

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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Releases

Study: Agriculture in Canada

Canada has more than 50.5 million hectares of agricultural land classified as dependable agricultural land—areas deemed suitable for long-term cultivation. From 2001 to 2011, farm area located on dependable agricultural land declined by 969 802 hectares (-2.6%), according to "Agriculture in Canada," a new study in *Human Activity and the Environment*.

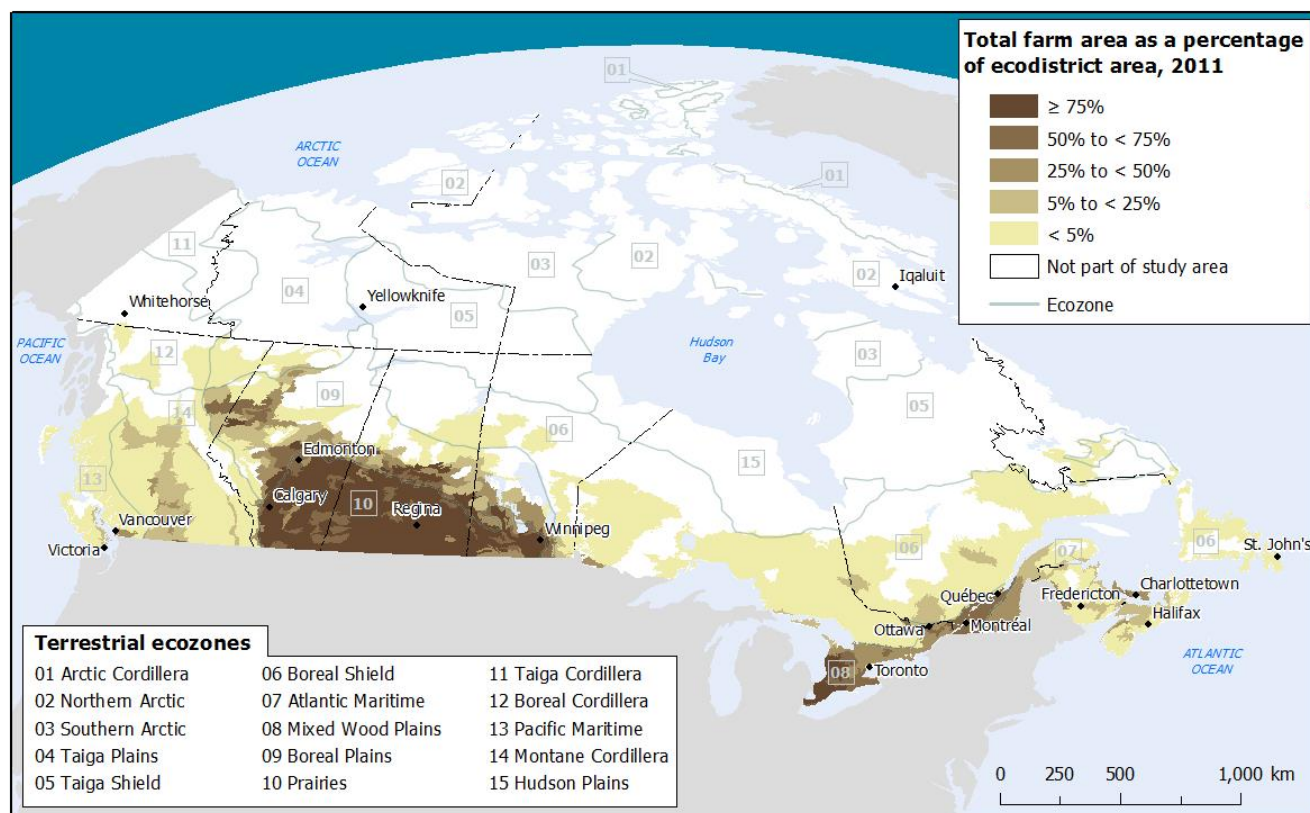
Ecological infrastructure for agriculture

Not all land is suitable for agriculture. Crop production depends on the proper ecological infrastructure, such as the right combination of soil, climate, water and other environmental factors.

