

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

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Farmers may modify their plans prior to planting time as a result of environmental conditions. Some farmers reported that they were still undecided about their final strategies for 2013 as snow lingered in fields in most parts of Canada at the time of the survey.

Canola

First indications are that Canadian farmers may seed 19.1 million acres of canola, down 11.1% from 2012. This would be the first decrease in canola area at the national level since 2006.

This decrease is mainly driven by Saskatchewan, where farmers anticipate a 10.9% decrease in canola area to 10.0 million acres. Decreases in canola acreage are also expected in all other provinces. Alberta canola area may decline 8.6% to 5.9 million acres and Manitoba canola acreage may decrease 15.8% to 3.0 million acres.

Wheat

Nationally, spring wheat area could rise 14.4% or 2.4 million acres to 19.4 million acres in 2013. Similarly, durum wheat acreage is expected to increase for a third consecutive year to 5.1 million acres in 2013, up from 4.7 million acres in 2012.

In Saskatchewan, intentions show spring wheat acreage rising to 9.9 million acres, up 17.0% or 1.4 million acres. Durum wheat acreage in Saskatchewan is expected to rise 7.8% to 4.4 million acres in 2013.

In Alberta, land seeded to spring wheat could reach 6.4 million acres, up 10.5% from the area seeded in 2012. In Manitoba, farmers anticipate seeding 2.8 million acres of spring wheat, up 14.9% from 2012.

Barley and oats

At a national level, barley area is expected to decrease 2.2% to 7.2 million acres.

Canadian farmers also plan to seed 3.4 million acres of oats in 2013, up 18.4% from 2012.

Corn for grain

In Ontario, farmers expect to seed 2.3 million acres of corn for grain, up 2.0% from 2012. This would be above the previous record of 2.2 million acres set in 2012.

In Quebec, farmers anticipate the area seeded in corn for grain to rise 15.8% to reach 1.1 million acres in 2013.

Soybeans

Canadian farmers are expecting to seed a record soybean area of 4.3 million acres in 2013, up 3.4% from 2012.

This increase is mainly driven by Manitoba, where farmers anticipate seeding a record 1.1 million acres of soybeans in 2013.

Conversely, slight decreases are expected in Ontario and Quebec. Ontario farmers anticipate seeding 2.5 million acres of soybeans in 2013, down 4.8% from the record 2012 area. Meanwhile, Quebec farmers plan to seed 667,200 acres of soybeans, down 3.6%.

Note to readers

The March Farm Survey, which collects information on crop planting intentions, was conducted between March 25 and April 3, 2013, with about 13,805 farmers. They were asked to report their intended plantings of grain, oilseeds and special crops.

Subsequent surveys during the year will provide estimates of actual seeded acreages. Data on final acreages for 2013 will be released on December 4, 2013 and will be subject to revision for two years.

Table 1
March intentions of principal field crop areas

	2011 (final)	2012 (final)	March 2013 (intentions)	2011 to 2012	2012 to March 2013
	thousands of acres			% change	
Total wheat ¹	21,483	23,706	26,618	10.3	12.3
Spring wheat	15,734	16,939	19,375	7.7	14.4
Durum wheat	4,011	4,680	5,105	16.7	9.1
Winter wheat ²	1,739	2,088	2,138	20.1	2.4
Canola	18,990	21,531	19,133	13.4	-11.1
Barley	6,589	7,405	7,240	12.4	-2.2
Soybeans (correction)	3,852	4,153	4,294	7.8	3.4
Corn for grain	3,192	3,544	3,813	11.0	7.6
Summerfallow	11,763	4,485	3,522	-61.9	-21.5
Dry field peas	2,437	3,340	3,430	37.1	2.7
Oats	3,244	2,854	3,379	-12.0	18.4
Lentils	2,558	2,515	2,063	-1.7	-18.0
Flaxseed	740	980	1,240	32.5	26.5

1. Total wheat is the sum of winter wheat, spring wheat and durum wheat.
2. The area remaining after winterkill.

Available in CANSIM: tables 001-0010 and 001-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3401 and 3465.

The stocks of principal field crops at March 31 will be released on May 3.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yves Gilbert (613-951-2577; yves.gilbert@statcan.gc.ca) or Heather Keehn (613-951-0730; heather.keehn@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division.

Railway carloadings, February 2013

Freight carried by Canadian railways reached 25.7 million tonnes in February, up 1.0% from the same month in 2012. The gain was entirely because of increased rail traffic within Canada as shipments from the United States fell during the month.

Within Canada, combined loadings of non-intermodal freight (that is, cargo moved via box cars or loaded in bulk) and intermodal freight (that is, cargo moved via containers and trailers on flat cars) rose 1.5% to 22.7 million tonnes.

Non-intermodal loadings rose 1.3% to 20.4 million tonnes in February. Strong freight volumes related to potash; fuel oils and crude petroleum; and fresh, chilled or dried vegetables were key factors behind this growth as less than half of the 64 commodity classifications loaded by the railways rose during the month.

The increase in fuel oils and crude petroleum loadings represents both the highest volume of shipments and rate of growth this commodity has seen for the month of February.

Conversely, the largest declines in loadings were for shipments of wheat, colza seeds (canola) and iron ores and concentrates. The decline in these commodities alone was greater than the drop in tonnage from the remaining commodities that fell during the month.

Intermodal loadings advanced 3.1% to 2.3 million tonnes in February. The gain reflected increased loadings of both containerized cargo shipments and trailers loaded on flat cars.

The Western Division accounted for 60.6% of the domestic freight loadings, up 1.3% from the same month in 2012 to 13.7 million tonnes. The remainder was loaded in the Eastern Division, up 1.8% to 8.9 million tonnes. For statistical purposes, cargo loadings from Thunder Bay, Ontario, to the Pacific Coast are classified to the Western Division while loadings from Armstrong, Ontario, to the Atlantic Coast are classified to the Eastern Division.

Rail shipments from the United States fell 2.9% to 3.0 million tonnes in February. The drop was solely attributable to non-intermodal loadings, which fell 4.0% to 2.8 million tonnes.

Available in CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The February 2013 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 90, no. 2 (52-001-X), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Oilseed crushing statistics, March 2013

Oilseed processors crushed 593 001 tonnes of canola in March. Oil production totaled 261 608 tonnes while meal production amounted to 354 313 tonnes.

Available in CANSIM: table 001-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.

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Deliveries of major grains, March 2013

Data on major grain deliveries are now available for March.

Available in CANSIM: table 001-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3403, 3404, 3443, 5046 and 5153.

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Milled wheat and wheat flour produced, February 2013

Data on milled wheat and wheat flour produced are now available for February.

Available in CANSIM: table 001-0044.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3403 and 3443.

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Maintenance enforcement, 2011/2012

The *Juristat* article "Payment patterns of child and spousal support" is now available. Using data from the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs for nine provinces and territories (Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut), the article provides an overview of key statistics on child and spousal support, as well as an analysis of changes in the payment patterns of child and spousal support over time.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3324.

The *Juristat* article "Payment patterns of child and spousal support" (85-002-X) is now available. From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Crime and justice*, and *Juristat*.

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New products and studies

New products

Monthly Railway Carloadings, February 2013, Vol. 90, no. 2
Catalogue number 52-001-X (HTML | PDF)

Retail Trade, February 2013, Vol. 85, no. 2
Catalogue number 63-005-X (HTML | PDF)

Juristat
Catalogue number 85-002-X (HTML | PDF)

New studies

Payment patterns of child and spousal support
Juristat



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