

The Daily

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There were 221,000 job vacancies among Canadian businesses in March, down 24,000 from March 2012. There were 6.4 unemployed people for every job vacancy, up from 5.9 a year earlier, as the decline in vacancies was at a faster pace than the decline in unemployment.

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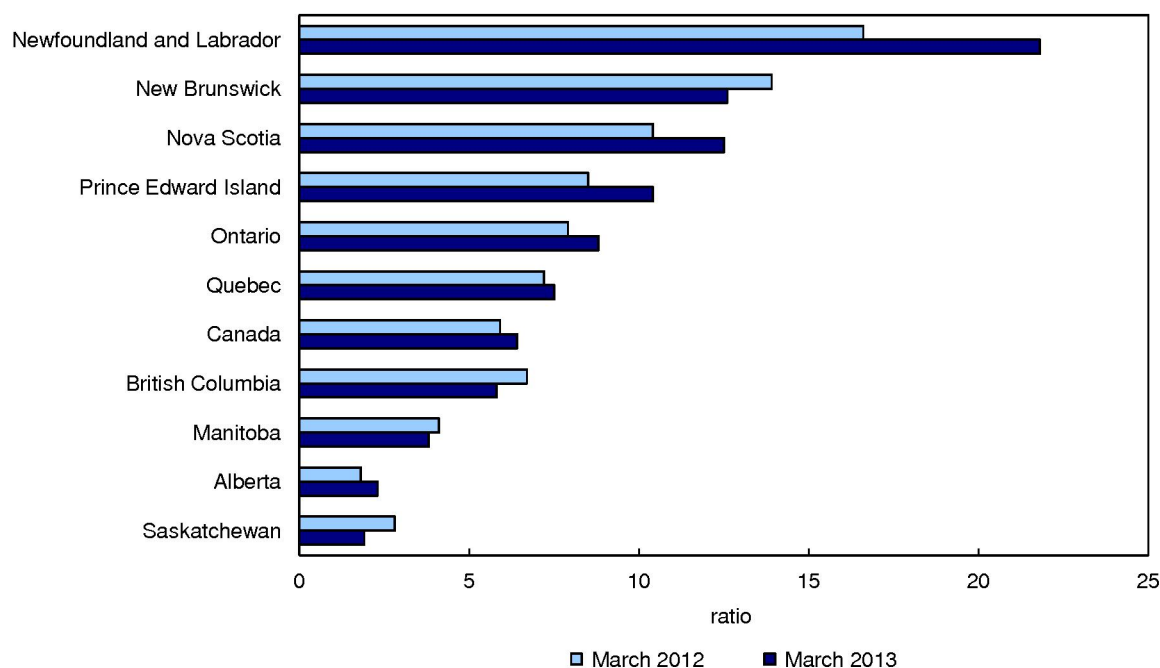
Ratio by province

Provincially, Newfoundland and Labrador had the most notable increase in the unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio, going from 16.6 unemployed people for every job vacancy in March 2012 to 21.8 in March 2013. The rise in the ratio was because the number of job vacancies in the province declined while the number of unemployed people was little changed.

The ratio in Prince Edward Island rose from 8.5 to 10.4 over this same period. Alberta's unemployment to job vacancies ratio also went up, from 1.8 to 2.3, as the number of job vacancies fell faster than the number of unemployed people. Despite the increase in Alberta's ratio, it remains among the lowest of all provinces.

Chart 1

Unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio, all unemployed, by province, three-month average, March 2012 and March 2013



In Saskatchewan, the ratio declined from 2.8 unemployed people for every job vacancy to 1.9, all a result of fewer unemployed people in the province.

In Ontario, there were 8.8 unemployed people for every job vacancy and in Quebec, the ratio was 7.5. These ratios were little changed from 12 months earlier. The ratios in the remaining provinces were also little changed compared with March 2012.

