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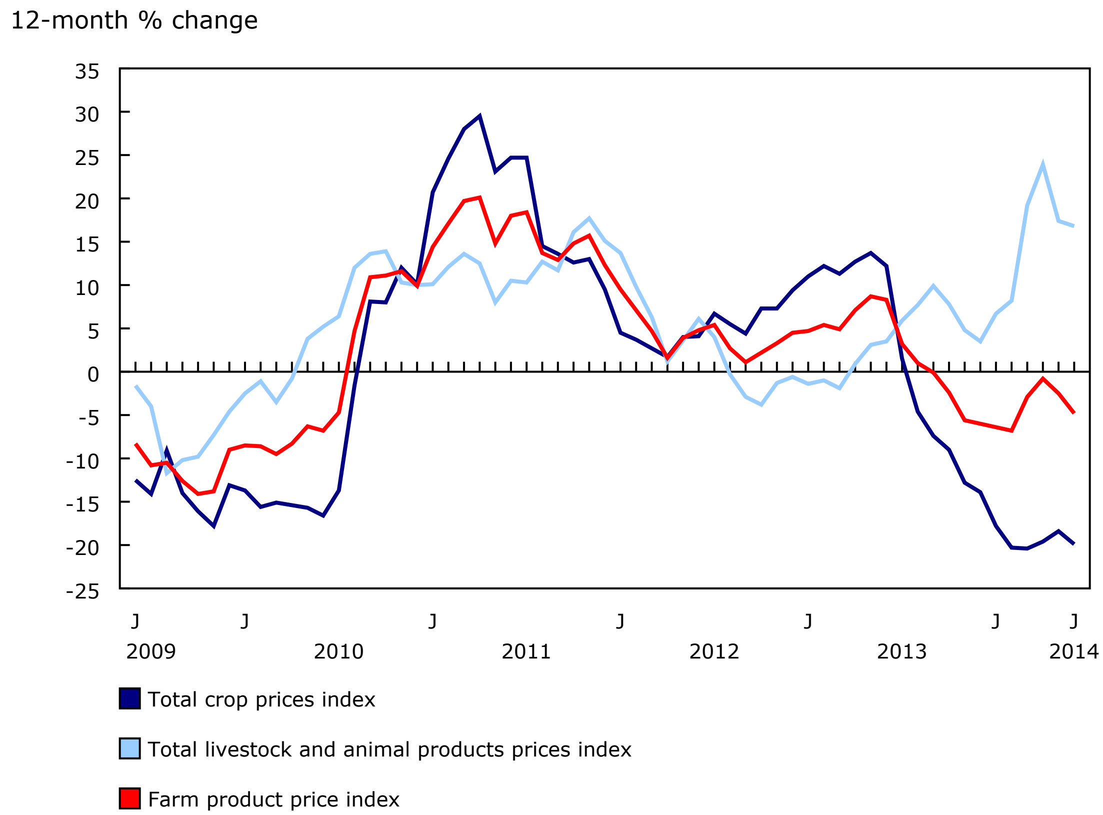
Releases

Farm Product Price Index, June 2014

The Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) declined 4.8% in June compared with June 2013, mainly because of lower crop prices. This was the 10th consecutive year-over-year decrease as the decline in the crops index continued to exceed the gains in the overall livestock and animal products index.

Chart 1
The 12-month change in the Farm Product Price Index



The crops index was down 19.9% in June compared with June 2013. The year-over-year decline in crop prices began in August 2013, with the index posting double-digit decreases since November 2013. In June 2014, the largest year-over-year declines were recorded in grains (-28.7%), oilseeds (-24.5%), specialty crops (-16.7%) and fruit (-15.9%).

Grain and oilseed prices came under pressure last year when world production recovered and Canada harvested record breaking crops for many of the major grains and oilseeds in the fall of 2013. Positive production forecasts for the upcoming 2014/2015 crop year are also pressuring prices. At the end of June, the International Grains Council increased its total grains production forecast for the upcoming 2014/2015 crop year to stand 2% below the record set in the 2013/2014 crop year. The council also increased its ending stock estimate to the highest level since the 1999/2000 crop year.

The livestock and animal products index continued to increase, rising 16.8% in June compared with June 2013. Higher prices for cattle and hogs were the main drivers behind the increase. On a year-over-year basis, this index has been rising since April 2013; however, since May, the growth has been slowing.

Compared with June 2013, the cattle and calves index was up 30.7% and the hogs index increased 26.2%. Low inventories continued to contribute to higher prices. As of July 1, 2014, Canada's beef cow herd remained at its lowest level since 1992, while the United State's beef cow herd was at its lowest level since the July 1 series began in 1971.

Despite a slight increase in Canadian hog inventories at July 1, 2014, total North American supplies fell to their lowest level for this period since July 2003. The outbreak of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus, particularly in the United States, continued to affect inventories. In its last quarterly release (March to May 2014), the United States Department of Agriculture reported that the number of pigs saved per litter was 5.1% below the previous year.

The 12-month gain in the livestock and animal products index was moderated by declines in the supply-managed sectors of poultry (-1.9%) and eggs (-1.0%), coinciding with lower feed grain prices.

The FPPI was down 1.0% compared with May, the second consecutive monthly decrease. Lower crop prices were the main contributor to the decline, which was moderated by a 2.1% increase in the livestock and animal products index.

