

Agri-Food Statistics Update



Issue No: CR11-4

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Branch monitors statistical indicators of agri-food activity for Alberta. The Agri-Food Statistics Update is designed to provide users with commentary on current issues, trends and new developments related to agriculture and the food and beverage processing industries. Up-to-date statistics are supplemented with informative charts and diagrams. To gauge Alberta's performance, comparative data and information are often available for Canada and the provinces.

This update presents an analysis of the Alberta crop production estimates from the Statistics Canada report released on December 6, 2011, entitled "November Estimates of Production of Principal Field Crops, Canada, 2011". The Alberta estimates were generated from a Statistics Canada survey of 9,715 farms in the province, during the period from October 24 to November 8, 2011.

Just to note, the November estimates are the third and final production estimates for the year. These are considered more accurate than the two previously released July 31 and September estimates, as the November survey was conducted during the latter part of the crop season. As well, the sample size for the November survey is much larger.

Please visit the following website for a complete listing of Agri-Food Statistics Update releases:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270)

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November Estimates of Production of Principal Field Crops, Alberta, 2011

On December 6, 2011, Statistics Canada released its report entitled "November Estimates of Production of Principal Field Crops, Canada, 2011".

Key Messages

- Alberta's total 2011 production of principal field crops in Alberta was estimated at 31.5 million tonnes, a six per cent increase over last year, and 28 per cent above the 10-year average (2001-2010).
- The higher production stems from an increase in harvested acres, along with relatively strong yields for crops.
- In 2011, canola production set a new record, increasing by 12 per cent over 2010, as both harvested area and yield reached record highs.
- Compared to their 10-year averages, production was up for spring wheat (35 per cent), canola (72 per cent), oats (six per cent), and dry peas (29 per cent)...but down for durum (25 per cent), and barley (three per cent).
- In general, crop growing conditions in the province this year were favourable. Provincial average yields were above their respective 10-year averages, with normal to above average crop quality.