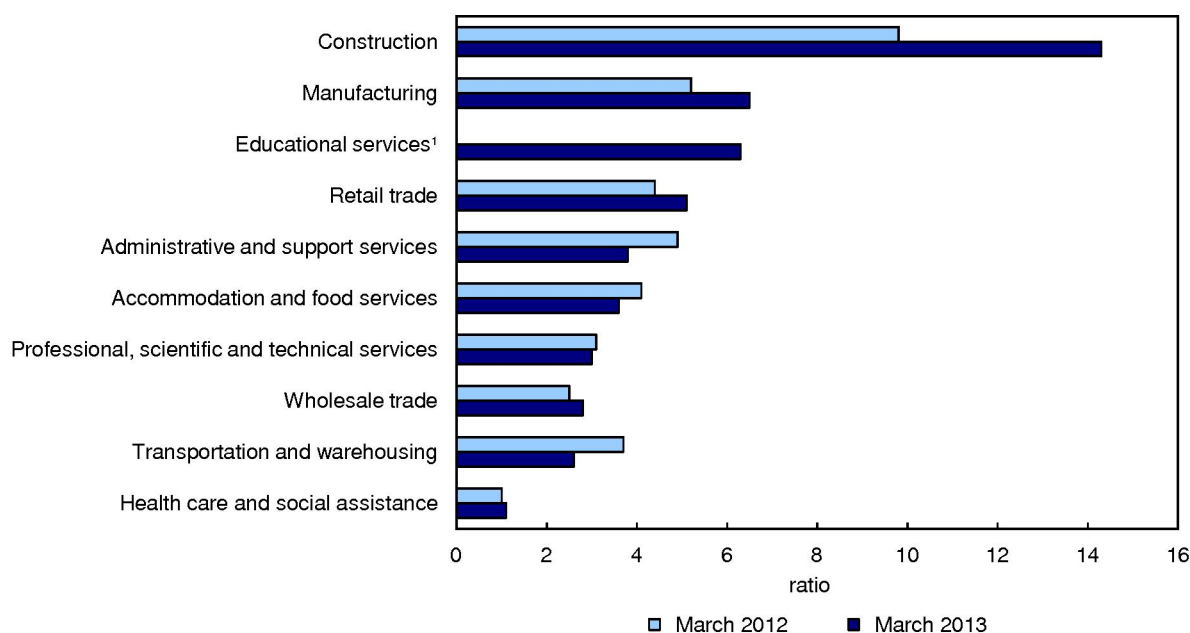
Ratio by sector

Construction had the highest number of unemployed people for every vacancy among the large industrial sectors, at 14.3 in March, up from 9.8 in March 2012. The increase was all a result of a decline in the number of job vacancies in this sector.

Manufacturing had a ratio of 6.5 unemployed people for every vacant job in March, up from 5.2 a year earlier, as there were fewer vacancies in this sector.

Chart 2

Unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio, by largest industrial sector, unemployed people who last worked within past 12 months, three-month average, March 2012 and March 2013



1. The ratio for educational services in March 2012 is too unreliable to be published.

The ratio in transportation and warehousing declined from 3.7 in March 2012 to 2.6 in March 2013, all a result of more job vacancies in the sector.

Health care and social assistance had a ratio of 1.1 in March, the lowest of all industrial sectors. This ratio was little changed from 12 months earlier.

