



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Earning characteristics of two-partner families, 1995**
 Dual-earning remains the norm for two-partner families. In 1995, both partners worked in six out of ten two-partner families, unchanged from the previous year, though down from 1989 when average family income was at its peak.

2
- **Estimates of principal field crop production, July 31, 1997**
 Extremely dry conditions throughout July in the southern and central areas of the Prairies stressed crops at a critical stage, and farmers in this region are expecting much lower yields than last year for all major crops.

5

OTHER RELEASES

- Employment Insurance, June 1997

6
- Department store sales and stocks, July 1997

7
- Shipments of office furniture products, June 1997

7
- Crushing statistics, July 1997

7

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

8

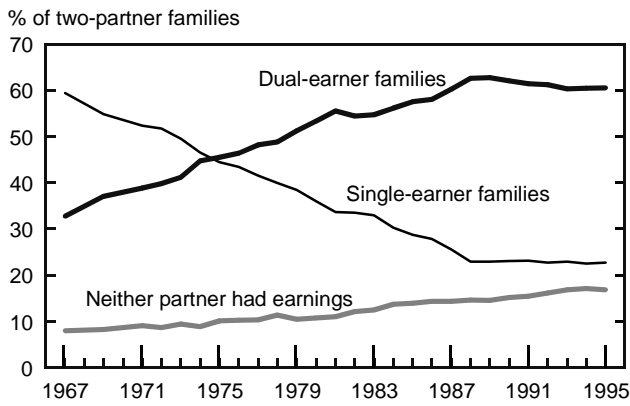


MAJOR RELEASES

Earning characteristics of two-partner families
 1995

Dual-earning remains the norm for two-partner families. In 1995, both partners worked in 60.5% of two-partner families, unchanged from the previous year, though down from 1989 (62.7%) when average family income was at its peak.

Long-standing trend to increased dual-earning levels off in late 1980s



Changes in the labour market and demographic factors have contributed to a growing income gap between dual-earner and single-earner families. When adjusted for inflation, the average 1995 pre-tax income of dual-earner families was \$68,946, virtually the same as in 1989. Conversely, single-earner families had a pre-tax average of \$49,956 in 1995, 10.6% lower than in 1989.

Once income taxes are factored in, the gap between dual-earner and single-earner incomes was somewhat reduced, and both family types had income declines between 1989 and 1995. Dual-earner family taxes rose during this period, bringing their after-tax income down 2.4% to \$53,876 in 1995. For single-earner families, income taxes fell due to lower pre-tax income, which reduced the after-tax income decline to 9.6% to \$40,121.

Families in which neither partner reported earnings have been steadily increasing in proportion since 1967, mainly due to a growing number of elderly families. Families where neither partner worked had a 1995 pre-

Note to readers

For the purpose of this release, the term "two-partner family" consists of husband-wife families and common-law relationships. The classification of two-partner families as "dual-earner," "single-earner" and "no earner" is based strictly on the earning status of the partners. Although the earning status of other family members is ignored, reported earnings of these members are included in the family income. An earner is a person who received wages or a salary and/or net income from self-employment during the reference year.

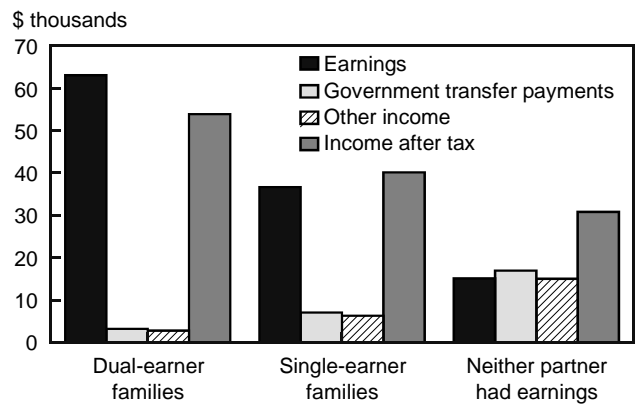
These estimates were prepared from data collected by the Survey of Consumer Finances, an annual supplement to the Labour Force Survey. The sample of approximately 34,000 households excludes the institutional population and households in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and on Indian reserves.

The Survey of Consumer Finances was weighted to population estimates that incorporate an adjustment for undercounting in the census. The data from 1980 to 1993 have been reweighted to this base. The analysis in this release is based on the new estimates.