From 2000 to 2011, settled area on dependable agricultural land increased by 219 511 hectares (+19%). The largest increase occurred in the Mixed Wood Plains ecozone, a region bounded by Lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario in the south and that extends along the St. Lawrence River to Québec City. Here, settled area on dependable agricultural land grew by 128 030 hectares (+27%). Over half of this growth came from the Greater Golden Horseshoe, an area including the Greater Toronto Area (see [Map 3.2](#) in the article "Measuring ecosystem goods and services in Canada," published in *Human Activity and the Environment* in 2013).

In 2011, agricultural activity was most heavily concentrated in the Prairies ecozone. Farms occupied more than 75% of the total land area for many ecodistricts in the Prairies ecozone, as well as some in the Mixed Wood Plains and Boreal Plains ecozones.

Map 1
Total farm area as a percentage of ecodistrict area, 2011



Goods and services from agricultural ecosystems

In 2012, agricultural ecosystems supported the production of more than 134 million tonnes of farm output, with farm cash receipts of \$54.2 billion. By weight, food and fodder crops, including wheat, canola, potatoes, fruit, vegetables and hay, accounted for 90% of the output of agriculture in 2012.

Agricultural landscapes are also valued for their potential to provide other ecosystem services, such as the provision of wildlife habitat, pollination, water purification and regulation and cultural services. In 2011, woodlands and wetlands accounted for 8% of farm area, while natural pasture made up a further 23%.

Environmental management

Pesticides are applied to agricultural crops to prevent losses from weeds, insects, fungi and parasites. While pesticides can help maintain crop yields and quality, they also have the potential to have negative environmental effects, such as contaminating surface water and groundwater.

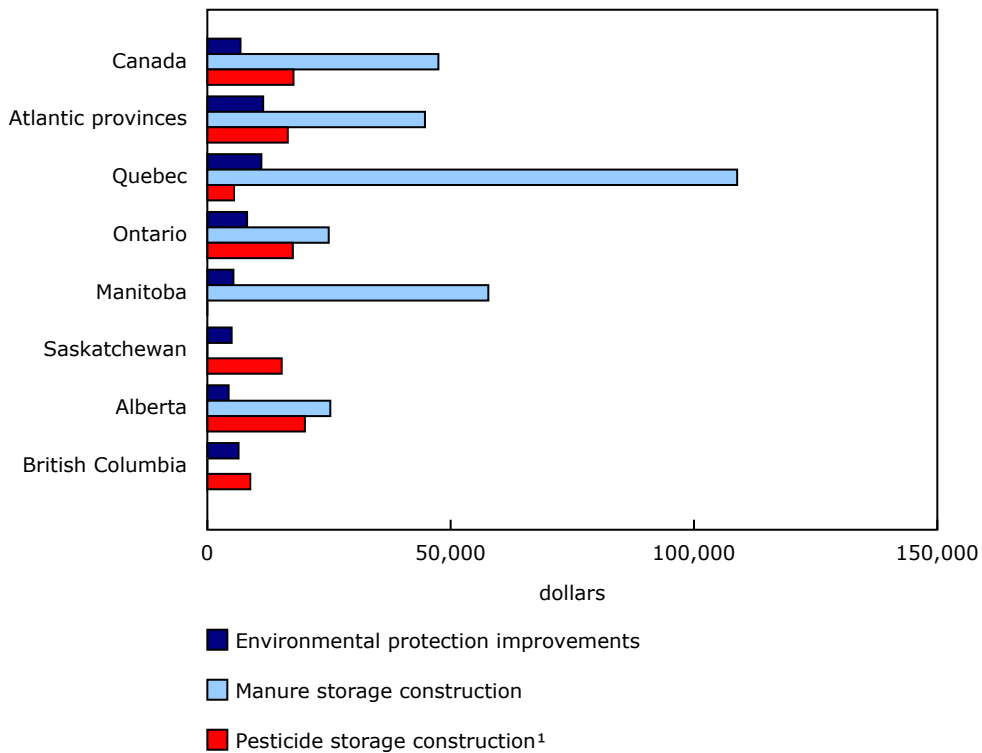
In 2011, 69% of Canadian crop farms reported applying herbicides, 15% employed insecticides and 23% used fungicides. Saskatchewan and Manitoba crop farms had the highest share of herbicide application in 2011, while insecticide application was more common in the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia. Fungicide application was most frequent in Manitoba and least common in Quebec.

To reduce the use of pesticides, farmers are also using a number of alternative methods of pest control.

