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Releases

Releases

Principal field crop areas, March 2015

Canadian farmers intend to plant more wheat, oats and barley in 2015 than they did in 2014, while canola and soybean areas should decrease slightly.

According to industry reports, seeding conditions are seen to be favourable overall, after two years of late seedings in 2013 and 2014.

Wheat

Nationally, farmers reported that they expect to plant 24.8 million acres in 2015, an increase of 3.9% over 2014. Specifically, seeding intentions for spring wheat indicate a 3.4% gain to 18.0 million acres, while durum wheat acreage is expected to reach 5.5 million acres, up 15.8% from 2014.

In Saskatchewan, intentions show spring wheat acreage decreasing 4.8% from 2014 to 8.1 million acres in 2015. However, durum wheat acreage is expected to rise 15.5% to 4.9 million acres.

Farmers in Alberta reported the area for spring wheat should grow by 6.6% to 6.4 million acres in 2015. Durum wheat area is expected to rise by 18.2% to 650,000 acres. Manitoba farmers anticipate seeding 3.1 million acres of spring wheat, up 20.8% from 2014.

Canola

Canadian farmers reported they intend to seed 19.4 million acres of canola in 2015, down 4.5% from 2014.

Saskatchewan, historically accounting for approximately half of the canola acreage in Canada, reported a 4.2% decrease compared with 2014 to 10.2 million acres. Alberta farmers also said they planned to seed fewer acres of canola, reporting a 7.7% decline to 6.0 million acres for 2015. Manitoba farmers, however, look to seed 3.1 million acres in 2015, edging up 1.7% over 2014.

Soybeans

The total area to be planted with soybeans is expected to decrease to 5.4 million acres in 2015, down 3.4% from the 2014 record level of 5.6 million acres.

Producers in Ontario intend to seed 2.9 million acres, a decline of 6.5%. Quebec farmers also expect a decrease in area to be seeded to soybeans, down 9.5% to 778,400 acres. Meanwhile, farmers in Manitoba (up 2.4% to 1.3 million acres) and Saskatchewan (up 24.1% to 335,000 acres) anticipate seeding more soybeans. All four provinces sowed record acreages in 2014.

Barley and oats

At the national level, barley seeded area is expected to rise 10.2% from 2014 to 6.5 million acres, while the area seeded with oats is expected to rise 30.3% to 3.6 million acres in 2015. Together, these two crops are expected to account for close to 1.5 million additional acres compared with 2014.

Corn for grain

Nationally, the corn for grain seeded area is expected to increase 6.2% in 2015 to 3.3 million acres. Ontario farmers anticipate planting 2.1 million acres, up 11.5% from 2014. In Quebec, corn for grain area is expected to rise 8.6% to 952,600 acres.

Note to readers

The March farm survey, which collects information on crop planting intentions, was conducted from March 18 to March 31, 2015, 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 2015 will be released on December 4, 2015, and will be subject to revision for two years.

Farm surveys collect data from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta at all survey cycles. However, they collect data twice a year (in the June farm survey on seeded areas and in the November farm survey on final field 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 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

	2013	2014	March 2015[1p]	2013 to 2014	2014 to March 2015
	thousands of acres			% change	
Total wheat (including winter wheat remaining)[2]	26,015	23,835	24,765	-8.4	3.9
Durum wheat	4,965	4,750	5,500	-4.3	15.8
Spring wheat	19,043	17,409	18,004	-8.6	3.4
Winter wheat[3]	2,008	1,675	1,261	-16.6	-24.7
Barley	7,083	5,880	6,478	-17.0	10.2
Canary seed	210	275	310	31.0	12.7
Canola	19,941	20,325	19,416	1.9	-4.5
Chick peas	180	170	140	-5.6	-17.6
Corn for grain	3,689	3,078	3,268	-16.6	6.2
Dry beans	210	305	273	45.2	-10.5
Dry field peas	3,325	3,795	3,830	14.1	0.9
Fall rye[3]	225	206	240	-8.4	16.3
Flaxseed	1,050	1,555	1,630	48.1	4.8
Lentils	2,620	3,110	3,350	18.7	7.7
Mustard seed	365	500	320	37.0	-36.0
Oats	3,173	2,798	3,645	-11.8	30.3
Soybeans	4,619	5,562	5,375	20.4	-3.4
Sunflower seed	70	75	125	7.1	66.7

p preliminary
1. The methodology used for area estimates for the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia was modified in 2014. For more information, see note to readers.
2. Represents the sum of winter wheat, spring wheat and durum wheat.
3. The area remaining after winterkill.

Note(s):
The estimates in this table have been rounded to the nearest thousand. The percentage changes reflect the unrounded estimates, which are available in CANSIM. Wheat types may not add up to total wheat as a result of rounding.
Source(s): CANSIM table **001-0017**.

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

Table 001-0010: Estimated areas, yield, production and average farm price of principal field crops, in metric units.

Table 001-0017: Estimated areas, yield, production, average farm price and total farm value of principal field crops, in imperial units.

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**).

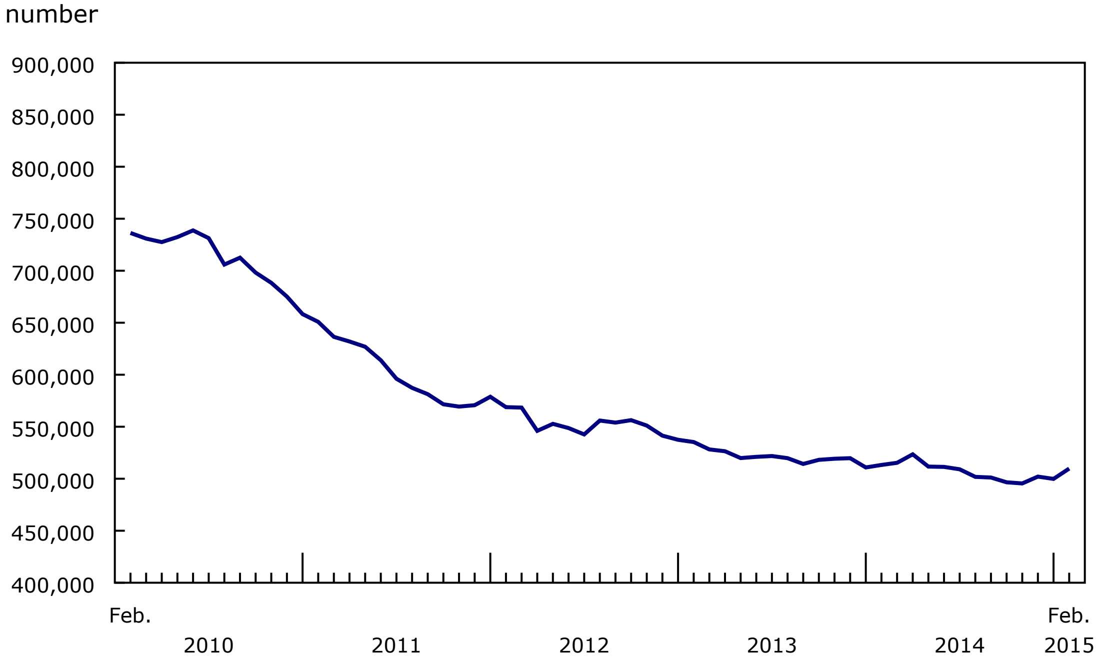
Employment Insurance, February 2015

The number of people receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits rose by 2.0% (+9,900) to 509,800 in February, following five months of little change. Compared with 12 months earlier, the number of beneficiaries was down slightly (-0.7% or -3,500).

