



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, June 24, 1997**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Labour force income profiles, 1995** 2  
 The number of Canadians who earned income from employment at any time in 1995 increased by 223,470 to reach 14.4 million — the largest change since 1989.

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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### Labour force income profiles

1995

Labour force income profiles, released today, examines the income of Canada's labour force in 1995. The data were obtained from the income tax returns filed in the spring of 1996. Produced annually, these data are a unique source of information and are ideal for supporting market research and policy decisions.

The data are available for a variety of geographic areas including: Canada; the provinces and territories; cities and towns; census metropolitan areas; census divisions; forward sortation areas (first three characters of the postal code) and letter-carrier routes. Labour force income profiles are available for over 26,000 postal areas across Canada. The following data are an example of median employment income for urban forward sortation areas with at least 500 tax filers. In the Toronto census metropolitan area, the median employment income ranged from \$15,800 in M9N (Toronto) to \$44,200 in M4N (North York). In the Vancouver census metropolitan area, V7G (North Vancouver) had the highest median employment income at \$32,500 and V6A (Vancouver) had the lowest at \$14,000. Since the Labour force income profiles are an enumeration of tax filers, the data for cities and smaller areas are similar in reliability to national and provincial data.

For further information on this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; Internet: [saadinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:saadinfo@statcan.ca)), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.



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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Labour force income profiles

1995

The number of Canadians who earned income from employment at any time in 1995 increased by 223,470 to reach 14.4 million — the largest change since 1989. Women accounted for 54% of the 1995 increase. These data include both part- and full-time workers.

The median employment income of Canada's labour force was essentially unchanged after adjusting for inflation. The median, the point at which half the population are above and half are below, was \$20,600 in 1995 — \$24 less than the amount required to keep up with the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

#### Growth rate largest in Yukon and British Columbia

Among the provinces and territories, the Yukon and British Columbia had the highest percentage increases in the number of people who reported income from employment. The 2.7% increase in British Columbia brought the total to 1.9 million. Ontario added the largest number of employment income recipients in 1995, increasing by 94,230 to reach 5.4 million. The only province to record a drop in employment income recipients was Newfoundland (-1.8% to 253,360).

The median employment income was \$25,900 for men and \$16,000 for women in 1995. Both men and women experienced an increase on a current dollar basis. However, the gains were not sufficient to withstand inflation. These medians refer to the earnings of both full- and part-time workers.

#### Self-employment continues to rise, especially for women

There was almost no change (-0.8%) from 1990 to 1995 in the number of Canadians whose employment income consisted only of wages and salaries, leaving the total at 12.1 million. However, self-employment as a sole or second source of employment grew substantially since the 1990 recession. The number of Canadians whose employment income consisted entirely of self-employment earnings increased 27% from 1990 to reach 1.2 million. Over the same period, growth among those receiving both self-employment earnings and wages and salaries was 25%, bringing the total to just over 1.0 million. These individuals represented 47% of the 2.4 million who received any self-employment income at any time in 1995.

#### Note to readers

Data for the Labour force income profiles for 1995 were obtained from income tax returns filed in the spring of 1996.

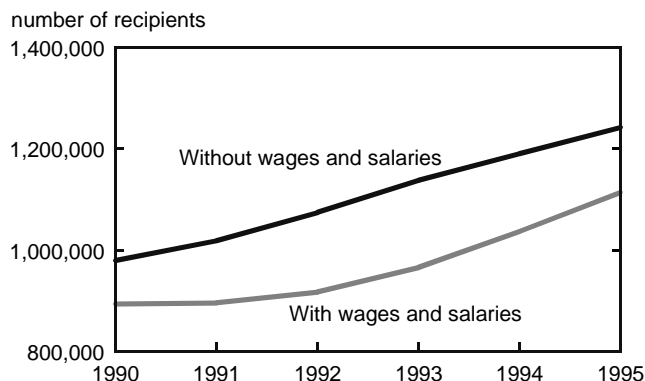
Employment income refers to income received at any time in 1995 from either wages, salaries, commissions, or self-employment, and includes remuneration for both full- and part-time work. The labour force is defined as all persons who report employment income or Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. A person who reports a wage, salary, or commission, self-employment income, and UI benefits is counted as a person receiving a wage, salary, or commission, as a self-employed person, and as an UI recipient. He or she will, however, only be counted once as an employed person and once as a member of the labour force. This definition of the labour force differs from that used by the monthly Labour Force Survey in that it is based on income and refers to a year rather than a month.

An individual is counted as a UI recipient if he or she received benefits at any time in 1995. Besides regular benefits, these include sickness, maternity, adoption, retirement and fishing benefits, payments for attending approved training courses, and payments for participating in job creation projects or work-sharing agreements. On July 1, 1996, the Unemployment Insurance Program officially became known as the Employment Insurance Program. As the 1995 Labour force income profiles are based on 1995 tax information, the term "Unemployment Insurance" is used.