In 2011, 55% of crop farms used crop rotation to disrupt pest cycles. Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta crop farms led the way in this method of pest control, according to data from the Farm Environmental Management Survey.

A number of farmers made capital investments in 2011 connected to the environment. Among this group, producers invested an average of \$6,810 per farm on environmental protection improvements, \$47,480 on manure storage construction and \$17,701 on pesticide, chemical and fuel storage construction. In Quebec and Manitoba, farmers reported the highest average spending on manure storage construction in 2011. Alberta farmers, on average, outspent their counterparts in other parts of the country on pesticide, chemical and fuel storage construction.

Chart 1
Selected capital investments, average per farm reporting, by province or region, 2011



1. Also includes chemical and fuel storage construction.

Note(s): Environmental protection improvements include shelterbelts, windbreaks, buffer strips or fences for waterways protection. Manure storage construction data for Saskatchewan and British Columbia and pesticide, chemical and fuel storage construction data for Manitoba are too unreliable to be published (F).

Table 1
Proportion of crop farms using commercial fertilizers and pesticides, by province or region, 2011

	Application of commercial fertilizers or micronutrients	Application of herbicides	Application of insecticides	Application of fungicides
	% of crop farms			
Canada	69	69	15	23
Atlantic provinces	65	57	34	34
Quebec	66	62	11	10
Ontario	75	70	16	25
Manitoba	75	77	15	42
Saskatchewan	69	79	14	24
Alberta	65	65	11	15
British Columbia	63	40	28	29

Table 2
Alternative methods of pest control on crop farms, by province or region, 2011

	Canada	Atlantic provinces	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatche- wan	Alberta	British Columbia
	% of crop farms							
Plant crop varieties that are resistant to specific pesticides	31	17	29	42	36	31	23	12
Rotate crops to disrupt pest cycles	55	38	48	63	58	62	52	19
Eliminate, remove or incorporate diseased plants, pruning residues or cull piles	15	28	14	20	16	10	12	24
Use fall planted species (for example, winter wheat, fall rye)	12	8	5	26	14	6	4	8
Use tillage implements	36	31	29	43	54	33	31	23
Mowing	26	51	34	32	22	13	22	38
Use hand weeding/hoeing	15	26	20	21	8	6	13	31
Use covers/mulches	6	15	6	10	5	3	3	17
Introduce natural enemies / biological control agents	2	4	2 ^E	2	2	2	1 ^E	8
Use lure or trap crops	30	18	28	40	33	28	23	16
Other	3	7	3	3	2 ^E	3	3	5
None	17	14	22	12	14	16	19	26

^E use with caution

Note to readers

Many of the statistics in this report are presented using geographical classifications that focus on ecological and hydrographical characteristics of the earth's surface, rather than administrative boundaries such as provinces and municipalities.

The Ecological Framework of Canada divides the country into 15 terrestrial ecozones that share common ecological characteristics, such as climate, physiography, vegetation, soil, water, fauna and land use (see Map 1 in the article "Measuring ecosystem goods and services in Canada," published in *Human Activity and the Environment* in 2013).

Ecozones can be further broken down into 53 ecoprovinces, 194 ecoregions and 1,021 ecodistricts, each characterized by greater levels of detail on regional ecological characteristics.

The study "Agriculture in Canada" is now available in the publication *Human Activity and the Environment*, 2014 (16-201-X). From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Environment*.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact François Soulard (613-951-1777; francois.soulard@statcan.gc.ca), Environment, Energy and Transportation Statistics Division.

