



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, December 9, 2003

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Study: Canada and Australia: A comparison of economic performance, 1980 to 2000** 3  
 Despite a labour productivity gap in favour of Australia, Canada's standard of living grew at the same pace as Australia's during the late 1990s, according to a new study comparing the two countries. This is a significant achievement, given that the OECD has identified Australia's as one of the "miracle economies" of the 1990s.
- **Grandparents and grandchildren, 2001** 6  
 For many grandparents, later life is a time for enjoying the benefits of retirement. But thousands are finding themselves in an unusual position — raising their children's children.

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### Canadian Social Trends

Winter 2003

Each quarter, *Canadian Social Trends* integrates data from many sources to examine emerging social trends and issues. The winter 2003 issue contains five articles.

The feature article, "Across the generations: Grandparents and grandchildren," uses data from the 2001 Census of Population and the 2001 General Social Survey to examine the characteristics of grandparents in Canada, with a focus on those who share homes with their grandchildren. "30 years of education: Canada's language groups" discusses how the educational profiles of Francophones, Anglophones and allophones have changed over the past 30 years, and the factors that have contributed to many of these changes. "Parental leave: More time off for baby" examines if parents now remain at home longer with their infants, and the socio-demographic factors which influence the length of leave time taken. "Update on education" explores the changing educational attainment profile of Canadians using census data. Finally, "Healthcare in French outside Quebec" examines the potential pool of healthcare practitioners who use French at work.

This issue of *Canadian Social Trends* also features the latest social indicators as well as information about Statistics Canada's products and services.

The winter 2003 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 71 (11-008-XIE, \$9/\$29; 11-008-XPE, \$12/\$39) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Warren Clark (613-951-2560; [cstsc@statcan.ca](mailto:cstsc@statcan.ca)), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Study: Canada and Australia: A comparison of economic performance 1980 to 2000

Despite a labour productivity gap in favour of Australia, Canada's standard of living grew at the same pace as Australia's during the late 1990s, according to a new study comparing the two countries.

This is a significant achievement, given that the OECD has identified Australia's as one of the "miracle economies" of the 1990s.

Canada and Australia have many similarities, which allow a ready comparison. Australia, like Canada, is a net importer of production technology. Machinery and transportation equipment represent about one-half of total imports of both countries. The bulk of high tech equipment of both countries is imported from the United States.

Both countries have abundant natural resources and the structures of their economies are dominated by the primary sector: 55% of Australia's exports are in the form of raw materials, compared with 46% for Canada.

From 1995 to 2000, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in Canada increased at an annual average rate of 3.0%, just marginally above the average of 2.9% in Australia.

#### Gross domestic product per capita and its sources of growth

	1983 to 2000	1983 to 1988	1988 to 2000	1988 to 1995	1995 to 2000
	average annual growth rate in %				
GDP per capita					
Canada	1.9	3.0	1.4	0.4	3.0
Australia	2.4	3.0	2.1	1.6	2.9
Labour productivity					
Canada	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.5
Australia	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.2	2.5
Labour utilization					
Canada	0.6	2.1	0.1	-0.9	1.5
Australia	0.8	1.7	0.4	0.5	0.3
Average hours					
Canada	0.0	0.3	-0.1	-0.3	0.2
Australia	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Employment rate					
Canada	0.4	1.6	0.0	-0.7	0.9
Australia	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.0
Participation rate					
Canada	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4
Australia	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3

This occurred despite a widening gap between the two countries in terms of labour productivity. In Australia, productivity rose at an average annual pace of 2.5% during this five-year period, compared with only 1.5% in Canada.

#### Note to readers

This release is based on analysis in a report titled *Prosperity and productivity: A Canada–Australia comparison*.

*Prosperity is measured as gross domestic product per person. This measure is subject to a number of well-known criticisms as a welfare indicator, but is a meaningful indicator nonetheless. The growth of GDP per person can be broken down into growth of labour productivity (real GDP per hour worked) and growth of labour utilization (hours worked per person). The latter is composed of average hours worked per job, the employment rate (the number employed relative to the working age population) and the participation rate (the ratio of labour force to total population).*

*This study used the March 2003 vintage of the data. Future revisions in the data produced by Canada and Australia may change the magnitude of some of the numbers reported in this study. However, they are not expected to result in significant changes in the story on the performance of the two countries.*

How could Canada increase its standard of living as fast as Australia, but be less productive? The answer related primarily to differences in their labour markets.

Canada's performance in terms of the growth in its living standard comes largely from a significant increase in the growth of labour utilization, that is, the combination of higher average hours worked and a higher rate of employment relative to the total population.

Despite its lag in productivity growth, Canada's growth in living standard kept up with Australia's, since Canada put in relatively more working time per person.