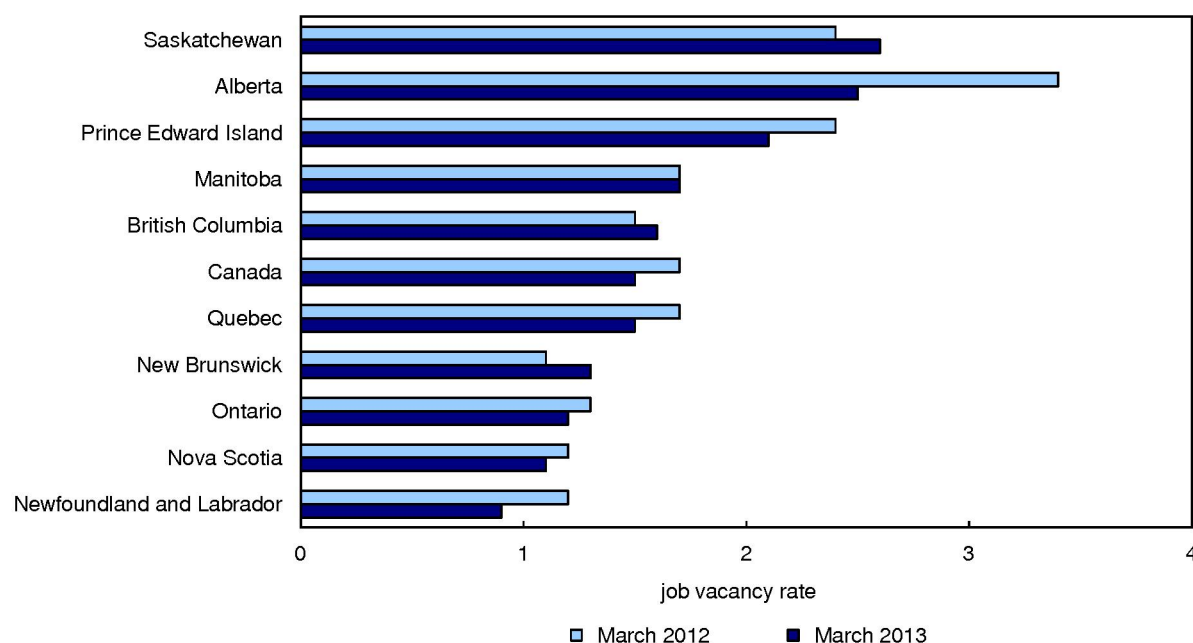
Among the smaller industrial sectors, the ratio for arts, entertainment and recreation fell from 10.8 to 6.6 over the 12-month period, as the number of job vacancies increased at a faster pace than the number of unemployed people who last worked in this sector.

Job vacancy rates

The national job vacancy rate among Canadian businesses was 1.5% in March, down from 1.7% a year earlier.

Chart 3

Job vacancy rate, by province, three-month average, March 2012 and March 2013



Provincially, the job vacancy rate declined in Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador, and was little changed elsewhere. In Alberta, the job vacancy rate declined from 3.4% to 2.5%. In Newfoundland and Labrador, it decreased from 1.2% to 0.9%, the lowest of all provinces.

Job vacancy rates by sector

Compared with 12 months earlier, the job vacancy rate increased in two sectors, declined in eight and was little changed for the other sectors.

Arts, entertainment and recreation had 6,300 job vacancies and a job vacancy rate of 2.7% in March, up from 1.3% in March 2012. The transportation and warehousing sector also saw its rate increase, from 1.6% to 2.2% over this same period, with 15,000 job vacancies as of March 2013.

The job vacancy rate in mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction declined from 3.5% to 1.7% in the 12 months to March, the largest decline of all sectors. Finance and insurance saw its rate decline from 1.9% to 1.1%, with 7,700 vacancies in March 2013, and the vacancy rate in construction fell from 1.9% to 1.3% with 11,000 vacancies.

There were also rate declines in information and culture; manufacturing; both retail and wholesale trade; as well as regional and Aboriginal public administration.

The lowest job vacancy rate by sector was in educational services, at 0.4% in March 2013, with 5,000 job vacancies in this sector.

Note to readers

Estimates of job vacancies are collected through the monthly Business Payrolls Survey (BPS). Starting with the January 2011 reference month, two questions were added to the BPS, which is the survey portion of the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours. These questions were: Did you have any vacant positions on the last business day of the month, and how many?

The target population is the same as that of the BPS and is comprised of all employers in Canada, except those primarily involved in: agriculture; fishing and trapping; private household services; religious organizations; the military personnel of the defense services; and federal, provincial and territorial public administration.

With each release, estimates for the current reference month are subject to revision. Estimates have been revised for the previous month. Users are encouraged to request and use the most up-to-date estimates for each month.

Data quality

Job vacancy and unemployment estimates are based on samples, and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for geographic areas and industries with smaller numbers of vacancies or smaller unemployed populations are subject to greater sampling variability.