The move to self-employment differs considerably for men and women. Although there were fewer women than men reporting self-employment income in 1995, growth since 1990 was much stronger for women. The number of women reporting only self-employment income (no wages or salaries) increased 47% since 1990 to 445,950. The comparable figure for men increased 18% to 796,540. The pattern was similar for men and women reporting both self-employment income and wages and salaries. Since the 1990 recession, self-employment income and wages and salaries grew by 42% for women to 411,180, and increased 17% for men to 703,330.

Although self-employment grew more for women than for men, women earned half of what men earned. Among men who received self-employment income in 1995, with or without wages and salaries, the average amount of income received from their self-employment activities was \$13,600 while the average for women was \$7,300.

**Substantial growth in self-employment income recipients**



**Median employment income increases in Windsor**

Among census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in 1995, the rate of increase in the number of persons receiving employment income was the largest in Windsor (+4,120 to 141,520 persons). Among CMAs, only Ottawa-Hull experienced a decline (-0.2%, or down 1,070 to 505,880).

As in 1994, Oshawa had the highest median employment income of all CMAs, followed by Ottawa-Hull. The median employment income in Windsor increased by \$819 in 1995 to reach \$24,200, the largest increase of all CMAs.

**Median employment income by province 1995**

	Men	Women	Total
	\$		
<b>Canada</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>20,600</b>
Newfoundland	17,500	10,200	13,600
Prince Edward Island	16,500	10,600	13,500
Nova Scotia	21,800	12,500	16,800
New Brunswick	20,400	11,300	15,400
Quebec	24,100	15,400	19,700
Ontario	28,800	18,100	23,000
Manitoba	22,900	14,800	18,400
Saskatchewan	21,000	13,500	16,900
Alberta	26,300	14,800	19,900
British Columbia	27,900	16,700	21,600
Yukon	27,600	20,400	24,100
Northwest Territories	29,200	19,700	24,400

**Median employment income in census metropolitan areas**

	1995		1994
	\$	Rank	Rank
Oshawa	27,700	1	1
Ottawa-Hull (Ontario)	26,600	2	2
Ottawa-Hull (Quebec)	24,900	3	3
Hamilton	24,200	4	5
Windsor	24,200	4	8
Toronto	24,100	6	4
Thunder Bay	24,000	7	7
Kitchener	23,900	8	6
Vancouver	22,800	9	9
London	22,700	10	11
Victoria	22,500	11	10
Regina	22,200	12	13
Calgary	22,200	12	12
Sudbury	22,100	14	16
Québec	21,800	15	13
Halifax	21,600	16	15
Montréal	21,100	17	17
Edmonton	20,800	18	18
<b>Canada</b>	<b>20,600</b>		
Winnipeg	20,500	19	19
St. John's	20,000	20	20
Saint John	19,800	21	20
Saskatoon	19,600	22	23
St. Catharines - Niagara	19,500	23	22
Chicoutimi - Jonquière	19,400	24	23
Sherbrooke	19,100	25	25
Trois-Rivières	19,100	25	26

**Unemployment Insurance recipients and benefits return to pre-recession levels**

A 5.5% drop in the number of persons reporting income from Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits continued a three-year trend. The decreases reflected a combination of individuals returning to employment, changes in eligibility criteria, and people exhausting their benefits. Since the peak in 1992, the number of people reporting UI benefits fell by 681,250 persons, a decline of 19.8%. The 1995 decrease returned the number of persons reporting UI benefits to the pre-recession level of 2.8 million persons. From 1992, the total amount of UI benefits received by Canadians dropped 29% to \$12.4 billion.

For further information on this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; Internet: [saadinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:saadinfo@statcan.ca)), Small Area and Administrative Data Division. ■

## OTHER RELEASES

### Department store sales and stocks

May 1997

Department store sales rose 1.2% from April to \$1,310 million. Compared with May 1996, sales were up 10.3% (seasonally adjusted). Department store sales have followed an upward trend since the end of 1993 except for a pause in the last half of 1995.

Unadjusted sales totalled \$1,292 million, up 11.6% over May 1996.

Alberta led all provinces with the largest unadjusted year-over-year increase (+17.9%). Strong year-over-year gains were also recorded for British Columbia (+16.6%), Saskatchewan (+14.0%), Ontario (+11.6%) and Nova Scotia (+10.2%). Overall, sales in the Atlantic provinces were up 10.0% over the same month last year. Department store retailers in Quebec posted a year-over-year gain of 6.3% followed closely by Manitoba with a 5.7% increase.