Although Statistics Canada's low income cut-offs (LICOs) are often referred to as poverty lines, they do not have an officially recognized status, nor does Statistics Canada promote their use as poverty lines. However, LICOs serve a useful purpose in the study of income distributions, for identifying the demographic profile and significant historical trends of the low income population.

tax average income of \$34,684, average income taxes of \$3,904, and an after-tax income of \$30,780.

Taxes and transfers reduce income differences among families



Between 1967 (the first year data were available) and the late 1980s, the proportion of two-partner families with dual earners had steadily increased, reflecting increased labour force participation among women. Over the same period, the percentage of families with single earners had declined. By the end of the 1980s, both trends had levelled off.

In the early 1990s, a weak labour market reduced employment among men and increased male retirement rates. For an increasing numbers of families, female partners became the sole earner. Historically, women have tended to earn less than men (65 cents for each dollar in 1995, on average), contributing to the increasing income gap between dual-earner and single-earner families.

Number of earners directly impacts low income rates

When both partners worked, the likelihood that families found themselves in a low income situation decreased dramatically. Without the female partners' earnings, the 1995 low income rate among these families would have been 17.8% instead of 4.8% (or 748,000 families instead of 202,000 families with low income). In 1989, the comparable figures were 14.0% and 3.7%, respectively.

The proportion of children in low income families ranged from a low of 6.5% in dual-earner families to 25.2% for sole-earner families and 80.0% for families in which neither partner had earnings.

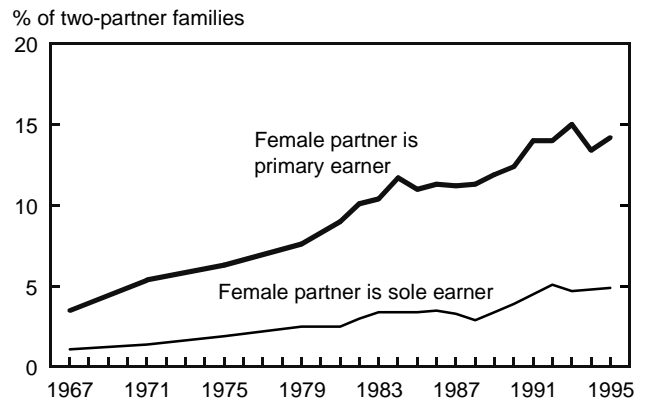
The gender of the higher earning partner, or the sole earner, had an impact on low income rates. Within dual-earner families, children were twice as likely to be in low income families when the female partner rather than the male partner was the top earner (10.3% versus 5.2%). Where the female was the sole earner, one in three children were in low income families (32.9%). In "traditional" families, where the male was the sole earner, one in four children were in low income families (24.4%).

In 1995, 70.7% of all children in two-partner families had both parents working. Only 2.6% of children in two-partner families had mothers that were sole earners, while "traditional" families, where the father was the sole earner, only accounted for 22.7% of all children in two-partner families.

More females out-earning male partners

The number of women who earned more than their male partners increased in 1995, resuming a long-standing upward trend after a decline in 1994. In 1995, 983,000 females earned more than their male partners, up from 916,000 in 1994. Since 1967, this number has increased almost sevenfold, from 143,000.

Long-standing trend of more females out-earning their partners continued in 1995



Characteristics of dual-earner families, 1995 (13-215-XPB, \$28) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

Microdata files containing data on the 1995 incomes and earnings of economic families and individuals aged 15 years and over, along with socio-demographic characteristics, are also available. These files have been carefully reviewed to ensure they do not contain information that would allow identification of specific households, families or individuals. These files can be ordered by contacting the Household Surveys Division. Custom tabulations of the data are also available on request.

For further information on this release, or to order custom tabulations, contact the Dissemination Unit (1 888 297-7355 or 613-951-7355; Internet: income@statcan.ca), Household Surveys Division. □

Average incomes of two-partner families

	1995	1994	1989	1985
	constant (1995) dollars			
All two-partner families	58,881	59,053	61,372	56,705
Dual-earner families	68,946	69,010	69,523	65,807
Female earned more than male	64,586	62,325	62,515	58,131
Female earned less than male	70,636	71,339	71,417	67,762
Single-earner families	49,956	51,266	55,884	50,526
Male sole earner	51,097	52,411	57,015	51,633
Female sole earner	45,857	47,005	49,436	42,306
Neither partner had earnings	34,684	34,181	34,734	31,718



Estimates of principal field crop production

July 31, 1997

Extremely dry conditions throughout July in the southern and central areas of the Prairies stressed crops at a critical stage, and farmers in this region are expecting much lower yields than last year for all major crops.