Job vacancy, labour demand and unemployment estimates and their accompanying rates are not seasonally adjusted and should only be compared on a year-over-year basis. Given this is a new data series, trends are not yet available and therefore, data should be interpreted with caution.

All estimates are based on three-month moving averages. For example, estimates for the current month are based on an average of the estimates from the current month and the previous two months.

Definitions

Job vacancy/vacant position: A position is considered "vacant" if it meets all three of the following conditions: a specific position exists; work could start within 30 days; and the employer is actively seeking employees from outside the organization to fill the position.

Labour demand: Total labour demand is the sum of met (total payroll employment) and unmet (vacant positions) labour demand.

Largest industrial sectors: The sectors with the largest levels of payroll employment for which we have publishable job vacancy data.

Job vacancy rate: The number of vacant positions divided by total labour demand, that is, occupied positions plus vacant positions.

Unemployment-to-job vacancies ratios

All unemployed: The unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio for all unemployed is calculated by dividing the total number of unemployed, regardless of their previous work experience, using Labour Force Survey (LFS) data, by the number of vacant positions. This ratio reflects how many unemployed individuals are available for each vacant position and is a measure of the overall labour market tightness.

By sector: For each sector, the ratio is calculated by dividing the number of unemployed who last worked in that sector in the previous 12 months, using LFS data, by the number of vacant positions in the same sector. This excludes new entrants to the labour market as well as unemployed people who had not worked during the previous 12 months. Unemployment data by sector is known only for those who worked within the previous 12 months.

Use of estimates for the last sector worked does not imply that these unemployed individuals continued to look for work in that sector. This ratio reflects how many unemployed individuals who last worked in that sector are available for each vacant position in the sector. It is a measure of the labour market tightness within that sector.

Table 1
Number of unemployed, number of job vacancies, and unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio, by province and territory

	Three-month average ending in March 2012			Three-month average ending in March 2013			March 2012 to March 2013		
	Number of unemployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemployment-to-job vacancies	Number of unemployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemployment-to-job vacancies	Number of unemployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemployment-to-job vacancies
	thousands	thousands	ratio	thousands	thousands	ratio	change in thousands	change in thousands	change
Canada	1,448.3	245.1	5.9	1,414.2	221.2	6.4	-34.1	-23.9	0.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	37.3	2.2	16.6	35.0	1.6	21.8	-2.3	-0.6	5.2
Prince Edward Island	10.8	1.3	8.5	11.6	1.1	10.4	0.8	-0.2	1.9
Nova Scotia	44.9	4.3	10.4	51.2	4.1	12.5	6.3	-0.2	2.1
New Brunswick	42.2	3.0	13.9	46.2	3.7	12.6	4.0	0.7	-1.3
Quebec	382.1	53.1	7.2	358.3	47.7	7.5	-23.8	-5.4	0.3
Ontario	568.0	71.7	7.9	575.2	65.7	8.8	7.2	-6.0	0.9
Manitoba	36.8	8.9	4.1	33.8	9.0	3.8	-3.0	0.1	-0.3
Saskatchewan	28.6	10.3	2.8	22.5	11.7	1.9	-6.1	1.4	-0.9
Alberta	113.2	62.7	1.8	105.7	46.3	2.3	-7.5	-16.4	0.5
British Columbia	178.5	26.8	6.7	169.9	29.3	5.8	-8.6	2.5	-0.9
Yukon	1.8	0.3	6.2	1.5	0.3	5.6	-0.3	0.0	-0.6
Northwest Territories	2.1	0.3	6.9	1.9	0.5	3.5	-0.2	0.2	-3.4
Nunavut	2.1	0.1	15.0	1.6	F	F	-0.5	F	F

F too unreliable to be published

Note(s): The number of unemployed and ratio include all unemployed individuals, regardless of previous work experience.