In February, the number of beneficiaries rose notably in several provinces compared with a month earlier, with Alberta experiencing the largest increase (+15.6%), followed by Saskatchewan (+4.9%) and Prince Edward Island (+3.7%).

The change in the number of regular EI beneficiaries reflects various situations, including people becoming beneficiaries, people going back to work and people no longer receiving regular benefits.

Chart 1
Number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries



Source(s): CANSIM table 276-0022.

Provincial and metropolitan area overview

In Alberta, the number of people receiving benefits rose a substantial 15.6% in February to 36,000. This was the fourth consecutive monthly increase for the province and the largest since May 2009. The largest increases for the province were among beneficiaries who last worked in occupations unique to primary industry (+51.8%); processing, manufacturing and utilities (+29.1%); natural and applied sciences (+28.8%); as well as management (+14.3%).

There was a marked 24.2% increase in Alberta's census agglomerations (CAs) and in areas outside census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and CAs (+21.9%). At the same time, the CMAs of Edmonton (+12.3%) and Calgary (+11.8%) also had more beneficiaries in February. See "geographical definitions" in the note to readers.

In Saskatchewan, the number of people receiving regular EI benefits rose by 4.9% to 11,600 in February, the third consecutive monthly increase. The province had a marked 19.2% increase in the number of beneficiaries who last worked in occupations unique to primary industry. There was a notable increase in the province's CAs (+15.0%), while the CMA of Regina was up 2.8%.

Compared with January, the number of beneficiaries in Prince Edward Island rose by 3.7% to 7,500 in February, the third consecutive monthly increase. There were more beneficiaries in the CAs (+3.7%) and in the outlying areas (+3.5%) of the province.

In Quebec, the number of beneficiaries rose by 2.5% to 154,300. There were increases in all six metropolitan areas, ranging from 6.0% in Sherbrooke to 1.9% in Montréal. The number of beneficiaries also rose in the province's CAs (+3.4%) and outside of the CMAs and CAs (+2.4%).

Between January and February, the number of people receiving benefits in Newfoundland and Labrador rose by 2.3% to 31,800, continuing an upward trend that began last November. In February, there was a notable increase in the metropolitan area of St. John's (+5.3%). For the CAs within the province, the number of beneficiaries rose by 3.5%.

In Nova Scotia, there were 27,200 people receiving regular EI benefits in February, up 2.2% from January and the third consecutive monthly increase. While the number of beneficiaries was virtually unchanged in Halifax, regions outside of the CAs posted a 3.1% increase in February.

In New Brunswick, the number of people receiving benefits edged up 1.1% to 32,200, continuing a gradual upward trend that began last fall. In February, Moncton posted a 3.8% increase, partly offsetting a decline in January.

In Manitoba, the number of beneficiaries edged up 1.0% in February to 13,500. There were more people receiving benefits in the province's CAs (+4.6%), while there was little change elsewhere in the province.

While Ontario and British Columbia had little change in the number of beneficiaries between January and February, this was not the case in some areas within these provinces.

Of the 15 metropolitan areas in Ontario, 4 had more beneficiaries in February, most notably Windsor, (+14.4%). At the same time, there were declines in a number of metropolitan areas, especially Oshawa (-8.3%), Hamilton (-3.9%), Guelph (-3.3%) and St. Catharines–Niagara (-3.2%).

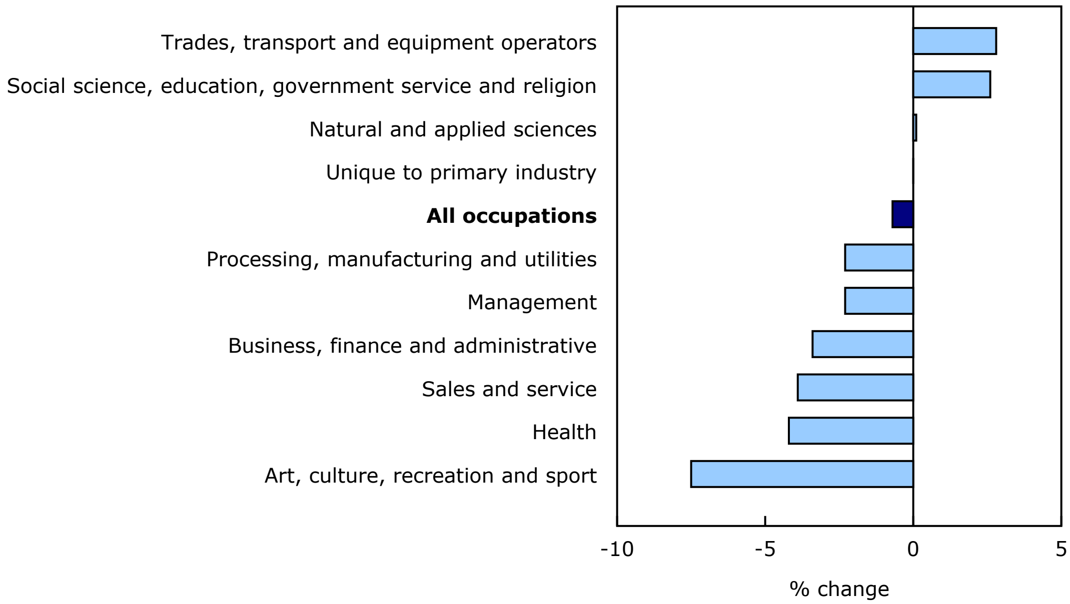
In February, two of the four metropolitan areas in British Columbia had fewer beneficiaries: Vancouver (-3.0%) and Abbotsford–Mission (-2.7%). In contrast, there were increases in the CAs (+1.5%) and in areas outside of the province's CMAs and CAs (+1.3%).

Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries by occupation

Compared with February 2014, the number of EI beneficiaries edged down 0.7% (-3,500).

Looking at EI recipients' last occupation, there were large decreases in the number of beneficiaries in several major occupation groups such as art, culture, recreation and sport occupations (-7.5%) and health (-4.2%) compared with the same month a year ago. In contrast, there were more people receiving benefits in trades, transport and equipment operators (+2.8%), as well as social science, education, government service and religion (+2.6%). At the same time, there was virtually no change in natural and applied sciences and in occupations unique to primary industry.