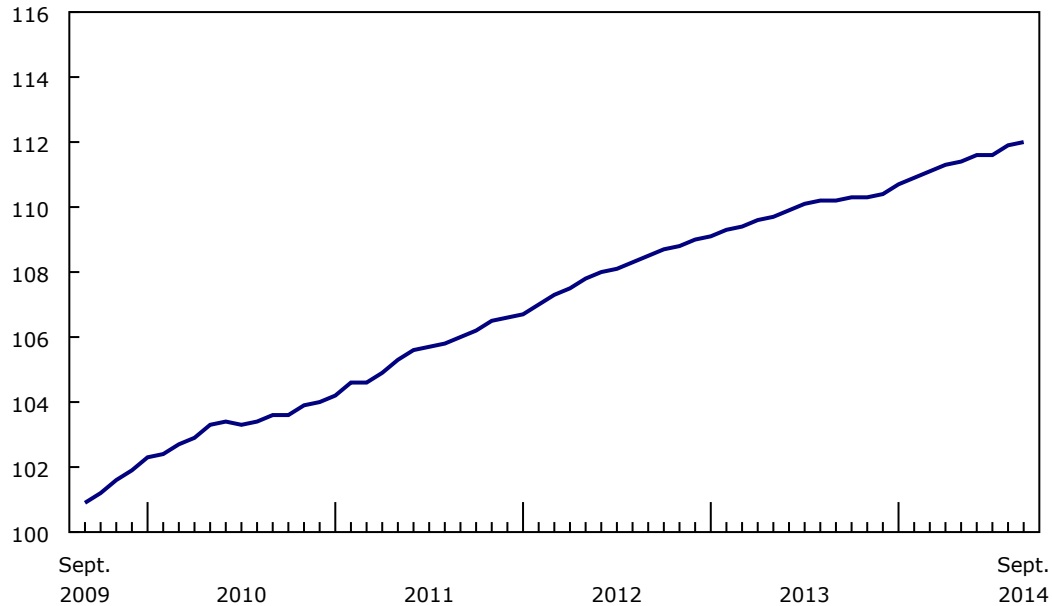
For information on *Human Activity and the Environment*, contact Jane Lin (604-666-4878; jane.lin@statcan.gc.ca), Environment, Energy and Transportation Statistics Division.

New Housing Price Index, September 2014

The New Housing Price Index (NHPI) rose 0.1% in September, following a 0.3% increase in August. Provincially, increases in Ontario and Alberta offset declines in Quebec and Manitoba.

Chart 1 New Housing Price Index

index (2007=100)



The combined metropolitan region of Toronto and Oshawa was the top contributor to the September growth, with prices up 0.3% over the previous month. Builders reported new list prices, attributable to market conditions and strong consumer demand, as the primary reason for the increase.

The census metropolitan area (CMA) of London (+0.5%) recorded the largest monthly price increase in September. Builders cited increased city development charges as the main reason for the price rise, the largest since October 2013.

New housing prices were up 0.3% in the CMAs of Calgary, Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo and Halifax. Builders in Calgary reported higher material and labour costs, as well as market conditions, as the reasons for the increase. Higher prices in Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo were primarily attributable to market conditions. In Halifax, development costs contributed to the price increase, the biggest in 14 months.

Prices were unchanged in 6 of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed.

In Victoria, prices fell 0.7% as result of lower negotiated selling prices in September. This was the largest decrease in that CMA since May 2012.

Prices were down 0.4% in Winnipeg as several builders offered promotions and incentives to stimulate sales. This was the first decline in new housing prices in that city in more than 18 years.