In 2001, GDP per capita in Canada was about \$28,900, slightly higher than \$27,300 in Australia. Australia's population was roughly 20 million, about two-thirds of Canada's population of nearly 31 million.

#### Performance also similar during the 1980s

Canada's prosperity also compared favourably with Australia's during the 1980s. However, it fell behind afterwards, primarily as a result of the deep recession in Canada in the early 1990s and of the major restructuring of the Canadian economy following implementation of the Canada–United States free trade agreement.

From 1983 to 1988, GDP per capita advanced at an average of roughly 3.0% a year in both countries, though as a result of different forces. Canada outperformed Australia in terms of labour utilization, but Australia posted faster productivity gains.

Labour productivity rose 1.3% in Australia, compared with 0.9% in Canada. However, labour utilization in Canada rose at an annual average pace of 2.1%, compared with only 1.7% in Australia.

In addition, Canada put people to work much more rapidly during the 1980s. Canada's employment rate (employment to the working age population) increased 1.6% a year from 1983 to 1988, three times the rate of growth of 0.5% in Australia.

The last five years of the 1990s marked the impact of information technology on economic growth. Prosperity growth in both countries vaulted to an average of about 3% a year.

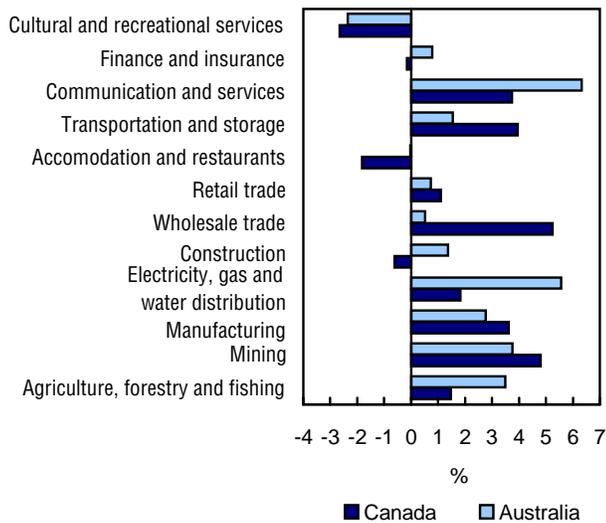
As a result of the strong productivity growth in the 1990s, Australia raised its ranking on GDP per capita to seventh in the world in 2001, up from 15th in 1990.

**Marked differences in performance by industry**

The gap in the growth in labour productivity in favour of Australia was primarily attributable to the fact that capital-labour intensity grew less rapidly in Canada.

While capital formation grew less rapidly in Canada, hours at work increased more rapidly than in Australia. As a result, capital per hour — a key factor behind labour productivity growth — increased more slowly in Canada. A similar result was found in a recent comparison of Canada and the United States (*The Daily*, July 12, 2002).

**Sectoral sources of business sector's labour productivity growth, 1981-1988 (average annual growth rate in percentage)**



The 1980s and the 1990s witnessed marked differences between Canada and Australia in terms of their performance by industry.

During the 1980s, Canada outperformed Australia in about half of the sectors which account for the bulk of the business sector's GDP, that is, in transportation, trade, manufacturing and mining.

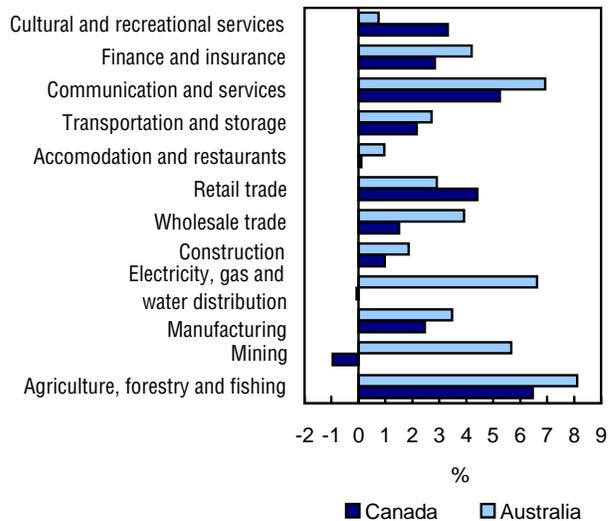
Australia outperformed Canada in the remaining sectors: communications, public utilities, agriculture, construction and finance.

During the 1990s, Canada's advantage over Australia was confined to two sectors: agriculture and retail trade. This does not, however, mean that Canada performed poorly in the remaining sectors; the productivity of other sectors was high by historical standards.

Canada experienced rapid productivity gains in the finance sector (+3%) and communication sector (+4%), compared with a modest 1.5% in transportation and wholesale trade.

From 1995 to 2000, all Australian sectors outperformed their Canadian counterparts.