Chart 2
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries by occupation, percentage change, February 2014 to February 2015



Source(s): CANSIM table 276-0041.

Employment Insurance beneficiaries in major demographic groups

Compared with January, the number of beneficiaries increased 4.0% in February among men aged 15 to 24, while there was little change for women in the same age group.

Among men aged 25 to 54, the number of beneficiaries rose 2.4%, the third consecutive monthly increase, while there was a slight increase (+1.4%) among women in the same age group.

The number of beneficiaries rose slightly in February for men aged 55 and older (+1.7%) and for women in the same age group (+1.2%).

On a year-over-year basis, the fastest rate of decline was among women aged 15 to 24 (-5.1%) and women aged 25 to 54 (-3.7%). There was little change for men in the same age groups.

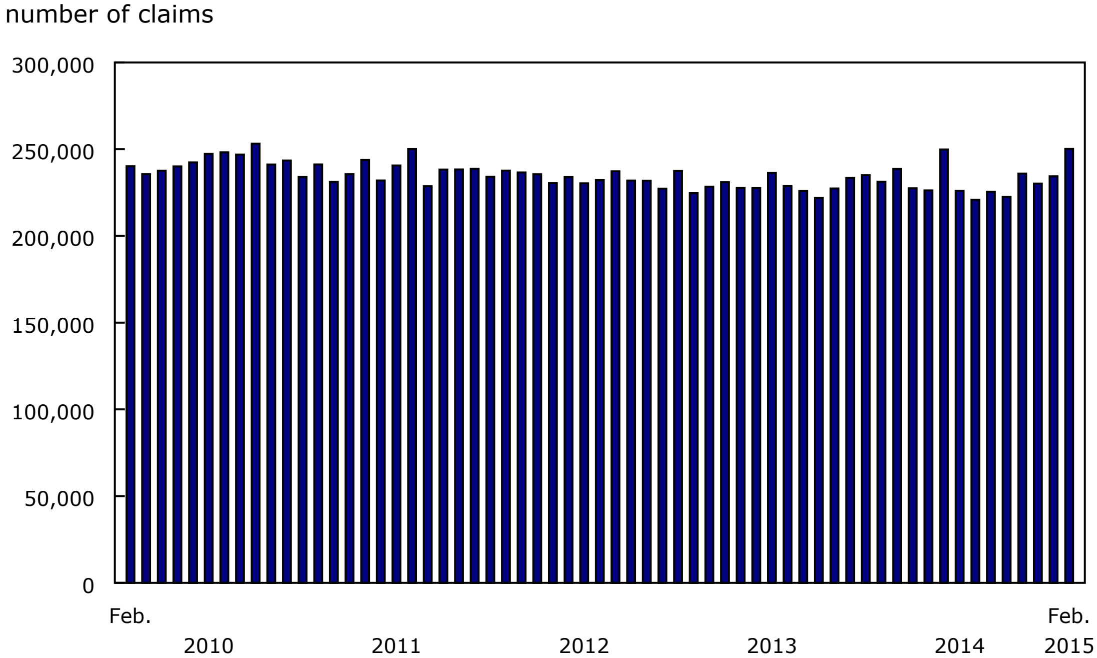
The number of men aged 55 and older receiving benefits increased by 2.7% compared with 12 months earlier, and rose by 2.2% for women in the same age group.

Employment Insurance claims

Nationally, the number of EI claims increased 6.7% in February compared with January. The number of claims provides an indication of the number of people who could become beneficiaries.

Every province had more claims in February, led by Alberta, where there was a marked 29.4% increase. This was the second consecutive month with an increase over 20% for the province and the largest since February 2009. There were also notable increases in February for Prince Edward Island (+11.9%), Manitoba (+6.3%), Ontario (+5.8%), British Columbia (+4.1%) and Saskatchewan (+3.9%). Smaller increases were posted in the other four provinces.

Chart 3
Employment Insurance claims



Source(s): CANSIM table 276-0004.

Note to readers

Regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits are available to eligible individuals who lose their jobs and who are available for and able to work, but cannot find a job. To receive EI benefits, individuals must first submit a claim. The number of claims provides an indication of the number of people who could become beneficiaries.

There is always a certain proportion of unemployed people who do not qualify for benefits. Some unemployed people have not contributed to the program because they have not worked in the past 12 months or their employment is not insured. Other unemployed people have contributed to the program but do not meet the eligibility criteria, such as workers who left their job voluntarily or those who did not accumulate enough hours of work to receive benefits.

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions.

EI statistics are produced from administrative data sources provided by Service Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada. These statistics may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the Employment Insurance Act or administrative procedures.

The number of regular EI beneficiaries and the number of claims received for the current and previous month are subject to revision.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all people who received EI benefits from February 15 to 21. This period coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, initial and renewal claims data are for the entire month.

EI statistics indicate the number of people who received EI benefits, and should not be confused with LFS data, which provide information on the total number of unemployed people.

Geographical definitions

A Census metropolitan area (CMA) or a Census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre. A CMA, also referred to as a 'metropolitan area' in this release, must have a total population of at least 100,000. A CA must have a population of at least 10,000. See Standard Geographical Classification 2011–definitions for more information.

