Livestock estimates, July 1, 2017

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Cattle and hog inventories were up on July 1, compared with the previous year. This was the second consecutive year-over-year increase for the cattle inventories. However, sheep inventories were down for the fifth year in a row.

Cattle

On July 1, Canadian farmers had 13.0 million cattle on their farms, up 0.1% from July 1, 2016. Inventories were 23.3% below their peak level recorded in July 2005.

Cattle producers retained slightly more breeding stock in 2017, as the number of beef heifers held for breeding on Canadian farms was up 0.6% to 673,200 head compared with the same date a year earlier. The number of beef cows increased 0.5% to 3.8 million head. The inventory of calves on July 1 increased 0.2% to 4.2 million. The number of feeder heifers decreased 5.0%, while the number of steers increased 0.9% from July 1, 2016.

As of July 1, 74,530 farms reported inventories of cattle and calves, down 1.5% from July 1, 2016 and down 6.6% from the same date in 2015. Canadian farmers had 1.4 million dairy cows and heifers on their farms, up 1.6% from July 1, 2016.

Total disposition of cattle and calves rose 1.5%, driven by higher cattle slaughter levels during the first half of 2017 compared with the same period in 2016. Total slaughter increased 6.4% to 1.6 million head over the first six months of 2017. However, international exports decreased 21.5% to 340,800 during the first half of 2017 compared with the same period in 2016, due to lower exports of both calves and cattle.

Canadian cattle prices are increasing after having dropped during the last six months of 2016. They have not returned to the historical high achieved in 2015, but have continued to remain above the average price for the past five years.

Hogs

Hog producers reported 14.1 million hogs, up 2.1% from July 1, 2016, marking the fifth consecutive year-over-year increase. The hog inventory is 11.8% above July 1, 2012. As of July 1, there were 7,880 hog farms in Canada, an increase of 1.0% from the same date a year earlier. These farms reported 1.3 million sows and gilts, up 1.2% from July 1, 2016.

Canada exported 2.9 million hogs in the first half of 2017, up 2.0% from the same period in 2016.

Hog slaughter increased in Canada in the first six months of 2017, up 2.3% from the same period in 2016 to 10.9 million head.

The January-to-June 2017 pig crop was 14.9 million head, up 2.9% from the same period in 2016.

Canadian hog prices have been increasing on average during the first half of 2017, however prices remain variable and the five-year trend is flat.

Sheep

The sheep breeding herd decreased, as the number of ewes declined 1.6% to 521,100 while replacement lambs were slightly down by 0.2%, to 86,900. The number of market lambs decreased 2.5% from July 1, 2016 to 401,700.

International exports of sheep decreased to 4,800 head in the first six months of 2017, a decrease of 42.2% from the same period in 2016.

Canadian lamb prices have increased in the first half of 2017 compared with prices from the same period in 2016.

Note to readers

Livestock estimates are available for Canada and the provinces as well as for the United States.

Changes in methodology were made to the Livestock Survey beginning with the July 2017 occasion. For more information on the methodology changes, consult the document, The Integrated Business Statistics Program, in the Behind the data feature of our website.

Intercensal revisions will be implemented with the release of the January 2018 Livestock Estimates.

Table 1
Cattle inventories

	July 1, 2016[r]	January 1, 2017[r]	July 1, 2017	January 1, 2017 to July 1, 2017	July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2017
	thousands of head			% change	
Canada	**12,935.0**	**11,850.0**	**12,950.0**	**9.3**	**0.1**
East	3,085.0	3,025.0	3,095.0	2.3	0.3
Atlantic	217.9	215.5	222.9	3.4	2.3
Quebec	1,175.0	1,150.0	1,160.0	0.9	-1.3
Ontario	1,692.1	1,659.5	1,712.1	3.2	1.2
West	9,850.0	8,825.0	9,855.0	11.7	0.1
Manitoba	1,155.0	1,065.0	1,175.0	10.3	1.7
Saskatchewan	2,675.0	2,285.0	2,700.0	18.2	0.9
Alberta	5,355.0	4,880.0	5,330.0	9.2	-0.5
British Columbia	665.0	595.0	650.0	9.2	-2.3

r revised
Source(s): CANSIM table **003-0032**.

Table 2
Hog inventories

	July 1, 2016[r]	January 1, 2017[r]	July 1, 2017	January 1, 2017 to July 1, 2017	July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2017
	thousands of head			% change	
Canada	**13,840.0**	**13,760.0**	**14,130.0**	**2.7**	**2.1**
East	7,906.0	7,803.0	7,985.0	2.3	1.0
Atlantic	85.1	82.7	86.5	4.6	1.6
Quebec	4,360.0	4,345.0	4,455.0	2.5	2.2
Ontario	3,460.9	3,375.3	3,443.5	2.0	-0.5
West	5,934.0	5,957.0	6,145.0	3.2	3.6
Manitoba	3,190.0	3,180.0	3,340.0	5.0	4.7
Saskatchewan	1,180.0	1,185.0	1,225.0	3.4	3.8
Alberta	1,475.0	1,505.0	1,490.0	-1.0	1.0
British Columbia	89.0	87.0	90.0	3.4	1.1

r revised
Source(s): CANSIM table **003-0100**.

Table 3
Sheep inventories

	July 1, 2016[r]	January 1, 2017[r]	July 1, 2017	January 1, 2017 to July 1, 2017	July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2017
	thousands of head			% change	
Canada	**1,053.3**	**816.0**	**1,034.4**	**26.8**	**-1.8**
East	603.3	474.0	585.2	23.5	-3.0
Atlantic	42.5	32.7	40.5	23.9	-4.7
Quebec	239.0	196.0	232.0	18.4	-2.9
Ontario	321.8	245.3	312.7	27.5	-2.8
West	450.0	342.0	449.2	31.3	-0.2
Manitoba	89.0	77.0	94.2	22.3	5.8
Saskatchewan	115.0	90.0	111.0	23.3	-3.5
Alberta	193.0	136.0	190.0	39.7	-1.6
British Columbia	53.0	39.0	54.0	38.5	1.9

r revised
Source(s): CANSIM table **003-0031**.

Available in CANSIM: tables 003-0026, 003-0028, 003-0031, 003-0032, 003-0083, 003-0085, 003-0094 and 003-0099 to 003-0105.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3460.

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; **STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca**) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; **STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca**).