Table 2
Number of unemployed, number of job vacancies, and unemployment-to-job vacancies ratio, by sector

	Three-month average ending in March 2012			Three-month average ending in March 2013			March 2012 to March 2013		
	Number of unemployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemployment-to-job vacancies	Number of unemployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemployment-to-job vacancies	Number of unemployed	Number of job vacancies	Unemployment-to-job vacancies
	thousands	thousands	ratio	thousands	thousands	ratio	change in thousands	change in thousands	change
All unemployed¹	1,448.3	245.1	5.9	1,414.2	221.2	6.4	-34.1	-23.9	0.5
Unemployed, all sectors, worked within past 12 months	879.5	245.1	3.6	883.6	221.2	4.0	4.1	-23.9	0.4
Forestry, logging and support	10.8	F	F	12.5	F	F	1.7	F	F
Mining and quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	13.4	7.7	1.7	18.4	F	F	5.0	F	F
Utilities	3.6	F	F	3.4	0.8	F	-0.2	F	F
Construction	149.3	15.3	9.8	151.7	10.6	14.3	2.4	-4.7	4.5
Manufacturing	107.2	20.6	5.2	111.8	17.2	6.5	4.6	-3.4	1.3
Wholesale trade	31.0	12.5	2.5	25.9	9.2	2.8	-5.1	-3.3	0.3
Retail trade	126.8	28.6	4.4	116.1	22.9	5.1	-10.7	-5.7	0.7
Transportation and warehousing	39.9	10.9	3.7	40.5	15.5	2.6	0.6	4.6	-1.1
Information and cultural industries	16.8	7.9	2.1	15.8	5.8	2.7	-1.0	-2.1	0.6
Finance and insurance	17.7	13.3	1.3	18.2	7.7	2.4	0.5	-5.6	1.1
Real estate and rental and leasing	15.8	F	F	10.0	3.3	3.0	-5.8	F	F
Professional, scientific and technical services	48.7	15.7	3.1	52.0	17.3	3.0	3.3	1.6	-0.1
Management of companies and enterprises	F	0.9	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	76.4	15.5	4.9	66.7	17.6	3.8	-9.7	2.1	-1.1
Educational services	27.9	F	F	31.7	5.0	6.3	3.8	F	F
Health care and social assistance	33.3	33.4	1.0	42.2	37.0	1.1	8.9	3.6	0.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	32.6	3.0	10.8	41.8	6.3	6.6	9.2	3.3	-4.2
Accommodation and food services	91.2	22.4	4.1	87.0	24.2	3.6	-4.2	1.8	-0.5
Other services (excluding public administration)	25.6	10.3	2.5	28.2	10.0	2.8	2.6	-0.3	0.3
Public administration ²	11.4	6.8	1.7	9.7	5.1	1.9	-1.7	-1.7	0.2

F too unreliable to be published

1. For all unemployed, the number of unemployed and ratio include all unemployed individuals, regardless of previous work experience.

2. Does not include federal, provincial or territorial public administration.

Note(s): The number of unemployed and ratio for 'Unemployed, all sectors, worked in past 12 months' and by sector include only those who last worked within the previous 12 months.

Table 3
Number of job vacancies and job vacancy rate, by province and territory

	Three-month average ending in March 2012		Three-month average ending in March 2013		March 2012 to March 2013		
	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate	Number of job vacancies	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate
	thousands	%	thousands	%	change in thousands	% change	change
Canada	245.1	1.7	221.2	1.5	-23.9	-9.8	-0.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.2	1.2	1.6	0.9	-0.6	-27.3	-0.3
Prince Edward Island	1.3	2.4	1.1	2.1	-0.2	-15.4	-0.3
Nova Scotia	4.3	1.2	4.1	1.1	-0.2	-4.7	-0.1
New Brunswick	3.0	1.1	3.7	1.3	0.7	23.3	0.2
Quebec	53.1	1.7	47.7	1.5	-5.4	-10.2	-0.2
Ontario	71.7	1.3	65.7	1.2	-6.0	-8.4	-0.1
Manitoba	8.9	1.7	9.0	1.7	0.1	1.1	0.0
Saskatchewan	10.3	2.4	11.7	2.6	1.4	13.6	0.2
Alberta	62.7	3.4	46.3	2.5	-16.4	-26.2	-0.9
British Columbia	26.8	1.5	29.3	1.6	2.5	9.3	0.1
Yukon	0.3	1.9	0.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	-0.2
Northwest Territories	0.3	1.4	0.5	2.3	0.2	66.7	0.9
Nunavut	0.1	1.4	F	1.3	F	F	-0.1