Table 1
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by province and territory, sex and age – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2014	January 2015^{p}	February 2015^{p}	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015
	number			change		% change	
Canada							
Both sexes	**513,250**	**499,840**	**509,780**	**9,940**	**-3,470**	**2.0**	**-0.7**
15 to 24 years	49,070	46,820	48,250	1,430	-820	3.1	-1.7
25 to 54 years	346,610	334,250	340,970	6,720	-5,640	2.0	-1.6
55 years and over	117,570	118,770	120,550	1,780	2,980	1.5	2.5
Men	**320,120**	**313,860**	**321,420**	**7,560**	**1,300**	**2.4**	**0.4**
15 to 24 years	36,310	34,760	36,150	1,390	-160	4.0	-0.4
25 to 54 years	210,610	205,160	210,070	4,910	-540	2.4	-0.3
55 years and over	73,190	73,930	75,200	1,270	2,010	1.7	2.7
Women	**193,130**	**185,990**	**188,350**	**2,360**	**-4,780**	**1.3**	**-2.5**
15 to 24 years	12,750	12,060	12,100	40	-650	0.3	-5.1
25 to 54 years	135,990	129,100	130,900	1,800	-5,090	1.4	-3.7
55 years and over	44,380	44,830	45,360	530	980	1.2	2.2
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Both sexes	**32,530**	**31,120**	**31,830**	**710**	**-700**	**2.3**	**-2.2**
15 to 24 years	2,800	2,660	2,800	140	0	5.3	0.0
25 to 54 years	20,000	18,780	19,180	400	-820	2.1	-4.1
55 years and over	9,730	9,680	9,850	170	120	1.8	1.2
Men	**19,690**	**18,680**	**19,170**	**490**	**-520**	**2.6**	**-2.6**
Women	**12,830**	**12,450**	**12,660**	**210**	**-170**	**1.7**	**-1.3**
Prince Edward Island							
Both sexes	**7,460**	**7,250**	**7,520**	**270**	**60**	**3.7**	**0.8**
15 to 24 years	830	810	850	40	20	4.9	2.4
25 to 54 years	4,530	4,280	4,450	170	-80	4.0	-1.8
55 years and over	2,110	2,150	2,220	70	110	3.3	5.2
Men	**4,530**	**4,430**	**4,570**	**140**	**40**	**3.2**	**0.9**
Women	**2,930**	**2,820**	**2,950**	**130**	**20**	**4.6**	**0.7**
Nova Scotia							
Both sexes	**27,030**	**26,610**	**27,190**	**580**	**160**	**2.2**	**0.6**
15 to 24 years	2,570	2,580	2,640	60	70	2.3	2.7
25 to 54 years	17,640	17,110	17,470	360	-170	2.1	-1.0
55 years and over	6,810	6,920	7,080	160	270	2.3	4.0
Men	**17,330**	**17,270**	**17,700**	**430**	**370**	**2.5**	**2.1**
Women	**9,700**	**9,340**	**9,490**	**150**	**-210**	**1.6**	**-2.2**
New Brunswick							
Both sexes	**32,580**	**31,860**	**32,200**	**340**	**-380**	**1.1**	**-1.2**
15 to 24 years	3,490	3,400	3,430	30	-60	0.9	-1.7
25 to 54 years	20,260	19,550	19,750	200	-510	1.0	-2.5
55 years and over	8,830	8,910	9,020	110	190	1.2	2.2
Men	**20,960**	**20,850**	**21,020**	**170**	**60**	**0.8**	**0.3**
Women	**11,620**	**11,000**	**11,180**	**180**	**-440**	**1.6**	**-3.8**
Quebec							
Both sexes	**149,430**	**150,540**	**154,330**	**3,790**	**4,900**	**2.5**	**3.3**
15 to 24 years	14,290	13,590	14,030	440	-260	3.2	-1.8
25 to 54 years	99,420	99,950	102,350	2,400	2,930	2.4	2.9
55 years and over	35,710	37,010	37,940	930	2,230	2.5	6.2
Men	**97,010**	**98,000**	**100,600**	**2,600**	**3,590**	**2.7**	**3.7**
Women	**52,420**	**52,540**	**53,730**	**1,190**	**1,310**	**2.3**	**2.5**
Ontario							
Both sexes	**154,280**	**145,500**	**144,440**	**-1,060**	**-9,840**	**-0.7**	**-6.4**
15 to 24 years	13,350	12,470	12,540	70	-810	0.6	-6.1
25 to 54 years	109,180	102,050	101,240	-810	-7,940	-0.8	-7.3
55 years and over	31,750	30,970	30,660	-310	-1,090	-1.0	-3.4
Men	**92,940**	**87,580**	**86,940**	**-640**	**-6,000**	**-0.7**	**-6.5**
Women	**61,340**	**57,920**	**57,500**	**-420**	**-3,840**	**-0.7**	**-6.3**

Table 1 - continued
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by province and territory, sex and age – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2014	January 2015p	February 2015p	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015
Manitoba							
Both sexes	**13,490**	**13,370**	**13,500**	**130**	**10**	**1.0**	**0.1**
15 to 24 years	1,800	1,770	1,810	40	10	2.3	0.6
25 to 54 years	9,250	9,140	9,250	110	0	1.2	0.0
55 years and over	2,440	2,460	2,440	-20	0	-0.8	0.0
Men	**8,780**	**8,860**	**9,010**	**150**	**230**	**1.7**	**2.6**
Women	**4,710**	**4,510**	**4,490**	**-20**	**-220**	**-0.4**	**-4.7**
Saskatchewan							
Both sexes	**11,050**	**11,080**	**11,620**	**540**	**570**	**4.9**	**5.2**
15 to 24 years	1,420	1,390	1,480	90	60	6.5	4.2
25 to 54 years	7,340	7,280	7,600	320	260	4.4	3.5
55 years and over	2,290	2,400	2,550	150	260	6.3	11.4
Men	**7,320**	**7,380**	**7,730**	**350**	**410**	**4.7**	**5.6**
Women	**3,730**	**3,700**	**3,900**	**200**	**170**	**5.4**	**4.6**
Alberta							
Both sexes	**30,790**	**31,090**	**35,950**	**4,860**	**5,160**	**15.6**	**16.8**
15 to 24 years	3,570	3,640	4,100	460	530	12.6	14.8
25 to 54 years	21,630	21,560	25,180	3,620	3,550	16.8	16.4
55 years and over	5,590	5,890	6,670	780	1,080	13.2	19.3
Men	**19,010**	**19,930**	**23,720**	**3,790**	**4,710**	**19.0**	**24.8**
Women	**11,770**	**11,160**	**12,230**	**1,070**	**460**	**9.6**	**3.9**
British Columbia							
Both sexes	**51,890**	**48,540**	**48,180**	**-360**	**-3,710**	**-0.7**	**-7.1**
15 to 24 years	4,700	4,230	4,270	40	-430	0.9	-9.1
25 to 54 years	35,360	32,450	32,320	-130	-3,040	-0.4	-8.6
55 years and over	11,830	11,850	11,580	-270	-250	-2.3	-2.1
Men	**30,780**	**29,080**	**29,080**	**0**	**-1,700**	**0.0**	**-5.5**
Women	**21,110**	**19,450**	**19,100**	**-350**	**-2,010**	**-1.8**	**-9.5**
Yukon							
Both sexes	**950**	**880**	**910**	**30**	**-40**	**3.4**	**-4.2**
15 to 24 years	110	100	100	0	-10	0.0	-9.1
25 to 54 years	620	560	580	20	-40	3.6	-6.5
55 years and over	220	220	230	10	10	4.5	4.5
Men	**620**	**550**	**570**	**20**	**-50**	**3.6**	**-8.1**
Women	**330**	**340**	**340**	**0**	**10**	**0.0**	**3.0**
Northwest Territories							
Both sexes	**790**	**720**	**730**	**10**	**-60**	**1.4**	**-7.6**
15 to 24 years	70	60	60	0	-10	0.0	-14.3
25 to 54 years	600	550	550	0	-50	0.0	-8.3
55 years and over	130	110	120	10	-10	9.1	-7.7
Men	**500**	**450**	**470**	**20**	**-30**	**4.4**	**-6.0**
Women	**280**	**270**	**260**	**-10**	**-20**	**-3.7**	**-7.1**
Nunavut							
Both sexes	**470**	**360**	**360**	**0**	**-110**	**0.0**	**-23.4**
15 to 24 years	40	30	40	10	0	33.3	0.0
25 to 54 years	390	280	270	-10	-120	-3.6	-30.8
55 years and over	40	40	50	10	10	25.0	25.0
Men	**310**	**230**	**230**	**0**	**-80**	**0.0**	**-25.8**
Women	**160**	**130**	**130**	**0**	**-30**	**0.0**	**-18.8**

p preliminary
1. Includes people who receive regular income benefits whether or not they participate in one of three employment benefit programs, namely the Skills Development Program, Job Creation Partnerships Program and Self-employment Program.