Oilseed production up, major grains down

Of the major crops surveyed, only canola and flaxseed were reported to show an increase in production. Lower production for wheat and barley is expected this year due to both reduced planted acreage and yields.

July production estimates

	1996	1997	1996 to 1997 %
	millions of tonnes		change
Total wheat	29.8	23.0	-22.8
Spring wheat	24.1	18.0	-25.3
Barley	15.6	13.6	-12.8
Canola	5.1	6.1	19.6
Oats	4.4	3.5	-20.5
Durum wheat	4.6	4.1	-10.9
Flaxseed	0.9	1.0	11.1

Largest drop in wheat production in nine years

Total wheat production has been adversely affected by 2.5 million fewer seeded acres this year and a reported yield decrease of six bushels per acre. Production is expected to drop by 6.8 million tonnes this year, the largest drop since 1988 when production fell by 10 million tonnes. Yields for spring wheat in Saskatchewan this year are reported to be seven bushels per acre lower than last year. Durum yields

Note to readers

The July crops survey of 10,500 farm operators is conducted by telephone interviews during the last week of July and the first week of August. Farmers are asked to report their seeded areas, expected harvested areas, and expected yields of major grains and oilseeds. Weather, insect problems and disease may change anticipated yields before harvest is completed.

in Manitoba are expected to drop 11 bushels per acre from last year, the lowest since 1989. Climatic conditions in Ontario were more favourable for wheat, as indicated by higher yields this year. However, overall production will decline because of less harvested area.

Less barley for livestock

Barley production is expected to fall by 2.0 million tonnes compared with last year because of 0.5 million fewer seeded acres and an expected reduced yield of six bushels per acre. This represents the largest drop in production since 1991. Saskatchewan farmers grow nearly one-third of the barley in Canada and estimate that they will harvest nine bushels per acre less compared with last year.

Canola fares better

Canola acreage increased by 3.4 million acres this year, but the expected drop in yield of four bushels per acre will moderate the rise in production to one million tonnes.

Field crop reporting series no. 5: July 31 estimates of production of principal field crops, Canada (22-002-XPB, \$15/\$88) is now available. See How to order publications.

For further information, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; Internet: burrdav@statcan.ca), Crops Section, Agriculture Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance

June 1997 (preliminary)

The number of Canadians who received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits was estimated at 577,690 in June, down 2.6% from May. Declines were observed in all provinces and territories except Saskatchewan and Alberta. The number of EI beneficiaries has trended downward since April 1996; in June it reached its lowest level since early 1981.

Regular benefit payments were up 0.8% in June to \$714 million. Eight provinces and territories recorded payment increases, led by the Yukon (+10.9%) and Alberta (+10.6%). Despite June's increase, benefit payments have shown a declining trend since April 1996. For the first half of 1997 (unadjusted), benefit payments were down 10.7% from the same period in 1996, with 11 of 12 provinces and territories posting declines.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits

	June 1997	May to June 1997	% change
	seasonally adjusted		
Canada	577,690		-2.6
Newfoundland	32,270		-5.5
Prince Edward Island	8,750		-4.6
Nova Scotia	30,110		-4.7
New Brunswick	35,530		-1.9
Quebec	204,580		-3.6
Ontario	143,590		-3.5
Manitoba	14,930		-0.2
Saskatchewan	11,570		7.9
Alberta	30,170		5.1
British Columbia	65,700		-2.1
Yukon	1,300		0.4
Northwest Territories	1,100		-2.4

The number of individuals who applied for Employment Insurance benefits in June declined 1.1% to 221,000. Applications in five of the provinces and territories were down with the largest drop recorded in Prince Edward Island (-15.1%) and the smallest in Quebec (-0.5%). For the first six months of 1997 (unadjusted), total claims were down 11.0% in 10 of the 12 provinces and territories from the first half

of 1996, with Alberta (-15.7%) and Ontario (-15.2%) leading the way.