F too unreliable to be published

Table 4
Number of job vacancies and job vacancy rate, by sector

	Three-month average ending in March 2012		Three-month average ending in March 2013		March 2012 to March 2013		
	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate	Number of job vacancies	Number of job vacancies	Job vacancy rate
	thousands	%	thousands	%	change in thousands	% change	change
Sector aggregate	245.1	1.7	221.2	1.5	-23.9	-9.8	-0.2
Forestry, logging and support	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Mining and quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	7.7	3.5	F	1.7	F	F	-1.8
Utilities	F	F	0.8	0.7	F	F	F
Construction	15.3	1.9	10.6	1.3	-4.7	-30.7	-0.6
Manufacturing	20.6	1.4	17.2	1.2	-3.4	-16.5	-0.2
Wholesale trade	12.5	1.7	9.2	1.2	-3.3	-26.4	-0.5
Retail trade	28.6	1.5	22.9	1.2	-5.7	-19.9	-0.3
Transportation and warehousing	10.9	1.6	15.5	2.2	4.6	42.2	0.6
Information and cultural industries	7.9	2.4	5.8	1.8	-2.1	-26.6	-0.6
Finance and insurance	13.3	1.9	7.7	1.1	-5.6	-42.1	-0.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	F	F	3.3	1.3	F	F	F
Professional, scientific and technical services	15.7	2.0	17.3	2.1	1.6	10.2	0.1
Management of companies and enterprises	0.9	0.9	F	F	F	F	F
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	15.5	2.1	17.6	2.4	2.1	13.5	0.3
Educational services	F	F	5.0	0.4	F	F	F
Health care and social assistance	33.4	2.0	37.0	2.1	3.6	10.8	0.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	3.0	1.3	6.3	2.7	3.3	110.0	1.4
Accommodation and food services	22.4	2.1	24.2	2.2	1.8	8.0	0.1
Other services (excluding public administration)	10.3	2.0	10.0	1.9	-0.3	-2.9	-0.1
Public administration ¹	6.8	1.5	5.1	1.1	-1.7	-25.0	-0.4

F too unreliable to be published

1. Does not include federal, provincial or territorial public administration.

Available in CANSIM: tables 284-0001 to 284-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5202.

The next job vacancies release, for April, will be on July 16.

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 Jason Gilmore (613-951-7118; jason.gilmore@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Natural gas sales, April 2013

Natural gas sales totalled 7 496 million cubic metres in April, up 13.2% compared with April 2012.

The volume of sales to the industrial (+6.7%), residential (+24.3%) and commercial (+25.4%) sectors also increased during the same period.

Total sales in April were 17.7% lower compared with March.

Note to readers

These data are subject to revision.

Table 1
Natural gas sales

	April 2012	March 2013	April 2013 ^P	March to April 2013	April 2012 to April 2013
	thousands of cubic metres			% change	
Total sales	6 623 339	9 105 807	7 495 994	-17.7	13.2
Residential ¹	1 371 920	2 336 687	1 704 620	-27.0	24.3
Commercial ²	998 605	1 686 607	1 252 232	-25.8	25.4
Industrial ³ and direct sales ⁴	4 252 814	5 082 513	4 539 142	-10.7	6.7

^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.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

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).

Balance sheet of the agricultural sector, December 31, 2012

Equity in Canada's farm sector totalled \$341.4 billion on December 31, 2012, up 7.7% from the same date in 2011. Strong gains in the value of assets outpaced a rise in liabilities.