Source(s): CANSIM table **276-0022**.

Table 2
Initial and renewal claims received, by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2014	January 2015p	February 2015p	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015
	number			change		% change	
Canada	**231,210**	**234,380**	**250,130**	**15,750**	**18,920**	**6.7**	**8.2**
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,830	8,880	9,060	180	230	2.0	2.6
Prince Edward Island	2,270	2,350	2,630	280	360	11.9	15.9
Nova Scotia	9,420	9,340	9,520	180	100	1.9	1.1
New Brunswick	9,660	9,830	10,060	230	400	2.3	4.1
Quebec	69,040	66,620	68,410	1,790	-630	2.7	-0.9
Ontario	73,880	72,900	77,160	4,260	3,280	5.8	4.4
Manitoba	7,650	7,490	7,960	470	310	6.3	4.1
Saskatchewan	5,830	6,350	6,600	250	770	3.9	13.2
Alberta	17,840	23,850	30,850	7,000	13,010	29.4	72.9
British Columbia	25,940	25,850	26,920	1,070	980	4.1	3.8
Yukon	320	380	370	-10	50	-2.6	15.6
Northwest Territories	280	270	280	10	0	3.7	0.0
Nunavut	190	180	170	-10	-20	-5.6	-10.5

p preliminary
Source(s): CANSIM table **276-0004**.

Table 3
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by census metropolitan category[2] – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2014	January 2015[p]	February 2015[p]	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015
	number			change		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Census metropolitan areas	**3,950**	**3,740**	**3,940**	**200**	**-10**	**5.3**	**-0.3**
St. John's	3,950	3,740	3,940	200	-10	5.3	-0.3
Census agglomerations	**3,240**	**3,160**	**3,270**	**110**	**30**	**3.5**	**0.9**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**25,330**	**24,230**	**24,620**	**390**	**-710**	**1.6**	**-2.8**
Prince Edward Island							
Census agglomerations	**3,100**	**2,950**	**3,060**	**110**	**-40**	**3.7**	**-1.3**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**4,360**	**4,300**	**4,450**	**150**	**90**	**3.5**	**2.1**
Nova Scotia							
Census metropolitan areas	**5,040**	**4,850**	**4,880**	**30**	**-160**	**0.6**	**-3.2**
Halifax	5,040	4,850	4,880	30	-160	0.6	-3.2
Census agglomerations	**8,620**	**8,610**	**8,760**	**150**	**140**	**1.7**	**1.6**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**13,370**	**13,140**	**13,550**	**410**	**180**	**3.1**	**1.3**
New Brunswick							
Census metropolitan areas	**5,310**	**5,320**	**5,460**	**140**	**150**	**2.6**	**2.8**
Moncton	3,000	2,860	2,970	110	-30	3.8	-1.0
Saint John	2,310	2,460	2,490	30	180	1.2	7.8
Census agglomerations	**6,710**	**6,550**	**6,630**	**80**	**-80**	**1.2**	**-1.2**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**20,570**	**19,990**	**20,110**	**120**	**-460**	**0.6**	**-2.2**
Quebec							
Census metropolitan areas	**77,330**	**79,870**	**81,720**	**1,850**	**4,390**	**2.3**	**5.7**
Montréal	53,760	55,700	56,760	1,060	3,000	1.9	5.6
Ottawa–Gatineau (Quebec part)	3,590	3,840	3,960	120	370	3.1	10.3
Québec	9,590	9,680	9,950	270	360	2.8	3.8
Saguenay	4,230	4,490	4,600	110	370	2.4	8.7
Sherbrooke	3,050	3,330	3,530	200	480	6.0	15.7
Trois-Rivières	3,120	2,840	2,910	70	-210	2.5	-6.7
Census agglomerations	**21,530**	**21,210**	**21,940**	**730**	**410**	**3.4**	**1.9**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**50,560**	**49,460**	**50,670**	**1,210**	**110**	**2.4**	**0.2**
Ontario							
Census metropolitan areas	**113,260**	**106,500**	**105,550**	**-950**	**-7,710**	**-0.9**	**-6.8**
Barrie	2,510	2,370	2,390	20	-120	0.8	-4.8
Brantford	1,970	1,810	1,830	20	-140	1.1	-7.1
Greater Sudbury	2,560	2,220	2,280	60	-280	2.7	-10.9
Guelph	1,300	1,220	1,180	-40	-120	-3.3	-9.2
Hamilton	7,230	7,010	6,740	-270	-490	-3.9	-6.8
Kingston	1,660	1,620	1,600	-20	-60	-1.2	-3.6
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	5,570	4,960	4,940	-20	-630	-0.4	-11.3
London	5,810	5,290	5,270	-20	-540	-0.4	-9.3
Oshawa	4,260	4,360	4,000	-360	-260	-8.3	-6.1
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario part)	7,160	7,480	7,480	0	320	0.0	4.5
Peterborough	1,530	1,460	1,440	-20	-90	-1.4	-5.9
St. Catharines–Niagara	5,790	5,370	5,200	-170	-590	-3.2	-10.2
Thunder Bay	1,790	1,660	1,690	30	-100	1.8	-5.6
Toronto	59,860	56,060	55,420	-640	-4,440	-1.1	-7.4
Windsor	4,270	3,600	4,120	520	-150	14.4	-3.5
Census agglomerations	**17,670**	**16,660**	**16,700**	**40**	**-970**	**0.2**	**-5.5**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**23,350**	**22,340**	**22,190**	**-150**	**-1,160**	**-0.7**	**-5.0**

