

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Study: Age of education infrastructure 2008

On the whole, the average age of Canada's education infrastructure (its elementary and secondary schools, universities and colleges) has fallen slightly since the early 2000s after nearly doubling during the previous three decades.

In 2008, the nation's education infrastructure was an estimated 20.1 years old on average, slightly below the peak of 21.3 years in 2000. This decline was fuelled largely by new investments in university buildings, mainly in Ontario and Quebec.

Education buildings were at their youngest in 1969 when the average age hit 11.0 years, following huge investments in new facilities to accommodate a large inflow of baby boomers.

The average increased rapidly until the mid-1980s. The need for new construction or major renovations was less pressing because many buildings were relatively new. In addition, fertility rates were declining during the baby bust, and baby boomers were entering the labour force.

From the mid-1980s to the turn of the millennium, the average increased, but at a slower pace. New investments were required to accommodate the children of the baby boomers (the so-called "echo boom"). These children were entering primary and secondary schools in large numbers, but new investments were not sufficient to maintain or reduce the average age. This cohort and an increase in enrolment rates boosted demand for postsecondary educational services around the turn of the millennium.

A reduction in the average age indicates a general trend toward younger stock of capital. However, it does not necessarily imply that each physical asset is younger or in better condition, or that a greater proportion of assets meet specific quality standards. A key factor is the amount of investment; the more the investment, the younger the stock.

On average, the service life of education buildings is estimated at about 40 years. The average of 20.1 years in 2008 means that education physical infrastructure had passed 51% of its useful service life.

This rate was lower than that of other major infrastructure assets, such as bridges and overpasses, which have passed 57% of their useful life, according

to a previous study. However, it was significantly higher than water supply systems, which have passed 40% of their useful life.

In 2008, the gross stock of education facilities amounted to \$115.5 billion, nearly half of the nation's total institutional infrastructure.

Elementary and secondary schools combined represented the largest proportion of total education stock in 2008, 61% or \$70.7 billion. Universities accounted for 24%, the second largest proportion.

In 2008, education infrastructure was older than the national average in seven provinces: New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan.

In Ontario, the age equalled the national average, thanks to strong investments in recent years. British Columbia and Alberta had the youngest education infrastructure in the country.

Note: The paper, "Age of education infrastructure: Recent trends," published today in the *Analysis in Brief* series, provides a first look at the recent trends in the average age of education buildings in Canada and the provinces. It compares the average age with the useful life of education buildings at the elementary-secondary, college and university levels.

For the purpose of this paper, the term "education infrastructure" covers elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities and all other educational buildings. The term "institutional infrastructure" covers these structures, plus a much broader range of buildings, including hospitals, nursing homes, churches, daycare centres, penitentiaries, courthouses, museums, fire stations and military structures.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2803.

The analytical paper "Age of education infrastructure: Recent trends" is now available as part of *Analysis in Brief* (11-621-M2009081, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, contact Donald Overton (613-951-1239; donald.overton@statcan.gc.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

Farm Product Price Index

June 2009

Prices farmers received for their commodities fell 11.8% in June from the same month a year earlier, as both the crops index and the livestock and animal products index fell.

The prices producers received for crops in June were 21.4% lower compared with the peaks reached in June 2008. Higher prices for potatoes and vegetables were unable to compensate for lower prices for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops and fruits.

Potato prices in June were 25.0% above those of June 2008 as North American production last fall was down.

The prices producers received for livestock and animal products in June fell 1.3% compared with June 2008, following 12 months of increases. Decreases were recorded for all commodities except poultry and dairy.

On a month-to-month basis, the total index (1997=100) decreased from 118.6 in May to 112.7 in June.

The total crops index fell 4.4% in June compared with the May index as all commodities except oilseeds and vegetables recorded declines. This was the third consecutive monthly increase for oilseeds, buoyed by demand for canola that was fuelled by record crush and exports for the 2008/2009 crop year.

In June, the overall livestock and animal products index stood at 105.0, down from the May level of 109.4.

Decreases were recorded for all commodities except eggs, which were unchanged.

The hog index fell by 12.5%, while the cattle and calves index was down 4.2%. The livestock sector has been faced with the US Country of Origin Labeling legislation, the H1N1 flu virus and lower demand driven by the economic crisis.

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 June 2009 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 9, no. 6 (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

	June 2008 ^r	May 2009 ^r	June 2009 ^p	June 2008 to June 2009	May to June 2009
	(1997=100)			% change	
Farm Product Price Index	127.8	118.6	112.7	-11.8	-5.0
Crops	155.3	127.7	122.1	-21.4	-4.4
Grains	190.3	118.5	116.0	-39.0	-2.1
Oilseeds	155.9	123.5	125.5	-19.5	1.6
Specialty crops	195.9	169.4	165.9	-15.3	-2.1
Fruit	141.3	148.7	124.0	-12.2	-16.6
Vegetables	114.9	117.4	122.4	6.5	4.3
Potatoes	146.5	190.9	183.1	25.0	-4.1
Livestock and animal products	106.4	109.4	105.0	-1.3	-4.0
Cattle and calves	103.0	105.4	101.0	-1.9	-4.2
Hogs	74.3	77.3	67.6	-9.0	-12.5
Poultry	114.6	116.3	116.2	1.4	-0.1
Eggs	107.1	102.3	102.3	-4.5	0.0
Dairy	138.2	144.3	143.2	3.6	-0.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

June 2009

The number of take-offs and landings at the 117 airports without air traffic control towers reached 60,178 movements in June, down 5.5% compared with the 63,648 take-offs and landings for the 119 airports reported in June 2008. Guelph, Ontario, was the most active site in June 2009 with 3,420 movements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0021 and 401-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

The June 2009 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics: Airports without Air Traffic Control Towers (TP 141)* (51-008-X, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. This report is a joint publication of Statistics Canada and Transport Canada.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes

September 2009

Data on Canadian foreign post indexes are now available for September.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2322.

The September 2009 issue of *Canadian Foreign Post Indexes* (62-013-X, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claudio Perez (613-951-1733; claudio.perez@statcan.gc.ca), Consumer Prices Division. ■

New products

Analysis in Brief: "Age of education infrastructure: Recent trends", no. 81

Catalogue number 11-621-M2009081 (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Farm Product Price Index, June 2009, Vol. 9, no. 6
Catalogue number 21-007-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Aircraft Movement Statistics: Airports Without Air Traffic Control Towers (TP 141), June 2009
Catalogue number 51-008-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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