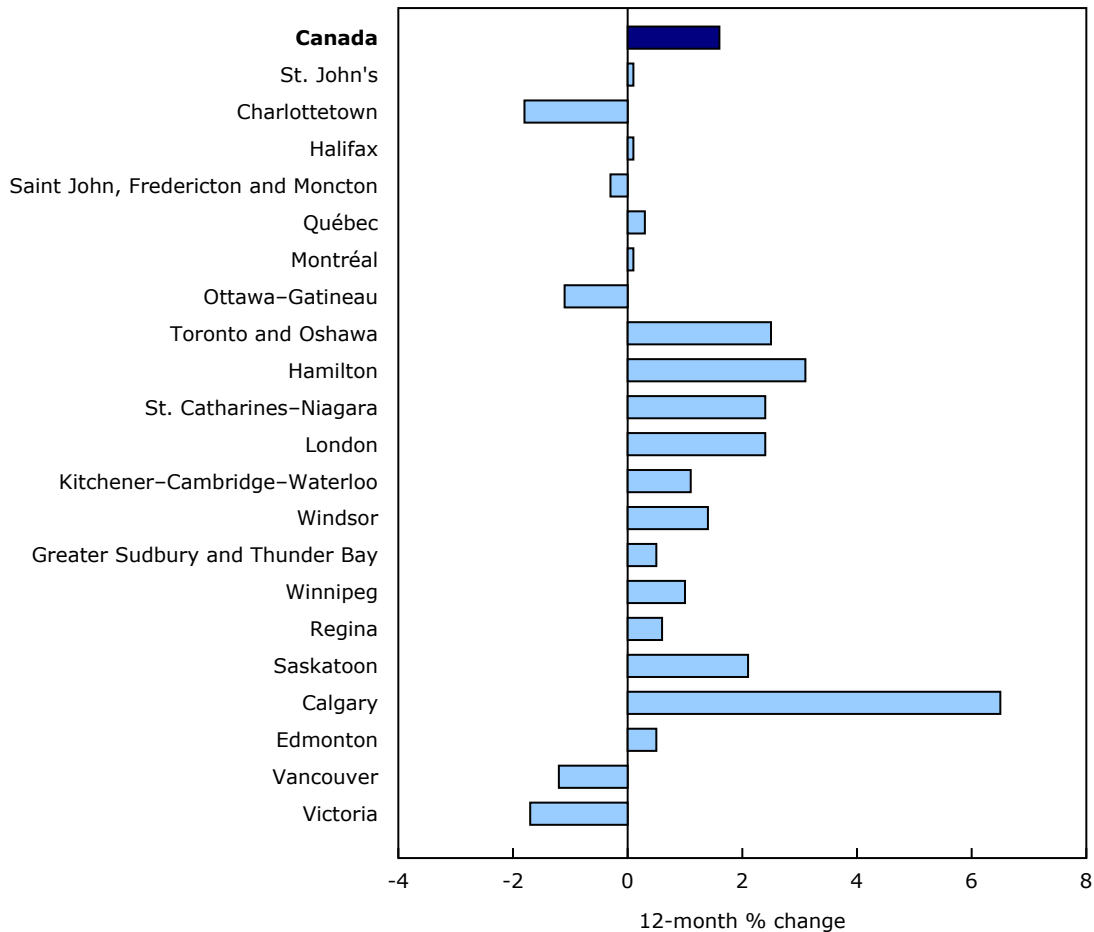
Prices fell 0.3% in Montréal as a result of market conditions and lower negotiated selling prices. This was the largest price decline in Montréal since December 2010.

On a year-over-year basis, the NHPI rose 1.6% in September, up slightly from the August increase of 1.5%. Calgary (+6.5%) and the combined metropolitan region of Toronto and Oshawa (+2.5%) continued to lead the annual growth, albeit Calgary's price increases have been slowing over the past few months.

Other significant year-over-year increases occurred in Hamilton (+3.1%), St. Catharines–Niagara and London (both up 2.4%).

Among the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed, 5 posted 12-month price declines in September: Charlottetown (-1.8%), Victoria (-1.7%), Vancouver (-1.2%), Ottawa–Gatineau (-1.1%) and the combined metropolitan region of Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton (-0.3%).

Chart 2 Calgary posts the largest year-over-year price increase



Note to readers

The New Housing Price Index measures changes over time in the selling prices of new residential houses agreed upon between the contractor and the buyer at the time of the signing of the contract. It is designed to measure the changes in the selling prices of new houses where detailed specifications pertaining to each house remain the same between two consecutive periods.

The survey covers the following dwelling types: single dwellings, semi-detached houses and row houses (town houses or garden homes). The survey also collects contractors' estimates of the current value (evaluated at market price) of the land. These estimates are independently indexed to provide the published series for land. The residual (total selling price less land value), which mainly relates to the current cost of the structure, is also independently indexed and is presented as the estimated house series. The index is available at the Canada and provincial levels, and for 21 metropolitan areas.

The prices collected from builders and included in the index are market selling prices less value added taxes, such as the Federal Goods and Services Tax or the Harmonized Sales Tax.

The index is not subject to revision and is not seasonally adjusted.