Table 3 - continued
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by census metropolitan category[2] – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2014	January 2015^{p}	February 2015^{p}	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015
Manitoba							
Census metropolitan areas	**7,110**	**7,020**	**7,040**	**20**	**-70**	**0.3**	**-1.0**
Winnipeg	7,110	7,020	7,040	20	-70	0.3	-1.0
Census agglomerations	**890**	**870**	**910**	**40**	**20**	**4.6**	**2.2**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**5,490**	**5,480**	**5,550**	**70**	**60**	**1.3**	**1.1**
Saskatchewan							
Census metropolitan areas	**3,630**	**3,640**	**3,690**	**50**	**60**	**1.4**	**1.7**
Regina	1,440	1,410	1,450	40	10	2.8	0.7
Saskatoon	2,190	2,220	2,240	20	50	0.9	2.3
Census agglomerations	**1,900**	**1,930**	**2,220**	**290**	**320**	**15.0**	**16.8**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**5,520**	**5,510**	**5,710**	**200**	**190**	**3.6**	**3.4**
Alberta							
Census metropolitan areas	**20,780**	**20,820**	**23,320**	**2,500**	**2,540**	**12.0**	**12.2**
Calgary	10,210	9,950	11,120	1,170	910	11.8	8.9
Edmonton	10,570	10,860	12,200	1,340	1,630	12.3	15.4
Census agglomerations	**4,770**	**4,830**	**6,000**	**1,170**	**1,230**	**24.2**	**25.8**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**5,240**	**5,440**	**6,630**	**1,190**	**1,390**	**21.9**	**26.5**
British Columbia							
Census metropolitan areas	**29,750**	**26,680**	**26,010**	**-670**	**-3,740**	**-2.5**	**-12.6**
Abbotsford–Mission	2,780	2,630	2,560	-70	-220	-2.7	-7.9
Kelowna	2,460	2,410	2,410	0	-50	0.0	-2.0
Vancouver	21,680	19,070	18,500	-570	-3,180	-3.0	-14.7
Victoria	2,830	2,570	2,550	-20	-280	-0.8	-9.9
Census agglomerations	**12,620**	**12,270**	**12,460**	**190**	**-160**	**1.5**	**-1.3**
Outside census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations	**9,530**	**9,590**	**9,710**	**120**	**180**	**1.3**	**1.9**

p preliminary
1. Includes people who receive regular income benefits whether or not they participate in one of three employment benefit programs, namely the Skills Development Program, Job Creation Partnerships Program and Self-employment Program.
2. 2011 Standard Geographical Classification.

Source(s): CANSIM table **276-0034**.

Table 4
Beneficiaries receiving regular income benefits[1] by occupation,[2] Canada – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2014	January 2015p	February 2015p	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015	January to February 2015	February 2014 to February 2015
	number			change		% change	
All occupations	**513,250**	**499,840**	**509,780**	**9,940**	**-3,470**	**2.0**	**-0.7**
Management occupations	**31,690**	**30,850**	**30,970**	**120**	**-720**	**0.4**	**-2.3**
Senior management occupations	2,810	2,800	2,740	-60	-70	-2.1	-2.5
Other management occupations	28,880	28,050	28,230	180	-650	0.6	-2.3
Business, finance and administrative occupations	**63,910**	**61,010**	**61,710**	**700**	**-2,200**	**1.1**	**-3.4**
Professional occupations in business and finance	5,090	4,580	4,620	40	-470	0.9	-9.2
Financial, secretarial and administrative occupations	17,300	16,550	16,710	160	-590	1.0	-3.4
Clerical occupations, including supervisors	41,520	39,880	40,370	490	-1,150	1.2	-2.8
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	**27,770**	**27,370**	**27,790**	**420**	**20**	**1.5**	**0.1**
Health occupations	**7,840**	**7,500**	**7,510**	**10**	**-330**	**0.1**	**-4.2**
Professional occupations in health, nurse supervisors and registered nurses	1,270	1,250	1,250	0	-20	0.0	-1.6
Technical, assisting and related occupations in health	6,560	6,250	6,270	20	-290	0.3	-4.4
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	**27,780**	**27,380**	**28,500**	**1,120**	**720**	**4.1**	**2.6**
Occupations in social science, government service and religion	14,930	15,010	15,250	240	320	1.6	2.1
Teachers and professors	12,850	12,380	13,250	870	400	7.0	3.1
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	**9,820**	**9,160**	**9,080**	**-80**	**-740**	**-0.9**	**-7.5**
Sales and service occupations	**91,390**	**86,650**	**87,870**	**1,220**	**-3,520**	**1.4**	**-3.9**
Wholesale, insurance, real estate sales specialists, and retail, wholesale and grain buyers	5,160	4,860	4,910	50	-250	1.0	-4.8
Retail salespersons, sales clerks, cashiers, including retail trade supervisors	17,230	15,610	15,570	-40	-1,660	-0.3	-9.6
Chefs and cooks, and occupations in food and beverage service, including supervisors	17,640	16,660	16,710	50	-930	0.3	-5.3
Occupations in protective services	4,970	4,650	4,690	40	-280	0.9	-5.6
Childcare and home support workers	15,200	15,330	15,530	200	330	1.3	2.2
Sales and service occupations (not elsewhere classified), including occupations in travel and accommodation, attendants in recreation and sport as well as supervisors	31,190	29,540	30,460	920	-730	3.1	-2.3
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	**169,530**	**169,560**	**174,270**	**4,710**	**4,740**	**2.8**	**2.8**
Contractors and supervisors in trades and transportation	6,580	6,710	7,020	310	440	4.6	6.7
Construction trades	36,320	36,180	37,200	1,020	880	2.8	2.4
Other trades occupations	38,950	38,610	39,850	1,240	900	3.2	2.3
Transport and equipment operators	39,220	39,730	40,840	1,110	1,620	2.8	4.1
Trades helpers, construction and transportation labourers and related occupations	48,450	48,350	49,360	1,010	910	2.1	1.9
Occupations unique to primary industry	**36,340**	**35,660**	**36,330**	**670**	**-10**	**1.9**	**0.0**
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	**46,010**	**43,990**	**44,970**	**980**	**-1,040**	**2.2**	**-2.3**
Machine operators and assemblers in manufacturing, including supervisors	21,780	20,820	21,600	780	-180	3.7	-0.8
Labourers in processing, manufacturing and utilities	24,240	23,170	23,380	210	-860	0.9	-3.5

p preliminary
1. Includes people who receive regular income benefits whether or not they participate in one of three employment benefit programs, namely the Skills Development Program, Job Creation Partnerships Program and Self-employment Program.
2. 2006 National Occupational Classification – Statistics.

Source(s): CANSIM table **276-0041**.

Available in CANSIM: tables 276-0003, 276-0004, 276-0011, 276-0017, 276-0018, 276-0020 to 276-0022, 276-0033 to 276-0035, 276-0040 and 276-0041.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for March will be released on May 21.