Employment insurance statistics

	May 1997	June 1997	May to June 1997
	seasonally adjusted		
			% change
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	593 ^P	578 ^P	-2.6
Reg. payments (\$ millions)	708.4	714.2	0.8
Claims ('000)	223	221	-1.1
	June 1996	June 1997	June 1996 to June 1997
	unadjusted		
			% change
All beneficiaries ('000)	779	643 ^P	-17.5
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	591	469 ^P	-20.6
Claims ('000)	202	188	-6.8
Payments (\$ millions)	860.9	863.6	0.3
	Year-to-date (January to June)		
	1996	1997	1996 to 1997
			% change
Claims ('000)	1,440	1,283	-10.9
Payments (\$ millions)	7,679.6	6,914.5	-10.0

^P Preliminary figures.

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

Note: The discrepancy between the estimated number of regular beneficiaries and regular payments series can be explained by the difference in their time frames. The number of beneficiaries represents all persons who received EI benefits during the week containing the 15th day of the month. The regular benefit payments series represents the total of all payments received by individuals during the entire month.

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

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

Department store sales and stocks

July 1997

Department store sales rose 1.2% in July to \$1,335.5 million (seasonally adjusted). Compared with July 1996, sales were up 11.3%, the highest year-over-year gain since January. The increase follows year-over-year gains of 10.5% in May and 10.7% in June. Department store sales have followed an upward trend since the end of 1993 except for a pause in the last half of 1995.

On an unadjusted basis, consumers spent \$1,146.3 million in department stores, 12.4% more than in July 1996. Sales for the first seven months of 1997 were up 9.8% from the same period last year (unadjusted).

Among the provinces, the largest year-over-year gains were recorded for Alberta (+16.4%), the combined sales of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island (+15.3%). Saskatchewan (14.9%), Nova Scotia (14.2%) and Ontario (+13.0%). Department stores in Quebec (+12.2%) and New Brunswick (+11.0%) posted their highest year-over-year gains for the year.

Department store sales including concessions

	July 1997	July 1996 to July 1997	Jan. to July 1997	Jan.-July 1996 to Jan.-July 1997
	Unadjusted			
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
Canada	1,146.3	12.4	7,599.6	9.8
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island	22.8	15.3	134.8	7.7
Nova Scotia	36.0	14.2	227.1	8.5
New Brunswick	27.1	11.0	167.9	5.7
Québec	214.3	12.2	1,425.6	7.3
Ontario	468.3	13.0	3,173.7	11.5
Manitoba	47.9	8.3	319.2	6.3
Saskatchewan	38.9	14.9	249.5	11.5
Alberta	131.5	16.4	851.0	12.3
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories	159.4	8.1	1,050.7	8.3

Data on department store sales by merchandise department and seasonally adjusted total inventories are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

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

For analytical information, contact Irwin Bess (613-951-4166) Retail Commodity Section, Distributive Trades Division. ■

Crushing statistics

July 1997

Oilseed processors crushed 217,417 metric tonnes of canola in July. Oil production totalled 91,044 tonnes, while meal production amounted to 130,774 tonnes.

Canadian processors crushed 2,711,880 metric tonnes of canola between August 1996 and July 1997. This crush is down slightly from last year's record high of 2,752,927 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.

The July 1997 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be released in September. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-2856) or Elizabeth Abraham (613-951-3859), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

Shipments of office furniture products

June 1997

For the six-month period ending June 30, 1997, shipments of office furniture products totalled \$597.7 million, up 20.8% compared with \$494.9 million shipped during the same period a year earlier.

Data on manufacturers' shipments of office furniture products for the first six months of 1997 are now available. Data on province of destination and exports are also available.

The June 1997 issue of *Shipments of office furniture products* (35-006SXPB, \$14/\$28) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Brian Preston (613-951-3509; Internet: presbri@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Characteristics of dual-earner families, 1995
Catalogue number 13-215-XPB
 (Canada: \$28; outside Canada: US\$28).

Field crop reporting series no. 5, July 31 estimates of production of principal field crops, Canada
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB
 (Canada: \$15/\$ 88; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$ 88).

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

Energy statistics handbook, August 1997 (paper version)
Catalogue number 57-601-UPB
 (Canada: \$387; outside Canada: US\$387).

Energy statistics handbook, August 1997 (electronic version)
Catalogue number 57-601-XDE
 (Canada: \$284; outside Canada: US\$284).

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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 1996, most Canadians took an average of about 2.5 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 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

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, manufacturing May 31, 1997** 12
- **EQJ producer, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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