

# Agri-Food Statistics Update



## Issue No: CR08-5

Collected from a variety of sources, the **Statistics and Data Development Unit** 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.

Please refer to the following website for a 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 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Alberta, 2008

On December 4, 2008, Statistics Canada released its report entitled "November Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Canada, 2008". The estimates for Alberta contained in the report were generated from a Statistics Canada survey of 9,425 farms in the province conducted during the period from October 24 to November 10, 2008. The Statistics and Data Development Unit of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development reviewed the survey results and provided input before the estimates were released by Statistics Canada.

Based on the November estimate, total 2008 production of principal crops in Alberta reached a record 30.27 million tonnes. This is 13 percent higher than last year, and 29 percent above the 10-year average. Due to improved crop growing conditions, provincial average yields for major grains and oilseeds this year are higher than in 2007. Also, contributing to the record production is the increased total seeded and harvested crop acreage in the province, the result of strong commodity prices.

The November estimate is considered to be more accurate than the previously released September estimate since the November survey was conducted during the latter part of the crop season. As well, the sample size for the November survey was much larger, compared to the September survey. The November estimate is the final production estimate for 2008 field crops.

**Alberta**

December 19, 2008

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# November Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, 2008

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## 2008 Crop Production, Alberta

On December 4, 2008, Statistics Canada released its report entitled "November Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Canada, 2008". Based on the report, total 2008 production of principal field crops in Alberta reached a record 30.27 million tonnes, or 13 percent higher than last year, and 29 percent above the 10-year average (see Table 1). The record production stems from excellent yields and increased harvested acreage. Provincial average yields for major grains and oilseeds are estimated to be higher than in 2007, and their 10-year averages (see Table 2). Total seeded area and harvested acreage for principal field crops in the province are both higher than in 2007, the result of strong grains and oilseeds prices.

Total production of spring wheat jumped 39 percent, to a record 7.27 million tonnes this year. The record production is due to an increase in harvested area and excellent yields. The provincial average yield is estimated at 47.3 bushels per acre, up 18 percent from 2007. The total harvested area increased 18 percent, to 5.66 million acres. For durum wheat, production jumped to 1.08 million tonnes (61 percent higher than in 2007), as both yields and harvested area increased significantly from last year. The provincial average yield is estimated at 43.0 bushels per acre, up 33 percent from 2007, and harvested area increased 21 percent to 0.92 million acres. Similarly, due to a larger harvested area and improved yields, total production of winter wheat more than doubled last year's production, reaching 0.39 million tonnes in 2008. Overall, total production of all wheat increased 44 percent from 2007, to a record 8.74 million tonnes.

In 2008, total barley production is estimated at 5.45 million tonnes, up seven percent from 2007, and nine percent above the 10-year average. The provincial average yield for barley is estimated at 66.7 bushels per acre, or 21 percent higher than in 2007, while harvested area fell 12 percent. Total oat production, estimated at 0.54 million tonnes, is down 14 percent from 2007, and 23 percent below the 10-year average. The lower production is due to a 19 percent reduction in harvested acreage, as a result of competition for land from other crops. The provincial average yield is estimated at 70.2 bushels per acre, or seven percent higher than in 2007.

Producers in Alberta produced a record 4.32 million tonnes of canola, 27 percent higher than in 2007, and 65 percent above the 10-year average. The marked increase in production is due to record harvested area and significantly higher yields. Total harvested area was up three percent to 5.17 million acres. With respect to yield, the provincial average is estimated at 36.9 bushels per acre, or 23 percent higher than in 2007. Also, production of dry peas in 2008 jumped 39 percent, to a record 0.73 million tonnes. This stems from a combination of higher yields and record harvested area. The provincial average yield is estimated at 38.4 bushels per acre, or 18 percent higher than in 2007. The harvested area increased 18 percent, to a record 0.70 million acres.

## 2008 Crop Production, Canada

Based on the November estimate, total Canadian production for most major crops in 2008 increased significantly from last year, with canola and dry peas reaching record highs. This is attributed to higher yields and larger harvested areas. However, production of oats fell significantly, due to a decline in harvested area. By crop type, estimated Canadian production in 2008 are 28.61 million tonnes for all wheat, 11.78 million tonnes for barley, 4.27 million tonnes for oats, 12.64 million tonnes for canola, and 3.57 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).