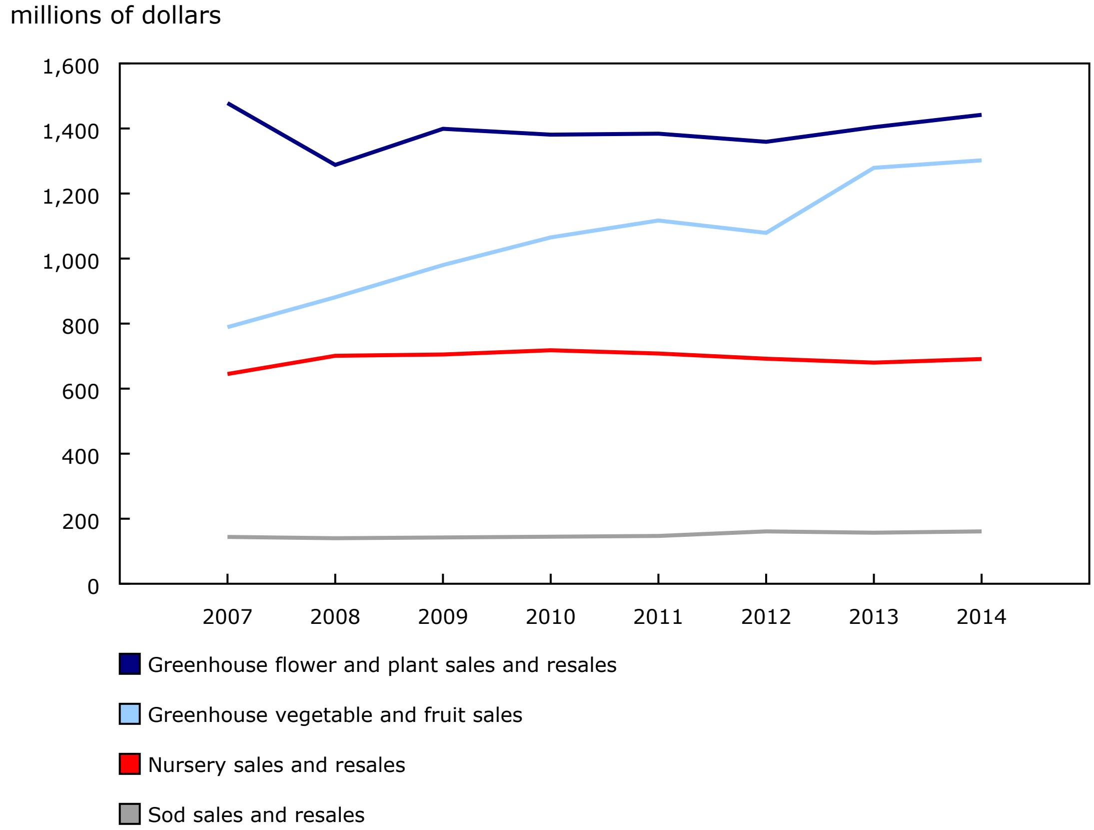
For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **infostats@statcan.gc.ca**).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; **vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca**), Labour Statistics Division.

Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries, 2014

The greenhouse, nursery and sod industry continued its steady expansion, which began in 1990. In 2014, sales increased 2.2% from 2013 to nearly $3.6 billion. Greenhouse products accounted for 76.3% of all greenhouse, nursery and sod sales. Flower and plant sales grew 2.7% compared with 1.8% for vegetable and fruit product sales.

Chart 1
Sales of greenhouse, nursery and sod products

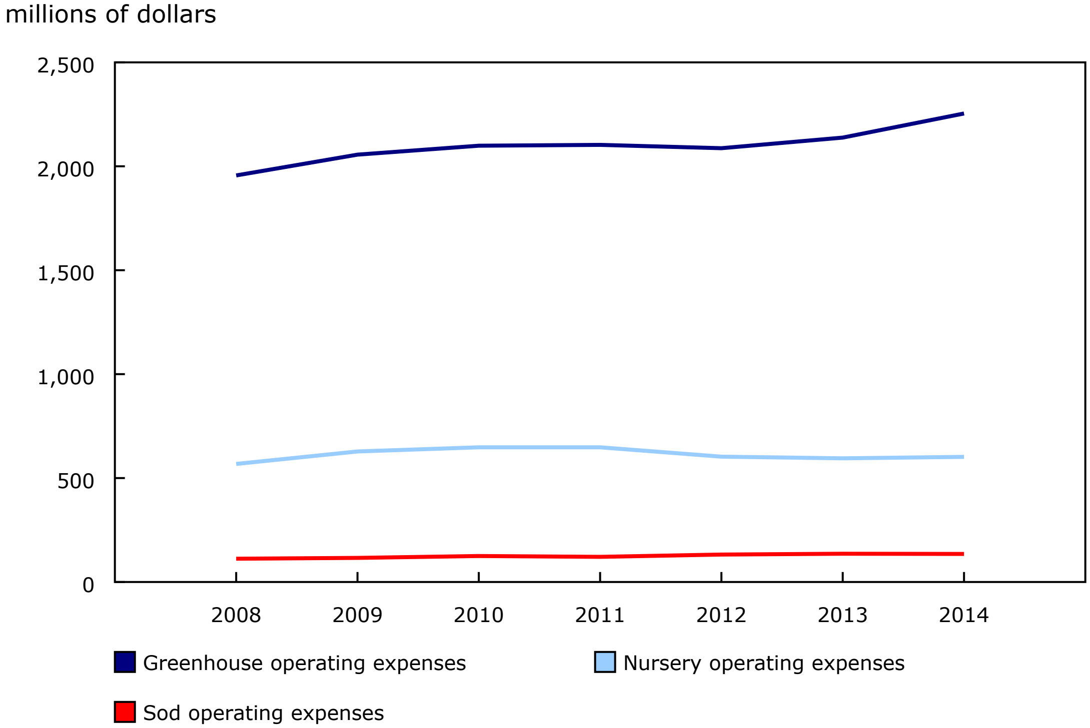


Source(s): CANSIM tables 001-0051, 001-0058 and 001-0060.

Sales of cucumbers grew 5.8% to $326 million and pepper sales rose 2.3% to $408.5 million. Tomato sales decreased 1.3% to $520 million and the tomato area declined 1.1% to 5.6 million square metres. Total greenhouse vegetable area increased 1.2% to 14.6 million square metres in 2014.

Sales and resales of greenhouse flowers and plants reached $1.4 billion in 2014. With $711 million in sales, indoor and outdoor potted plants represented 58.2% of floriculture sales. Ornamental bedding plants accounted for 15.6% of flower and plant sales and cut flowers 12.3%.

Chart 2
Greenhouse, nursery and sod operating expenses



Source(s): CANSIM tables 001-0052 and 001-0061.

Greenhouse sales growth came with a 5.4% increase in total operating expenses. Fuel expenses rose 17.8% to $231 million. This situation was mainly explained by the cold and long winter conditions in 2013/2014. Plant material purchases were up 4.5% to $460 million, while labour costs grew 4.0% to $661 million. Labour cost accounted for 29.3% of total operating expenses. The total number of greenhouse workers declined 1.5% to 33,094 employees.

