Catalogue 11-001-X (ISSN 1205-9137)

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, April 24, 2014
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Releases

Principal field crop areas, March 31, 2014

Farmers expect to plant less wheat in 2014 than they seeded in 2013, while both soybean and dry field pea areas are forecasted to increase. Soybean areas could reach another record in 2014, which would mark the sixth consecutive year of historic highs.

Farmers may modify their plans prior to planting time, as some reported being undecided about their strategies for 2014. Similar to 2013, many areas of the country are experiencing a longer winter than anticipated.

Wheat

Nationally, according to planting intentions reported by farmers, total wheat area could decrease 4.8% to 24.8 million acres in 2014. Specifically, seeding intentions for spring wheat show a 5.6% decline from 2013 to 18.0 million acres in 2014, while acreage of durum wheat is expected to decrease 2.6% to 4.8 million acres.

In Saskatchewan, intentions show spring wheat acreage falling to 8.6 million acres in 2014, down 9.2% from 2013. Durum wheat acreage is expected to fall 1.5% to 4.3 million acres.

Alberta farmers are forecasting the area for seeding spring wheat to decline 1.4% from 2013 to 6.3 million acres. Durum seeding area is projected to fall 10.8% to 535,000 acres in 2014.

Manitoba farmers anticipate seeding 2.8 million acres of spring wheat, down 3.6% from 2013.

Soybeans

Canadian farmers reported that they expect to seed a record soybean area of 5.3 million acres in 2014, up 16.5% from 2013. Producers in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan all plan to seed record levels in 2014. Specifically, Ontario farmers project seeding 300,000 additional acres compared with 2013, while producers in Manitoba intend to seed an additional 250,000 acres.

Canola

Canadian farmers indicated that they may seed 19.8 million acres of canola in 2014, down 0.7% from 2013.

Saskatchewan, which accounts for 52.0% of the national intended seeding area for canola, anticipates a 1.9% decrease from 2013 to 10.3 million acres. Alberta farmers plan to seed 6.2 million acres of canola, up 1.6% from 2013, while Manitoba looks to seed 3.2 million acres in 2014, the same as in 2013.

Barley and oats

At the national level, barley seeded area is expected to decline 10.9% to 6.3 million acres.

Canadian farmers also plan to seed 3.2 million acres of oats in 2014, up 0.6% from 2013.

Corn for grain

Nationally, the corn for grain seeded area is expected to decline 8.7% from 2013 to 3.4 million acres. Ontario farmers expect to seed 2.1 million acres of this total, down 7.0% from 2013. In Quebec, the corn for grain area is expected to decrease 5.9% in 2014 to 958,800 acres.

Dry field peas

Canadian farmers indicated that they intend to seed 21.0% more acres of dry field peas in 2014 compared with 2013. Saskatchewan farmers expect to seed 2.7 million acres of dry field peas in 2014, up 19.6% from 2013. Alberta producers also intend to expand their seeded acreage, increasing dry field pea areas by 25.5% to 1.3 million acres.

Note to readers

The March Farm Survey, which collects information on crop planting intentions, was conducted between March 24 and March 31, 2014, with about 11,500 farmers. Farmers were asked to report their planting intentions for grain, oilseeds and special crops.

Subsequent surveys during the year will provide estimates of actual seeded acreages. Data on final acreages for 2014 will be released on December 4, 2014, and will be subject to revision for two years.

Farm surveys collect data from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta during all survey cycles. However, they only collect data twice a year (in the June Farm survey on seeded areas and in the November Farm survey on final crop production) for Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia, which represent between 2% and 4% of national totals. Therefore, Canadian totals for March include carry-over data for these provinces from their preceding November survey, and the same national totals for July and September include carry-over data for these same provinces from their preceding June survey.

Percentage changes are calculated using unrounded data.

Table 1
March intentions of principal field crop areas

	2012 (final)	2013 (final)	March 2014[1] (intentions)	2012 to 2013	2013 to March 2014
	thousands of acres			% change	
Total wheat[2]	23,706	26,015	24,766	9.7	-4.8
Spring wheat	16,939	19,043	17,978	12.4	-5.6
Durum wheat	4,680	4,965	4,835	6.1	-2.6
Winter wheat[3]	2,088	2,008	1,954	-3.8	-2.7
Canola	22,021	19,936	19,801	-9.5	-0.7
Barley	7,405	7,083	6,311	-4.4	-10.9
Soybeans	4,153	4,519	5,264	8.8	16.5
Dry field peas	3,730	3,285	3,975	-11.9	21.0
Summerfallow	4,335	3,875	3,370	-10.6	-13.0
Corn for grain	3,544	3,689	3,369	4.1	-8.7
Oats	2,879	3,168	3,188	10.0	0.6
Lentils	2,515	2,393	2,860	-4.9	19.5
Flaxseed	980	1,035	1,715	5.6	65.7

1. Farm surveys collect data from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta during all survey cycles. However, they only collect data twice a year (in the June Farm survey on seeded areas and in the November Farm survey on final crop production) for Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia, which represent between 2% and 4% of national totals. Therefore, Canadian totals for March include carry-over data for these provinces from their preceding November survey, and the same national totals for July and September include carry-over data for these same provinces from their preceding June survey.
2. Represents the sum of winter wheat, spring wheat and durum wheat.
3. The area remaining after winterkill.
Note(s): *Figures may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.*