Table 1
New Housing Price Index – Not seasonally adjusted¹

	Relative importance ²	September 2013	August 2014	September 2014	August to September 2014	September 2013 to September 2014
	%	(2007=100)			% change	
Canada total	100.00	110.2	111.9	112.0	0.1	1.6
House only	...	110.9	113.0	113.1	0.1	2.0
Land only	...	108.1	109.1	109.2	0.1	1.0
St. John's	1.76	150.9	151.0	151.0	0.0	0.1
Charlottetown	0.18	103.5	101.8	101.6	-0.2	-1.8
Halifax	1.15	117.8	117.5	117.9	0.3	0.1
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton ³	0.46	108.3	108.0	108.0	0.0	-0.3
Québec	2.35	122.7	123.1	123.1	0.0	0.3
Montréal	8.27	116.8	117.2	116.9	-0.3	0.1
Ottawa–Gatineau	4.50	115.9	114.7	114.6	-0.1	-1.1
Toronto and Oshawa ³	28.01	119.9	122.5	122.9	0.3	2.5
Hamilton	3.20	108.6	111.8	112.0	0.2	3.1
St. Catharines–Niagara	1.03	109.8	112.3	112.4	0.1	2.4
London	1.65	111.9	114.0	114.6	0.5	2.4
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	1.67	111.4	112.3	112.6	0.3	1.1
Windsor	0.73	99.9	101.3	101.3	0.0	1.4
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay ³	0.61	108.2	108.7	108.7	0.0	0.5
Winnipeg	2.77	136.4	138.2	137.7	-0.4	1.0
Regina	1.31	158.5	159.8	159.5	-0.2	0.6
Saskatoon	2.63	120.9	123.5	123.4	-0.1	2.1
Calgary	12.18	103.9	110.4	110.7	0.3	6.5
Edmonton	12.68	91.0	91.3	91.5	0.2	0.5
Vancouver	11.78	97.0	95.8	95.8	0.0	-1.2
Victoria	1.08	84.6	83.8	83.2	-0.7	-1.7

... not applicable

1. Values have been rounded.

2. The relative importance is calculated using a price adjusted three-year average of the value of building completions for each metropolitan area.

3. To ensure data confidentiality, the following census metropolitan areas and census agglomeration are grouped together as follows: Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton; Toronto and Oshawa; and Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

Note(s): View the census subdivisions that comprise the [metropolitan areas](#) online.

Available in CANSIM: table [327-0046](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2310](#).

The New Housing Price Index for October will be released on December 11.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Air fares, first and second quarters 2013

First quarter 2013

Air fares (domestic and international combined) averaged \$249.00 in the first quarter of 2013, down 1.1% from the same quarter of 2012. The average domestic fare was \$194.40, up 2.3% from the same quarter in 2012, while the average international fare fell 4.1% to \$304.00.

Average domestic fares increased in 6 of the 10 selected Canadian cities of enplanement, with Halifax (+7.4%), Edmonton (+6.3%) and Winnipeg (+6.3%) recording the largest increases. Montréal (-3.7%), Ottawa (-2.4%), Saskatoon (-1.8%) and Vancouver (-0.6%) posted declines.

Domestic fares averaged \$222.20 in Toronto, the highest level, followed by Vancouver (\$207.10), Winnipeg (\$201.50) and Halifax (\$200.40). These four cities reported average domestic air fares above the national average.

Table 1
Average domestic air fares for 10 major Canadian cities, first quarter 2013

	First quarter 2012	First quarter 2013	First quarter 2012 to first quarter 2013
	dollars		% change
Canada	190.00	194.40	2.3
Calgary	174.10	182.40	4.8
Edmonton	170.70	181.40	6.3
Halifax	186.60	200.40	7.4
Montréal	189.40	182.40	-3.7
Ottawa	190.90	186.40	-2.4
Regina	174.70	176.30	0.9
Saskatoon	185.50	182.20	-1.8
Toronto	215.50	222.20	3.1
Vancouver	208.30	207.10	-0.6
Winnipeg	189.60	201.50	6.3

Note(s):

The air carriers included are the Canadian Level I carriers operating scheduled services (Air Canada, Jazz, Air Canada's Canadian regional code-share partners, Air Transat and WestJet).

All estimates shown above have a coefficient of variation of less than 10% and can be considered reliable from a sampling point of view.

Second quarter 2013

Fares averaged \$247.10 in the second quarter of 2013, up 0.7% from the same quarter of 2012. The average domestic fare fell 0.4% to \$190.90, while international fares averaged \$321.00 (+1.7%).

Of the 10 selected cities of enplanement, Ottawa (-8.7%), Saskatoon (-3.4%) and Halifax (-2.4%) recorded the largest declines in domestic fares. Winnipeg (+5.2%), Edmonton (+4.1%), Toronto (+0.3%) and Calgary (+0.1%) were the only cities to post increases.

Toronto (\$214.50), Vancouver (\$202.80) and Winnipeg (\$199.30) had the highest domestic fares, followed by Montréal (\$189.40). Of these four cities, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg continued to report average domestic air fares above the national average.

