHG emissions was attributable to the production of fresh and frozen meat, while fish products contributed 2%. Beef alone accounted for 15% of all GHG emissions resulting from household spending on food in 2003.

**Greenhouse gas emissions associated with total household spending on food in 2003**



**Note:** Percentages indicate contribution of food category to total food-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Looking at the amount of energy required to produce food shows another dimension of the environmental impact of the food system. More energy was used in the production of prepared foods than any of the other food groups, reflecting the energy inputs required for processing these foods. Prepared foods accounted for 19% of food-related energy use, while dairy and eggs accounted for 18%, and fresh and frozen meat accounted for 14%.

Farmers influence energy use through their choice of land management practices. The proportion of land prepared for seeding using no tillage increased from 6% of total area in 1991 to 46% in 2006. The share of land under conventional tillage fell from 69% to 28%.

In 2006, spending on fuel per hectare by farmers who used no tillage was about one-third that of spending by farmers who used conventional tillage. This reduction in fuel use also reduces air pollution and GHG emissions.

People are purchasing more food and beverages than they used to. Since 1976, the average number of calories available per person per day has increased 9% from 3,118 to 3,384 kilocalories. A lot of this food is not eaten. Waste occurs from spoilage and other losses in stores, restaurants and in the home.

In 2007, an estimated 38% of solid food available for retail sale was wasted, the equivalent of 183 kilograms per person. A decrease in food waste would reduce negative environmental impacts associated with food production, processing, distribution and services.

Canadians, who represent about 0.5% of the global population, produce about 1.5% of the food in the world and consume about 0.6% of world food production.

According to the Survey of Household Spending, Canadians allocated 15% of their household income to food in 2005, a lower proportion than in other countries. For example, Americans allocated 16% of their income to food, while people in France allocated 24% and the Chinese, 41%.

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**Note:** This release is based on the feature article "Food in Canada" published today in *Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics*. The article assesses the impact of the food system on the environment. Data used in the section on energy and greenhouse gas emissions involved in the production of food for households were derived from Statistics Canada's Material and Energy Flow Accounts.

These accounts integrate environmental data with economic data from Canada's System of National Accounts. One of the main components of the National Accounts are the input-output accounts, which produce highly detailed production and consumption statistics for 303 industries, 719 goods and services and 170 categories of final demand.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5115.**

The publication *Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics*, 2009 (16-201-X, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A printed version (16-201-X, \$68) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Information Officer (613-951-0297; fax: 613-951-0634; [environ@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:environ@statcan.gc.ca)), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

## **Farm product prices**

April 2009

Prices received by farmers in April for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, potatoes, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The April Alberta non-board barley price was \$151.86 per metric tonne, down 9.0% from March,

continuing the decline of the first three months of the year and down 25.0% from April 2008 when the price was \$202.60.

The Ontario slaughter calves price in April was \$93.64 per hundredweight, up 8.0% from March. The slaughter calves price in Ontario has increased 15.8% from April 2008 when it stood at \$80.85.

**Note:** Farm commodity prices are now available on CANSIM. Prices for over 35 commodities are available by province, some series going back 20 years.

**Available on CANSIM: table 002-0043.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.**

For more information, or 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](mailto:nickeisha.patterson@statcan.gc.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## **Periodical publishing**

2007

Data on the periodical publishing industry are now available for 2007.

**Available on CANSIM: table 361-0010.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5091.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Reid (613-951-2246; [les.reid@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:les.reid@statcan.gc.ca); fax: 613-951-6696), Service Industries Division. ■

## New products

**Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics, 2009**  
Catalogue number 16-201-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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

**Newspaper Publishers, 2007**  
Catalogue number 63-241-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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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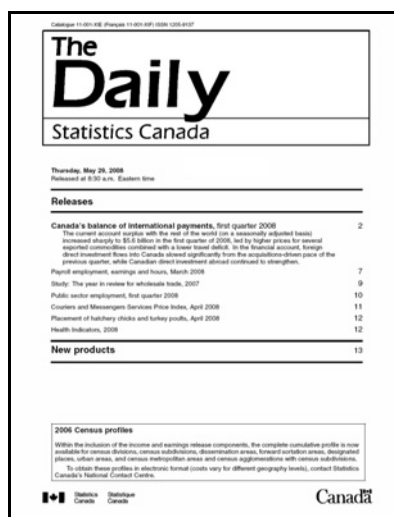
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