**Table 1: Alberta Crop Production ('000 tonnes)**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	10-year		% change	
							average	08 vs 07	08 vs avg	
Winter Wheat	144	196	191	167	176	387	115	120%	235%	
Spring Wheat	5,278	6,393	7,160	6,679	5,231	7,272	5,766	39%	26%	
Durum Wheat	1,007	983	1,021	657	670	1,078	862	61%	25%	
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>6,430</b>	<b>7,571</b>	<b>8,371</b>	<b>7,503</b>	<b>6,076</b>	<b>8,736</b>	<b>6,743</b>	44%	30%	
Oats	827	828	830	706	627	541	707	-14%	-23%	
Barley	5,421	5,628	5,232	4,405	5,114	5,448	5,001	7%	9%	
Fall Rye	76	69	79	57	37	76	55	107%	39%	
Mixed Grains	41	45	41	66	24	31	44	27%	-31%	
Flaxseed	25	29	53	36	16	33	30	102%	11%	
Canola	2,223	2,926	3,651	3,425	3,402	4,323	2,614	27%	65%	
Dry Beans	60	34	53	61	54	35	49	-36%	-28%	
Dry Peas	491	642	618	553	528	731	520	39%	41%	
Mustard Seed	39	51	31	26	27	37	30	37%	24%	
Triticale	30	28	22	15	18	19	32	9%	-40%	
Tame Hay	6,396	7,394	8,754	8,142	9,276	9,344	6,427	1%	45%	
Fodder Corn	454	340	454	953	839	572	475	-32%	20%	
Sugar Beets	680	744	608	871	762	345	700	-55%	-51%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,193</b>	<b>26,330</b>	<b>28,796</b>	<b>26,818</b>	<b>26,801</b>	<b>30,271</b>	<b>23,428</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>29%</b>	

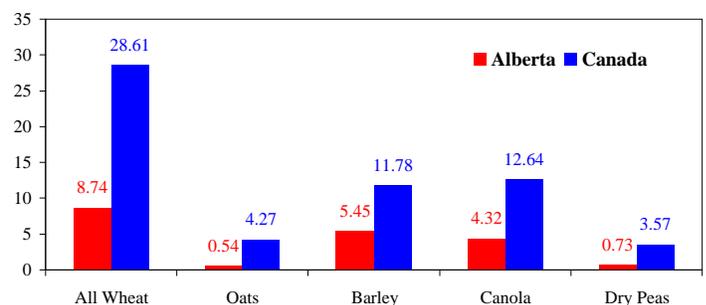
Totals may not add up due to rounding. 10-year average refers to 1998-2007.  
Source: Statistics Canada, and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

**Table 2: Alberta Crop Area and Yield**

	2007		2008		2008		10-year		Yield % change	
	seeded	hrvtd	seeded	hrvtd	yield	avg yld	08 vs 07	08 vs avg		
	('000 acres)		(bu/acre)		('000 acres)		(bu/acre)		(tons/acre)	
Winter Wheat	160	140	46.1	270	270	52.6	45.2	14%	16%	
Spring Wheat	4,867	4,785	40.2	5,700	5,655	47.3	39.3	18%	20%	
Durum Wheat	765	760	32.4	930	920	43.0	39.6	33%	9%	
<b>All Wheat</b>	<b>5,792</b>	<b>5,685</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>6,845</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>36.4</b>	19%	29%	
Oats	1,050	620	65.6	850	500	70.2	67.3	7%	4%	
Barley	4,850	4,270	55.0	4,150	3,750	66.7	57.8	21%	15%	
Fall Rye	70	40	36.3	70	70	42.9	36.6	18%	17%	
Mixed Grains	140	20	59.0	130	25	60.0	53.7	2%	12%	
Flaxseed	30	30	21.3	45	45	28.9	22.8	36%	27%	
Canola	5,035	5,000	30.0	5,200	5,170	36.9	29.4	23%	25%	
Dry Beans	53	53	37.7	40	35	36.7	36.1	-3%	2%	
Dry Peas	610	595	32.6	710	700	38.4	34.7	18%	11%	
Mustard Seed	85	85	14.0	110	105	15.6	15.1	11%	3%	
Triticale	40	18	38.9	35	14	54.6	40.1	40%	36%	
	(tons/acre)		(tons/acre)		(tons/acre)		(tons/acre)		(tons/acre)	
Tame Hay	6,240	5,585	1.8	6,200	5,585	1.8	1.3	0%	41%	
Fodder Corn	70	50	18.5	70	40	15.8	16.7	-15%	-5%	
Sugar Beets	34	34	24.7	18	17	22.4	21.8	-9%	3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,099</b>	<b>22,085</b>	-	<b>24,528</b>	<b>22,901</b>	-	-	-	-	

hrvtd - harvested. avg - average. yld - yield. 10-year average refers to 1998-2007  
Totals may not add up due to rounding.  
Source: Statistics Canada, and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

**Figure 1: Production of Principal Field Crops, 2008  
Alberta and Canada (million tonnes)**



Source: Statistics Canada, and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development