Nursery product sales and resales rose 1.6% to $691 million. In 2014, nursery operation expenses grew 1.2% to $602 million, while labour costs decreased by 0.8% to $226 million. Nurseries employed 13,513 people in 2014, down 5.0% from 2013. The number of permanent nursery employees fell by 6.5%, while seasonal employees declined by 4.3%. Seasonal employees represented about three-quarter of all nursery employees.

In 2014, sod sales and resales rose 2.1% to $161 million, while expenses fell 0.3% to $135 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**).

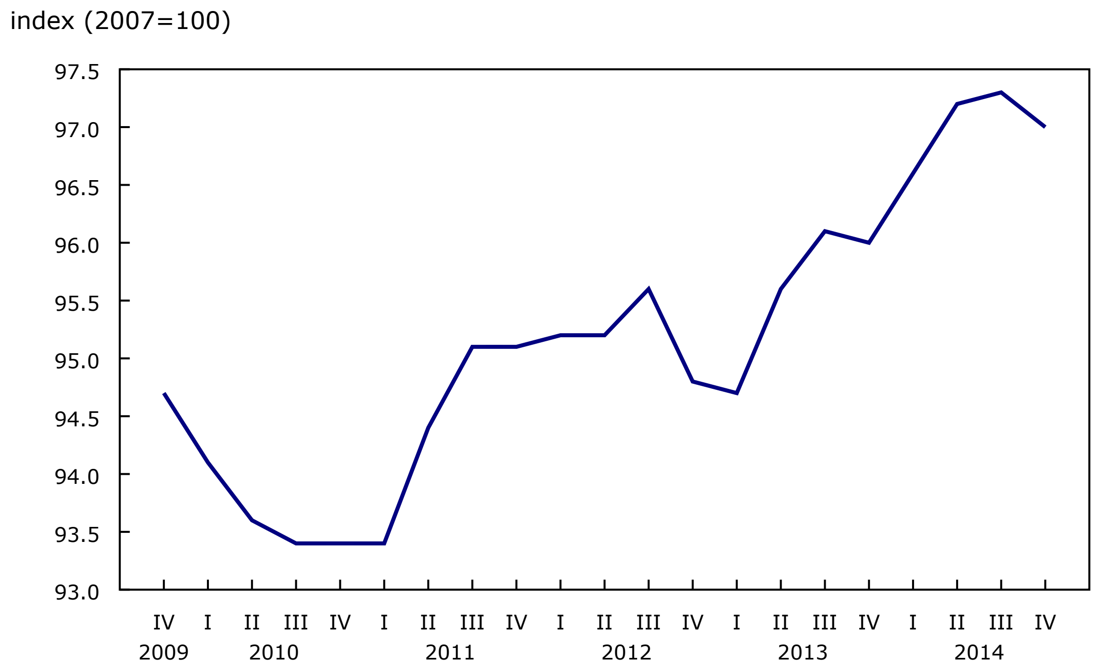
To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Rita Athwal (613-863-7249; **rita.athwal@statcan.gc.ca**), Agriculture Division.

Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing Services Price Index, fourth quarter 2014

The Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing Services Price Index declined 0.3% in the fourth quarter. It was the first quarterly decrease since the fourth quarter of 2013.

The heavy machinery and equipment (construction, transportation, mining and forestry) component declined 0.6% while the office and other commercial and industrial machinery and equipment component increased 0.3%.

Chart 1
Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing Services Price Index



Source(s): CANSIM table 332-0010.

The index was up 1.0% in the fourth quarter compared with the same quarter of 2013, reflecting large increases in the first half of 2014.

Note to readers

This price index measures price changes of rental and leasing activities for the commercial and industrial machinery and equipment industry at the national level.

With each release, data for the previous quarter may have been revised. Data are also subject to an annual revision with the release of second quarter data of the following reference year. The index is not seasonally adjusted.

The Office and Other Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing Services Price Index combine the North American Industry Classification System codes 53242 and 53249.

Table 1
Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing Services Price Index – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance[1]	Fourth quarter 2013	Third quarter 2014[r]	Fourth quarter 2014[p]	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2014	Fourth quarter 2013 to fourth quarter 2014
	%	(2007=100)			% change	
Commercial and industrial machinery and equipment rental and leasing services	**100.00**	**96.0**	**97.3**	**97.0**	**-0.3**	**1.0**
Construction, transportation, mining, and forestry machinery and equipment rental and leasing	68.21	98.0	100.0	99.4	-0.6	1.4
Office and other commercial and industrial machinery and equipment rental and leasing[2]	31.79	91.7	91.6	91.9	0.3	0.2

r revised
p preliminary
1. The relative importance is based on the weight that each five-digit North American Industry Classification System contributes to the overall Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing Services Price Index.
2. Data for office machinery and equipment rental and leasing services and for other commercial and industrial machinery and equipment rental and leasing services were collected separately. The indexes were then combined at aggregation.

Source(s): CANSIM table **332-0010**.

Available in CANSIM: tables 332-0005 and 332-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5137.

The Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing Services Price Index for the first quarter will be released in July.

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**).

Construction Union Wage Rate Index, March 2015

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada was unchanged in March compared with the previous month. The composite index increased 2.2% 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.

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 28.

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**).

Large urban transit, February 2015

Total operating revenue (excluding subsidies) for 10 of Canada's largest urban transit systems rose 1.4% in February from the same month in 2014 to $278.6 million.

Over the same period, ridership increased 0.4% to 136.5 million passenger trips.

Note to readers

This survey collects operating revenue (excluding subsidies) and passenger trip data from 10 urban transit companies across Canada. These companies represent approximately 80% of urban transit activity revenue across Canada.

Data aggregations are available for Canada.

The aggregations in this release are not seasonally adjusted.

Available in CANSIM: table 408-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.

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**).

Inter-corporate ownership, first quarter 2015

The first quarter issue of the product *Inter-corporate Ownership* is now available.

This product is a directory of corporate ownership in Canada that provides information on every individual corporation that is part of a group of commonly controlled corporations with combined assets exceeding $600 million or combined revenue exceeding $200 million. Individual corporations with debt obligations or equity owing to non-residents exceeding a net book value of $1 million are covered as well.

Ultimate corporate control is determined through a careful study of holdings by corporations, the effects of options, insider holdings, convertible shares and interlocking directorships.

The information presented is based on non-confidential returns filed by Canadian corporations under the *Corporations Returns Act* and on research using public sources such as Internet sites. Entries for each corporation provide both the country of control and the country of residence.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2503.

The first quarter 2015 issue of *Inter-corporate Ownership* (**61-517-X**) is now available via Statistics Canada's electronic file transfer system.

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

To order this product, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Louise Noel (**iofd-clientservicesunit@statcan.gc.ca**), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.

Refined petroleum products, March 2015

Data for March on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products for Canada and the regions are now available upon request. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Note to readers

These data are subject to revision.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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**).

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