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

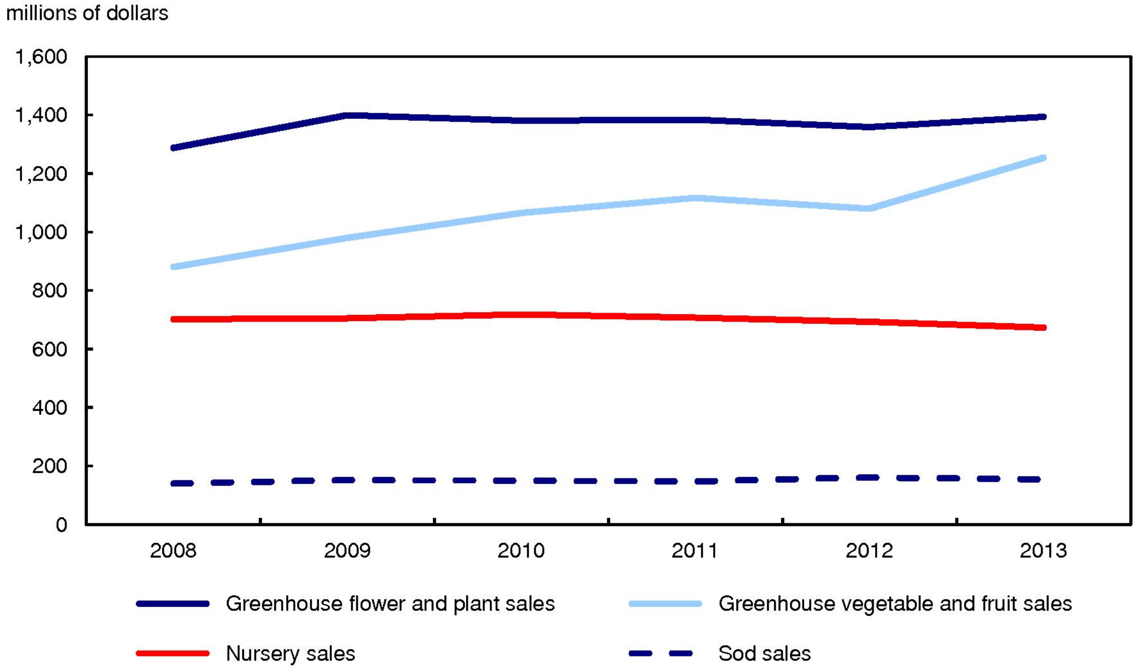
Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3401.

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).

Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries, 2013

Sales of greenhouse, nursery and sod products in Canada were nearly $3.5 billion in 2013, up 5.6% from 2012. This gain was partly the result of a 16.1% increase in greenhouse vegetable and fruit sales, which accounted for 36.1% of all greenhouse, nursery and sod sales.

Chart 1
Sales of greenhouse, nursery and sod products



Sales of peppers grew 24.2% to $389 million, and tomato sales rose 17.8% to $515 million. Tomatoes represented 41.1% of greenhouse vegetable and fruit sales, while peppers accounted for 31.1%.

Sales of greenhouse flowers and plants grew 2.6% to $1.4 billion. Floriculture represented 52.7% of total greenhouse sales in 2013. Indoor and outdoor potted plants accounted for more than half of flower and plant sales.

Increases in greenhouse sales were accompanied by a 2.8% rise in total operating expenses. Plant material purchases were up 10.8% to $441 million, while labour costs grew 1.8% to $638 million. However, the total number of seasonal and permanent greenhouse workers decreased 7.5% to 33,761. Labour cost accounted for 29.7% of total operating expenses.

On the nursery side, sales of nursery products declined 2.8% to $673 million. The total nursery area declined 12.9% to 18 279 hectares. Nursery operation expenses fell 1.7% to $593 million in 2013, and labour accounted for 38.2% of total nursery operation costs. Nurseries employed 14,123 people in 2013, down 8.7% from 2012.

In 2013, sod sales decreased 4.3% to $154 million.

Available in CANSIM: tables 001-0006 and 001-0046 to 001-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3416.

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

To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Rita Athwal (613-951-5022; rita.athwal@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division.

Construction Union Wage Rate Index, March 2014

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada was unchanged in March compared with the previous month. The composite index increased 1.6% in the 12 months to March.

Note to readers

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 22 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. The indexes (2007=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

The wage rates and indexes are subject to a 30-month revision period after dissemination of a given month's data. This is due to the length of time that can transpire between the expiration of a collective agreement and the ratification of a new collective agreement. The wage rates and indexes are not seasonally adjusted.

Because of reporting problems, the wage rates for Winnipeg that were used to calculate the indexes were not available. The wage rates for Winnipeg are now available and are used to calculate the indexes starting in January 2012.

Available in CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0045.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index for April will be released on May 22.

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).

Oilseed crushing statistics, March 2014

Oilseed processors crushed 618 150 tonnes of canola in March. Oil production totalled 269 012 tonnes, while meal production amounted to 348 052 tonnes.

Available in CANSIM: table 001-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.

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).

Deliveries of major grains, March 2014

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.

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).

Milled wheat and wheat flour produced, February 2014

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.

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).

Absence rates of full-time employees, 2013

Data on the absence rates of full-time employees are now available for 2013.

Available in CANSIM: tables 279-0029 to 279-0039.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

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

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720; jeannine.usalcas@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

New products and studies

New products

Newsletter for Communities
Catalogue number 11-016-X (HTML | PDF)

Newsletter for Small and Medium-sized Businesses
Catalogue number 11-017-X (HTML | PDF)

Inter-corporate Ownership, First quarter 2014
Catalogue number 61-517-X (CD-ROM)

Retail Trade, February 2014, Vol. 86, no. 2
Catalogue number 63-005-X (HTML | PDF)

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.

To access or subscribe to *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our website at *http://www.statcan.gc.ca*.