Note to readers

The growth rate of the total Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) is derived from a weighted average of the component indexes using a different set of weights in consecutive months; it is not a weighted average of the growth rates of its crop and livestock components. Given this, the growth rate of the composite FPPI can lie outside the growth rate of these components.

Table 1
Farm Product Price Index

	June 2013[r]	May 2014[r]	June 2014[p]	May to June 2014	June 2013 to June 2014
	(2007=100)			% change	
Farm Product Price Index	**136.0**	**130.8**	**129.5**	**-1.0**	**-4.8**
Crops	**140.5**	**114.7**	**112.6**	**-1.8**	**-19.9**
Grains	134.0	98.4	95.6	-2.8	-28.7
Oilseeds	175.8	133.8	132.8	-0.7	-24.5
Specialty crops	141.1	117.0	117.6	0.5	-16.7
Fruit	123.6	88.2	103.9	17.8	-15.9
Vegetables	114.1	114.5	113.2	-1.1	-0.8
Potatoes	137.0	132.4	131.5	-0.7	-4.0
Livestock and animal products	**131.2**	**150.1**	**153.2**	**2.1**	**16.8**
Cattle and calves	139.2	177.8	182.0	2.4	30.7
Hogs	150.2	189.7	189.5	-0.1	26.2
Poultry	131.2	127.7	128.7	0.8	-1.9
Eggs	135.0	133.5	133.7	0.1	-1.0
Dairy	109.5	112.5	113.5	0.9	3.7

[r] *revised*
[p] *preliminary*

Available in CANSIM: tables 002-0068 to 002-0070.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

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).

Railway carloadings, June 2014

The volume of rail freight carried in Canada totalled 30.6 million tonnes in June, up 14.4% from the same month last year. A key driver of this growth was increased loadings of wheat, which were influenced by new grain transportation regulations.

Domestic rail freight originating in Canada and destined within Canada and other parts of the world rose 17.2% to 27.4 million tonnes. These shipments are composed 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).

Non-intermodal freight rose 15.3% to 298,000 carloads. The amount of freight loaded into these cars totalled 24.7 million tonnes, up 18.3%. The increase was attributable to gains in several commodity groupings, particularly wheat (up 1.2 million tonnes), canola (up 569 000 tonnes), iron ore and concentrates (up 534 000 tonnes) and potash (up 429 000 tonnes).

Intermodal freight loadings rose 8.2% to 175,000 units in June. From a tonnage perspective, traffic grew 7.9% to 2.6 million tonnes. The gain stemmed from both increased containerized cargo shipments and trailers loaded on flat cars.

Traffic received from the United States fell 4.6% to 3.2 million tonnes. The drop was attributable to decreased non-intermodal and intermodal freight.

Note to readers

Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted.

For non-intermodal traffic, rail carriers report the number of cars and tonnes by commodity of revenue-generating freight that they have loaded in Canada.

For intermodal freight, the carriers report the number of units and tonnes for containers on flat cars and trailers on flat cars, with no commodity data.

Available in CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

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Poultry and egg statistics, June 2014

Poultry and egg statistics are now available for June.

Note to readers

Data on poultry and egg production are available up to June 2014. Data on the placements of hatchery chicks and turkey poults are available up to July 2014. Data on stocks of frozen eggs and poultry meats as well as edible dried egg products are available up to August 2014.

Available in CANSIM: tables 003-0021 to 003-0024, 003-0038 and 003-0039.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3425 and 5039.

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Supply and disposition of refined petroleum products, May 2014

Data on the supply and disposition of refined petroleum products are now available for May.

Available in CANSIM: tables 134-0001 to 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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Characteristics of international overnight travellers, first quarter 2014

Preliminary data on the characteristics of international overnight travellers are now available for the first quarter upon request.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3152.

Data are now available from the International Travel Survey. Tables, various statistical profiles and microdata files of characteristics of international travellers for the first quarter are now available on request.

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General Social Survey on caregiving and care receiving: Public use microdata file, 2012

The public use microdata file for Cycle 26 (2012) of the General Social Survey (GSS) is now available. Cycle 26 focused on Canadians who provided care to family and friends for a long-term health condition, disability or age-related problems, as well as those who received care from family, friends or professionals. The survey covered individuals aged 15 years and over living in private households in the provinces.

In addition to updating the care-related information collected in previous years, the 2012 GSS introduced new content, including the type and severity of the health condition necessitating the care; the impact of caregiving on the lives of caregivers; satisfaction with care received from various sources; and accessible housing. As in all GSS cycles, data were also collected on the respondent's main activity, education, income and other sociodemographic characteristics.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4502.

The *General Social Survey: Caregiving and Care Receiving, Public Use Microdata File*: "2012 (Cycle 26)," is now available on CD-ROM (89M0031X), along with extensive documentation including a user guide and data dictionary.

The initial results from the Cycle 26 of the 2012 General Social Survey on Caregiving and Care Receiving were released in *The Daily* on September 10, 2013. The release also featured two articles, "Portrait of Caregivers, 2012" (89-652-X) and "Family caregiving: What are the consequences?" (75-006-X), available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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New products and studies

New products

General Social Survey: Caregiving and Care Receiving, Public Use Microdata File: "2012 (Cycle 26)", March 2012 to January 2013
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