**Sectoral sources of business sector's labour productivity growth, 1995-2000 (average annual growth rate in percentage)**



The report *Prosperity and productivity: A Canada–Australia comparison* (11F0027MIE2003018, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*. More information on papers related to productivity is also available online ([www.statcan.ca/english/studies/eaupdate/prod.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/studies/eaupdate/prod.htm)).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Tarek M. Harchaoui (613-951-9856) or Faouzi Tarkhani (613-951-5314), Micro-Economic Analysis Division. ■

## Grandparents and grandchildren

2001

For many grandparents, later life is a time for enjoying the benefits of retirement. But thousands are finding themselves in an unusual position — raising their children's children.

In 2001, a total of 56,700 grandparents, or 1% of all grandparents, were living with their grandchildren without either of the child's parents involved, according to a report based on census data that appears in *Canadian social trends*.

These households, which consist of grandparents, grandchildren and no middle generation, are sometimes referred to as "skip-generation households."

Two-thirds of the grandparents in these households were women, and just under one-half (46%) were retired.

Data from the 2001 Census showed that 56,800 children lived with these grandparents. Of these youngsters, just under one-half, or 25,200, were aged 14 or under. These children accounted for 0.4% of the total population in this age group, about the same proportion as in 1991.

Provincially, the proportion of children aged 14 and under in skip-generation households was highest in Saskatchewan. There, 1.2% of grandchildren in this age group lived alone with a grandparent, three times the national average. The highest proportion, 2.3%, was in Nunavut, more than five times the national average.

However, in Quebec, only 0.2% of grandchildren aged 14 or under lived alone with a grandparent, and in Ontario, only 0.3% did so.

Census data also showed that nearly two-thirds (65%) of grandparents in skip-generation households were financially responsible for the household.

### Nearly half a million grandparents live in shared homes

The 56,700 grandparents who lived in skip generations in 2001 accounted for about 12% of the more than 474,400 grandparents who shared households with their grandchildren.

The census provided a breakdown of these shared households, based on various generations living in them.

A majority of grandparents in shared homes, about 242,800, or 51%, lived in multi-generation households, that is, with their adult child, his or her spouse, and the grandchildren. This could include the so-called

#### Note to readers

*This release is based on a report available today in the winter edition of Canadian social trends. Data came from two sources — the 2001 Census and the 2001 General Social Survey (GSS).*

*The 2001 Census expanded the definition of family to include children living with their grandparents in the absence of their parents.*

*The GSS interviewed a representative sample of more than 24,000 Canadians aged 15 and older living in private households in the 10 provinces. About 6,400 grandparents were sampled in the GSS, representing 5.7 million grandparents in Canada.*

"sandwich" generation in which the middle generation, particularly women, care for both children and elderly parents.

One-third of the total, or about 158,200, lived in households in which the middle generation was a lone parent, most likely the mother. Lone mothers are more likely than mothers in two-parent families to be in need of support.

Only 16% of grandparents in multi-generational households where the middle generation was a couple were primary financial providers. But in cases where the middle generation was a lone parent, 50% of grandparents were financially responsible.

### Profile of grandparents: Each has average of nearly five grandchildren

GSS data showed that there were 5.7 million grandparents in 2001. Each grandparent had on average 4.7 grandchildren.

Only 2% of women and 1% of men aged 45 and under were grandparents. In the age group 55 to 64, nearly two-thirds of women and just over one-half of men were grandparents.

However, about 80% of senior women aged 65 and older were grandmothers, while 74% of senior men were grandfathers.

More than one-half (53%) of all grandparents were retired, while 30% reported they were still in the labour force. About 11% stated their main activity as homemakers or childcare providers.

In 2001, over two-thirds (68%) of all grandparents were married, while 18% were widowed. An additional 10% were divorced or separated or had never been married, while 4% were living common-law.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3901 and 4501.**

The article "Across the generations: Grandparents and grandchildren" is now available in the winter 2003 edition of *Canadian social trends*

(11-008-XIE, \$9/\$29; 11-008-XPE, \$12/\$39). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anne Milan (613-951-2756; [cstsc@statcan.ca](mailto:cstsc@statcan.ca)), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division. ■

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### 2001 Census home page

Statistics Canada today unveils a new 2001 Census home page that provides a simple, comprehensive access to data from the 2001 Census as well as several other features, including analytical articles, maps and search engines.

The new page provides several advantages. It presents information into four broad categories: data and analysis, maps, reference material, and recent releases. New search capabilities are available, such as searches by topic and by geography, to ease the process of finding information. The new home page also makes a clear distinction between products that are sold and products that are free. It gives direct access to new provincial and territorial profiles, and to federal electoral districts profiles. It also includes links to the 1996 Census, to information on the 2006 Census and to the Census of Agriculture.

#### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3901.**

To access the Census home page, click on *Census* in the navigation bar.