Equity rose in all provinces, with Manitoba recording the largest percentage increase, up 13.7% to \$22.3 billion. Also posting notable gains in the value of equity were Ontario, up 10.3% to \$93.0 billion, Saskatchewan, up 9.1% to \$56.7 billion, Quebec, up 8.5% to \$35.2 billion and Alberta up 5.4% to \$100.7 billion.

The value of total farm assets rose by 7.5% to \$408.1 billion in 2012, while total liabilities rose 6.4% to \$66.7 billion. In dollar terms, the value of assets increased \$28.4 billion, more than seven times the \$4.0 billion growth in farm liabilities.

At the national level, most asset categories posted gains. The largest dollar increase was in the value of farm real estate, which advanced 9.7% to \$285.9 billion. This was the largest annual percentage increase recorded since the series began in 1981. Strong commodity prices and low interest rates were some of the reasons fuelling demand for farm real estate.

The value of current assets rose by 3.5% to \$32.9 billion. Farm inventories, the largest component of current assets, increased 4.9% to \$27.1 billion. Growth in the value of crop inventories outweighed a decline in the value of livestock and poultry inventories.

The value of total assets grew in every province with increases ranging from 1.2% in Prince Edward Island to 11.3% in Manitoba. Ontario and Alberta had the largest dollar increases at \$10.4 billion (+10.4%) and \$6.0 billion (+5.5%) respectively.

Total liabilities were higher in every province except Prince Edward Island, which had a decline of 5.9%. At the national level, current liabilities increased 8.5%, while long-term liabilities were up 5.9%.

The debt-to-asset ratio, which measures the dependence of farm business on debt, was 16.3% in 2012, down slightly from 2011 and the lowest ratio since 1999.

Return on equity decreased to 2.5% in 2012 from 2.7% in 2011. The ratio had reached 3.4% in 2008, its highest point since 1993.

The interest coverage ratio, which assesses the ability to cover interest charges with the net income generated (before interest and taxes), fell slightly to 4.43 in 2012, following a record high of 4.53 established in 2011.

Note to readers

Assets and liabilities in the agriculture sector's balance sheet include those of farm businesses and non-operator landlords (for farm real estate assets leased to farm operators and the corresponding liabilities) and exclude the personal portion of farm households. This most closely reflects the assets and liabilities used in the production of agricultural products.

Available in CANSIM: table 002-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5029.

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).

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers, April 2013

Data for the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers are now available for April.

Available in CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.

A [data table](#) is also available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

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).

Civil aviation operating statistics, April 2013

Operational data on civil aviation are now available for April.

Available in CANSIM: tables 401-0001 and 401-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5026.

A [data table](#) is also available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

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).

2011 National Household Survey announcement: Education and Labour

On Wednesday, June 26, 2013, Statistics Canada will release the second set of data from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS). The release focuses on education, labour, place of work and language of work. It also features two analytical reports.

The first report will provide a descriptive profile of education in Canada including level of educational attainment, field of study and location of study. The report will examine post-secondary educational achievement across a spectrum of variables such as gender, age and geography.

The second report will provide a descriptive portrait of the Canadian labour force. It will feature an industry profile, the most common occupations for men and women, as well as an overview of employment by level of educational attainment. The report will briefly touch on workers aged 55 and over and interprovincial mobility.

Three companion reports will also be available. They will analyze the educational attainment of Aboriginal peoples, commuting to work and language used in the workplace.

Various products and services will be found on the [2011 National Household Survey](#) website. For example, data on education, labour, place of work, commuting to work, language of work as well as mobility and migration will be available for standard geographic areas, through the NHS Data Tables and NHS Profile.

Specific information on the quality of NHS data on education, labour, place of work, commuting to work, language of work and mobility and migration as well as explanations of concepts, classifications, questions and comparability with other data sources will be found in the series of reference guides for the topics being released.

Other reference materials will include the *National Household Survey Dictionary* which provides definitions of NHS concepts, universes and variables. As well, users can refer to the [National Household Survey User Guide](#) (released on May 8, 2013) which provides general information on the 2011 NHS.

All reports and the various products pertaining to the release will be available on our website at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time on June 26.

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).

New products and studies

There are no new products today.



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