Table 2
Average domestic air fares for 10 major Canadian cities, second quarter 2013

	Second quarter 2012	Second quarter 2013	Second quarter 2012 to second quarter 2013
	dollars		% change
Canada	191.60	190.90	-0.4
Calgary	178.40	178.50	0.1
Edmonton	173.50	180.60	4.1
Halifax	184.00	179.60	-2.4
Montréal	192.50	189.40	-1.6
Ottawa	201.40	183.80	-8.7
Regina	180.50	178.90	-0.9
Saskatoon	190.60	184.10	-3.4
Toronto	213.90	214.50	0.3
Vancouver	204.70	202.80	-0.9
Winnipeg	189.40	199.30	5.2

Note(s):

The air carriers included are the Canadian Level I carriers operating scheduled services (Air Canada, Jazz, Air Canada's Canadian regional code-share partners, Air Transat and WestJet).

All estimates shown above have a coefficient of variation of less than 10% and can be considered reliable from a sampling point of view.

Note to readers

Average air fares are calculated for each flight stage. When the passenger boards the aircraft at one airport and departs the aircraft at another airport, this is considered a flight stage. Average air fares are base fares and they do not include the Goods and Services Tax, air transportation taxes or user fees such as airport fees or fuel surcharges.

The Fare Basis Survey covers Air Canada, Jazz, Air Canada's Canadian regional code-share partners, Air Transat and WestJet.

The data in this quarterly release are not seasonally adjusted.

Available in CANSIM: tables [401-0003](#), [401-0041](#) and [401-0042](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2708](#).

[Data tables](#) are also available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

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Canadian Megatrends, November 2014

How many children are there in a 'typical' Canadian family? That really depends on the era, as the number of children per woman has changed significantly since Confederation.

The November 2014 edition of *Canadian Megatrends*, Statistics Canada's new series about the trends that have shaped the country's society and economy, examines changing fertility rates and childbearing patterns for Canadian women.

For example, in 1851, the estimated total fertility rate was close to seven children per woman. This rate has decreased over time; by 2011, it had reached 1.61 children per woman.

Changing, too, has been the age at which women have their first child, with the average age of first-time mothers increasing since the mid-1960s.

These demographic patterns are the result of a host of economic, social and historical factors. They also provide insight into the dynamics of population growth and the age structure of Canadian society, as well as family formation and household composition.

The article "Fertility: Fewer children, older moms," part of *Canadian Megatrends* ([11-630-X](#)), is now available from *The Daily* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Canada's population estimates: Age, sex and marital status, July 1, 2014

Canada's population estimates by marital status, legal marital status, age and sex, as of July 1, 2014, are now available.

Note to readers

These estimates are based on the 2011 Census counts adjusted for census net undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves.

Available in CANSIM: table [051-0042](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3605](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Provincial gross domestic product and gross output by input-output industry classification, 2011

Estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) and gross output by industry, in current dollars, evaluated at basic price for all provinces and territories are now available. These estimates are derived from the provincial input-output tables.

GDP measures the unduplicated value of production. The GDP by industry estimates are derived using a "value added" approach, that is, the value that a producer adds to their intermediate inputs before generating their own output. This allows for the computation of not only total economic production but also the industrial composition and origin of the economic production. Gross output consists of those goods and services that are produced within an establishment and that become available for use outside that establishment, plus any goods and services produced for own final use.

Available in CANSIM: tables [381-0030](#) and [381-0031](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [1401](#).

The products *Provincial Gross Domestic Product by Industry and Sector at Basic Price, 2011* ([15-209-X](#)), and *Provincial Gross Output by Industry and Sector, 2011* ([15-210-X](#)), are now available upon request.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Andreas Trau (613-951-3466; trauand@statcan.gc.ca), Industry Accounts Division.

New products and studies

New products

Provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Industry and Sector at Basic Price, 2011
Catalogue number [15-209-X](#) (CD-ROM)

Provincial Gross Output by Industry and Sector, 2011
Catalogue number [15-210-X](#) (CD-ROM)

Human Activity and the Environment, 2014
Catalogue number [16-201-X](#) (HTML | PDF)

New studies

Canadian Megatrends: "Fertility: Fewer children, older moms"
Catalogue number [11-630-X2014002](#) (HTML)

[Agriculture in Canada](#)

Human Activity and the Environment



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-X.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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