For more information, contact the nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

### Canada's journey to an information society 1997 to 2002

A new compendium is now available that paints a thorough and up-to-date picture of Canada's information society, including the evolving information and communications technology (ICT) sector.

The publication *Canada's journey to an information society* pulls together a variety of data and analyses from different sources within Statistics Canada into one comprehensive report. Building on the first compendium, *Networked Canada: Beyond the information highway* (56-504-XIE) and the ongoing *Connectedness Series* (56F0004MIE), this volume traces the evolution of the economy and highlights many facets of Canada's transformation into an information society.

Produced under Statistics Canada's Connectedness program, the new compendium examines the growth and performance of the ICT sector, including key indicators of change. It also offers analysis on the changes taking place in individual industries that supply ICT goods and services.

The report goes on to address economy-wide issues by sector, and covers ICT diffusion and use among business and households and governments, including in the health, education and justice sectors.

The compendium further presents a collection of thematic articles on topical issues of the information society, such as the high-tech labour market, the digital divide, broadband use and deployment, and how cultural industries use ICTs.

Finally, Canada's international involvement in the information society is examined through contributions from policy departments on Canada's role in promoting a global information society, with particular emphasis on assistance to developing countries.

*Canada's journey to an information society, 1997 to 2002* (56-508-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Communications*.

For more information, contact Ben Veenhof (613-951-5067) or Lucienne Sabourin (613-951-2581), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

### Rural economic diversification

1986 to 1996

Economic diversification, as measured by the degree to which the workforce is spread across a variety of industrial sectors, increased in nearly two-thirds of Canada's rural communities from 1986 to 1996, according to a new study.

However, only four out of every 10 rural communities (41%) experienced a diversifying economy and a growing workforce during this 10-year period. There were also large differences among the provinces and within regions.

It also found that communities within a census division, roughly equal to a county, may be geographically close, but may not share the same economic characteristics.

This suggests two ideas. First, elements other than the regional context, such as leadership skills and community cohesion, may be behind a community's economy.

Secondly, there is a need to compare rural communities to themselves and to reduce the emphasis on urban-rural contrasts. In other words, there should be a greater focus toward equalizing socio-economic

differences among rural communities, and assisting those that are doing poorly on a regional scale.

Just over one-half (52%) of communities dominated by agriculture recorded growth in both their workforce and in diversification, as did 41% of those dominated by mining. Only a small proportion of those dominated by logging and forestry showed growth.

The study "Rural economic diversification: A community and regional approach" is now available online in the *Rural and small town Canada analysis and bulletin* series, Vol. 4, no. 7 (21-006-XIE, free). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Population and demography*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marjorie Page (613-951-4547; [marjorie.page@statcan.ca](mailto:marjorie.page@statcan.ca)) or Roland Beshiri (613-951-6506; [roland.beshiri@statcan.ca](mailto:roland.beshiri@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Telecommunications services price indexes

1999-2002 (preliminary)

A quarterly, Canada-level price index (1999=100) for wired long-distance telephone services to business is now available for 1999-2002. The index measures change over time in the prices for wired long-distance telephone services provided by telecommunications carriers. The table 326-0011 has been terminated and replaced by the table 326-0019.

**Available on CANSIM: table 326-0019.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5041.**

For more information on these indexes, contact Prices Division (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Beaudry (613-951-5646; [gilles.beaudry@statcan.ca](mailto:gilles.beaudry@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Canadian social trends**, Winter 2003, no. 71  
Catalogue number **11-008-XIE** (\$9/\$29).

**Canadian social trends**, Winter 2003, no. 71  
Catalogue number **11-008-XPE** (\$12/\$39).

**Economic analysis research paper series:  
Prosperity and productivity: A Canada–Australia  
comparison**, no. 18  
Catalogue number **11F0027MIE2003018**  
(free).

**Rural and small town Canada analysis bulletin:  
Rural economic diversification — A community and  
regional approach**, 1986–1996, Vol. 4, no. 7  
Catalogue number **21-006-XIE**  
(free).

**Canada's journey to an information  
society**, 1997 to 2002  
Catalogue number **56-508-XIE**  
(free).

**Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises**, Third  
quarter 2003, Vol. 14, no. 3  
Catalogue number **61-008-XIE** (\$28/\$93).

**Canada's balance of international payments**,  
Second quarter 2003, Vol. 51, no. 2  
Catalogue number **67-001-XIB** (\$32/\$100).

**2001 Provincial and Territorial  
Profiles, 2001 Census, 2001 Census**  
Catalogue number **94F0046XIE**  
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Design 1 - 2002 (F) Catalogue 11-001-XIE (2002-05-01)



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 8:30 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- Map-based index: May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production: Apr. 1997 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11



### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's data retrieval system. A telephone enquiry service is available with toll-free access for those located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services — from seminars to consultations — are also offered. For information, contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre.

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