Sales for Calgary (+19.6%), Edmonton (+16.8%), and Vancouver (+15.7%) reflected the surge in reported sales among the two western-most provinces. Toronto (+14.0%) and Halifax-Dartmouth (+12.9% with one additional store than in May 1996) also posted a double-digit increase. Increased sales were also reported for Hamilton (+7.4%), Montréal (+7.4%), and Ottawa-Hull (+6.0%). Winnipeg (+3.9%) and Québec City (+1.8%) recorded modest year-over-year gains, although there were two less stores operating in both census metropolitan areas than a year earlier.

### Department store sales including concessions

	May 1997	May 1996 to May 1997	Jan. to May 1997	Jan.-May 1996 to Jan.-May 1997
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions	% change	\$ mil- lions	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,291.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>5,199.8</b>	<b>9.4</b>
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island	22.7	12.0	89.8	5.6
Nova Scotia	38.2	10.2	153.7	7.0
New Brunswick	28.7	8.3	112.5	4.4
Quebec	248.0	6.3	971.7	6.0
Ontario	532.8	11.6	2,171.2	10.8
Manitoba	54.5	5.7	217.8	6.2
Saskatchewan	42.2	14.0	168.6	11.4
Alberta	145.2	17.9	584.1	11.9
British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories	179.3	16.6	730.5	9.9

Data on department store sales by merchandise department and both raw and seasonally adjusted total stocks will be available shortly.

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113 (series 3).

The May 1997 issue of *Department store sales and stocks* (63-002-XPB, \$17/\$165) will be available in July. See *How to order publications*.

For analytical information, contact Irwin Bess (613-951-4166) Retail Commodity Section, Distributive Trades Division. For further information on this release, contact Louise G n reux (613-951-3549). ■

## Employment insurance

April 1997 (preliminary — seasonally adjusted)

The number of Canadians who received regular employment insurance benefits was estimated at 569,000 in April, down 3.7% from March. This was the seventh consecutive monthly decline. In April, the largest declines were observed in Saskatchewan (-12.7%) and Alberta (-8.4%). Since September 1996, the number of regular beneficiaries has fallen by 18.3%.

Regular benefit payments declined for the fourth consecutive month, 0.4% in April to \$744 million. Seven provinces and territories recorded declines, led by Alberta (-9.8%). Payments have trended downward since April 1996.

### Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	April 1997	March to April 1997
	Seasonally adjusted	
		%
		change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>569,150</b>	<b>-3.7</b>
Newfoundland	33,950	-5.0
Prince Edward Island	8,890	-6.2
Nova Scotia	31,610	-2.3
New Brunswick	34,170	-6.3
Quebec	201,980	-3.0
Ontario	144,910	-3.1
Manitoba	12,880	-7.0
Saskatchewan	8,780	-8.4
Alberta	27,340	-12.7
British Columbia	67,110	-2.4
Yukon	1,220	-3.7
Northwest Territories	1,080	-5.9

The number of individuals who applied for employment insurance benefits in April increased slightly (+0.4%) to 229,000. Nine of the provinces and territories registered increases, ranging from 1.9% in New Brunswick to a 10.7% jump recorded in Manitoba. Despite the increase in April, total claims are down 14.6% compared with April 1996.

## Employment insurance statistics

	March 1997	April 1997	March to April 1997
	Seasonally adjusted		
			%
			change
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	591 <sup>P</sup>	569 <sup>P</sup>	-3.7
Reg. payments (\$ millions)	747.1	744.2	-0.4
Claims ('000)	228	229	0.4
	April 1996	April 1997	April 1996 to April 1997
	Unadjusted		
			%
			change
All beneficiaries ('000)	1,049	882 <sup>P</sup>	-16.0
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	827	679 <sup>P</sup>	-17.8
Claims ('000)	228	212	-6.8
Payments (\$ millions)	1,396.3	1,349.8	-3.3
	Year-to-date (January to April)		
	1996	1997	1996 to 1997
			%
			change
Claims ('000)	1,044	926	-11.3
Payments (\$ millions)	5,693.2	5,115.1	-10.2

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Note:** "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants paid regular benefits (e.g., due to layoff) or special benefits (e.g., due to illness).

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717, 5735 and 5736.**

For further information on this release, contact Michael Scrim, Labour Division (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; Internet: [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)). ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Electric lamps (light bulbs and tubes), May 1997**  
**Catalogue number 43-009-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation, May 1997**  
**Catalogue number 44-004-XPB**  
(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

**Surface and marine transport, Vol.13, no. 3**  
**Catalogue number 50-002-XPB**  
(Canada: \$13/\$83; outside Canada: US\$13/US\$83).

**Trucking in Canada, 1995**  
**Catalogue number 53-222-XPB**  
(Canada: \$52; outside Canada: US\$52).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

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**The Daily**  
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997  
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**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, 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 relatively weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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