

Stocks of principal field crops, March 31, 2018

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As of March 31, 2018, total stocks of wheat and barley were lower compared with the same date in 2017. Meanwhile, total stocks of canola, corn, soybeans, oats, dry peas and lentils were up. Many of the increases were a result of increased on-farm stocks.

Wheat

Total wheat stocks were at 16.4 million tonnes as of March 31, 2018, down 3.9% from the same day a year earlier. This decrease was the result of lower stock levels being held on farms, down 1.3% to 12.5 million tonnes, as well as an 11.3% decrease in commercial stocks to 3.9 million tonnes. Farm stock levels in Saskatchewan decreased by 5.6% to 5.7 million tonnes, while farm stocks in Alberta increased 4.9% to 4.4 million tonnes.

Canola

As of March 31, total canola stocks were up 14.4% from the same day a year earlier to 9.1 million tonnes. This increase resulted from a 18.2% rise in on-farm stocks to 7.5 million tonnes. On-farm stocks in Saskatchewan were up 15.3% to 3.8 million tonnes, while they increased 22.7% in Alberta to 2.7 million tonnes. Commercial stocks, however, edged down 0.8% to 1.6 million tonnes.

Corn for grain

Corn for grain stocks were up 4.3% from the same date a year earlier to 8.7 million tonnes. Commercial stocks were down 25.5% to 2.1 million tonnes, while farm stocks were up 19.1% to 6.7 million tonnes. Farm stocks in Ontario increased 34.1% to 3.7 million tonnes.

Soybeans

Soybean stocks increased 38.7% to 2.6 million tonnes as of March 31, likely the result of record production of 7.7 million tonnes in 2017. On-farm stocks were up 58.1% to 1.5 million tonnes. Manitoba was the main driver, as on-farm stocks in the province increased by 150.0% to 700 000 tonnes. Meanwhile, commercial stocks increased by 18.3% to 1.1 million tonnes.

Barley and oats

Total barley stocks decreased 25.5% to 3.4 million tonnes as of March 31, after a 10.7% production decline in 2017. Farm stocks decreased 28.3% compared with the same day a year earlier to 3.0 million tonnes. However, commercial stock levels increased 12.0% to 355 000 tonnes.

Total oat stocks increased 19.8% to 2.1 million tonnes compared with March 31, 2017. Both on-farm stocks (+21.8%) and commercial stocks (+4.9%) contributed to the overall increase. These stock levels follow a 15.3% rise in oat production in 2017 over 2016.

Dry peas and lentils

Total stocks for lentils increased 34.8% from March 31, 2017, to 1.5 million tonnes, mainly driven by on-farm stock levels that rose 41.1% to 1.4 million tonnes. Meanwhile, stocks of dry peas rose 12.7% to 1.9 million tonnes. These increases continue a pattern seen for the commodities in the last stock report taken on December 31, 2017. The current stock increases as of March 31, 2018, could be attributable to a rise in import tariffs introduced by India. Exports of both dry peas and lentils on March 31, 2018, are down substantially from the same date last year, with dry pea exports declining 40.7% to 1.8 million tonnes, and lentil exports down 49.6% to 1.0 million tonnes (CANSIM 001-0041).



Note to readers

The first iteration of the 2018 Field Crop Survey (March) is a survey of stocks of principal field crops conducted from March 2 to 29, 2018. Farmers were asked to report the amounts of grain, oilseeds and special crops in on-farm storage. The March, July and December editions of this survey also have two questions pertaining to permanent on-farm storage capacity and the percentage of grain stored on farm using temporary storage methods. Data are available upon request.

Changes in methodology were made to the Field Crop Survey beginning with the April 27, 2018, release on seeding intentions. For more information on the methodology changes, consult the document, [The Integrated Business Statistics Program](#), in the Behind the data feature of our website.

Data on commercial stocks of western major crops originate from the Canadian Grain Commission. Data on commercial stocks of special crops originate from a survey of handlers and agents of special crops. Data on commercial stocks of corn and soybeans are based on data from Statistics Canada's survey of grain elevators in Eastern Canada.

National supply-disposition data for the major grains and special crops are published jointly with the current release on stock levels and are available in CANSIM tables 001-0041 to 001-0043.

Stocks data are subject to revisions during the two years following their initial publication.

Release calendar: *The dates for upcoming releases from the Field Crop Reporting Series are available [online](#).*

Table 1
Total stocks of principal field crops at March 31

	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	March 2016 to March 2017	March 2017 to March 2018
	thousands of tonnes			% change	
Total wheat	14 379	17 051	16 392	18.6	-3.9
Durum wheat	2 705	4 078	3 419	50.8	-16.2
Wheat excluding durum	11 674	12 973	12 973	11.1	0.0
Barley	3 733	4 560	3 399	22.2	-25.5
Canola	8 615	7 934	9 077	-7.9	14.4
Corn for grain	7 762	8 390	8 749	8.1	4.3
Dry field peas	1 351	1 695	1 911	25.5	12.7
Flaxseed	555	417	327	-24.9	-21.6
Lentils	555	1 135	1 530	104.5	34.8
Oats	1 819	1 750	2 097	-3.8	19.8
Rye	99	247	232	149.5	-6.1
Soybeans	1 948	1 895	2 628	-2.7	38.7

Note(s):

The estimates in this table have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Wheat types may not add up to total wheat as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM table [001-0040](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [001-0017](#) and [001-0040 to 001-0043](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [3401](#), [3403](#), [3404](#), [3443](#), [3464](#), [3476](#), [5046](#), [5153](#) and [5223](#).

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).