

Grain Prices, Can or US\$/tonne					Oilseeds & Other Prices, Can or US\$/tonne or index					9-Feb-24
Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	Commodity	Month	This week	Last week	Year ago	
SRW Wheat	Mar	219.27	220.37	289.54	Soybeans	Mar	434.68	436.70	566.59	
HRW Wheat	Mar	221.02	236.26	334.00	Soya Meal	Mar	314.60	323.67	453.03	
HRS Wheat	Mar	252.06	256.84	342.27	Soya Oil	Mar	1,041.94	986.16	1,334.73	
CWRS Wheat	Spot	329.44	322.40	425.71	Canola	Mar	586.90	592.10	801.00	
CPS Wheat	Spot	286.55	291.70	407.93	Crude Oil(WTI)	Mar	76.81	72.30	79.58	
Corn	Mar	168.89	174.30	267.90	Dollar Index	Mar	103.94	103.80	103.53	
Oats	Mar	243.32	241.05	244.29	S&P 500	cash	5,028	4,971	4,076	
For price specs. go to: www.open-i.ca/PriceSpec.htm					SRW wheat	Dec	228.27	234.52	300.84	
Data in red are 12-month highs, blue 12-month lows, green revised					Corn	Dec	184.34	187.69	267.90	
					Canola	Nov	602.10	602.50	810.90	

COMMENT: Most US crop futures prices were lower again this week with many contracts trading at 12-month lows. USDA February demand and supply ending stock forecast were above pre-report expectations for the three major US crops and only slightly below for global wheat and coarse grains. US soybean export sales last week were as level necessary to meet current US export forecasts. Corn and wheat sales were well above such. Canola futures trade volume has been unusually large this week. This is noted without suggestion as to the implication.

NEWS: Statistics Canada's estimates December 31 Canadian stocks of 11 principal crops at 59.1 million tonnes, 7 percent below both a year earlier and a five-year average. Last year's estimate was close to the five-year average. Only for canola, barley and soybeans were stocks higher. The biggest declines were for crops – durum and lentils, grown largely in the areas most effected by drought the supply for which is limited. Or for oats for which supplies were particularly burdensome a year ago.

Dec 31 Stocks of Canadian Crops

	2023	2023, %	2023,
	Mtonnes	of 5-yr avg	% of 2022
Wheat	17,722	93.9	93.2
Canola	12,851	97.3	101.3
Barley	5,453	110.0	105.6
Durum	2,959	68.7	73.0
Oats	2,144	80.8	59.7
Peas	1,843	75.6	84.4
Lentils	1,002	55.5	69.5
Corn	11,298	99.5	95.2
Soybeans	3,831	103.3	109.8

Data source: Stats Can

Interest in the USDA's February Supply and Use forecast update is normally mainly limited to South American spring crop output estimates as most other data is better established. Further the information is in something of a shadow of new crop forecasts made at the USDA Ag Forum.

Revisions to current, 2023-24 crop year **US wheat supply and use data** is for stable supplies, slightly lower domestic use, unchanged exports and ending stocks less than two percent higher, now 15 percent above beginning stocks. For **global wheat** supply and use estimates were increased, with ending stocks cut marginally to about 4 percent below beginning stocks and to the lowest level since 2016.

For **US corn** estimates for food, seed, and industrial use were lower and ending stocks raised by less than half a percent to 60 percent above beginning stocks. **Global coarse grain** output forecast was reduced fractionally due to a reduction in anticipated Brazilian corn output. However, estimates of last years Brazilian crop were raised and with minimal adjustments to other balancing components ending stocks were lowered about one percent and now stand 4 percent below beginning stocks. The **US soybean** export forecast was lowered due to the slower than expected pace of export sales attributed to Brazilian competition. With domestic use unchanged, the ending stock forecast was raised 12 percent and is now 19 percent above beginning stocks. **Global oilseed** revisions included higher beginning stocks, lower production, and higher ending stocks which were revised up by more than one percent and are now nine percent above beginning stocks. Adjustment to South American soybean production were limited to a less than one percent cut in the Brazilian crop estimate with lower yields largely offset by a larger seeded area.

OPINION: On-farm crop stock estimates are probably challenging for Statistics Canada. How much grain is in a farm storage bin may be difficult to assess and subject to Trump style error of estimation. Once the bin is swept clean there is only one answer regardless as to who is asking. After the 2021 bin emptying drought there some major adjustments on crop stocks estimates. December full stock revisions averaged about nine percent following the drought. Last year the average was down to about three percent.

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