



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, December 8, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Paying off student loans, 1997** 2
College and bachelor's degree students who graduated in 1995 borrowed more from student loan programs than any group of graduates in the previous 15 years, and were taking longer to pay the money back. Yet for every student who defaulted on a loan, there were five or six who had repaid it within two years of graduation.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Paying off student loans

1997

College and bachelor's degree students who graduated in 1995 borrowed more from student loan programs than any group of graduates in the previous 15 years, and were taking longer to pay the money back.

Within two years of graduation, 1 in 20 graduates who had borrowed money ended up defaulting on their loan. Yet for every 1995 graduate who had defaulted, there were five or six who had repaid their loan within two years of graduation.

About 46% of college and 50% of bachelor's graduates borrowed from government student loan programs. At graduation, on average, each 1995 college borrower owed \$9,600, while each bachelor's borrower owed \$13,300. These amounts, after adjusting for inflation, were about 130% and 140% higher than the amounts owed by 1982 graduates (i.e., 1995 graduates owed \$230 to \$240 at graduation for every \$100 that 1982 graduates owed at graduation).

Averages do not tell the whole story, however. In 1995, 22% of bachelor graduates who borrowed money owed more than \$20,000 compared with only 7% of college borrowers. At the other end of the scale, 21% of college and 14% of bachelor's grads owed less than \$5,000.

During the two years following graduation in 1995, 17% of college and 18% of bachelor's borrowers said they were already having difficulty making payments on their loans. By 1997, 4% had defaulted on their loans. On the other hand, 41% of college and 32% of bachelor's graduates said they had either already paid off their loans or expected to repay them by 2001. Another 40% did not know when their loans would be repaid in full.

1995 graduates took longer to repay loans

On average, 1995 college and bachelor's graduates had repaid less, two years after graduation, than their counterparts who graduated in 1990. While 1995 college graduates had repaid only 19% of their student loans by 1997, their 1990 colleagues had repaid more than one-third (35%) of their loans by 1992.

Similarly, 1995 bachelor's graduates repaid 17% of their loans two years after graduation compared with a rate of 27% by their 1990 counterparts. The differences were even more pronounced in comparison with the class of 1986, where, two years after graduation,

Note to readers

This report is based on an article in the Winter 1998 edition of Canadian social trends. Using data from the National Graduates Survey of 1995, the article which is available today examines the extent of indebtedness, the repayment record and the impact of high debt on postsecondary graduates who used government loans to help finance their studies.

During the summer of 1997, Statistics Canada interviewed nearly 43,000 individuals representing more than 295,000 people who had graduated from trade/vocational, college and university programs during 1995.

Among other things, graduates were asked how they financed their education, the extent of any student loans, scholarships and bursaries, and if they had difficulties repaying their student loans. In addition, the survey asked how much graduates owed to government student loan programs at graduation in 1995, and at the time of the interview in June 1997.

The results in this report are for college graduates (community college and similar institutions) and for graduates of bachelor's degree programs. Undergraduate certificates and diplomas, and first professional degrees (for example, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and law) were excluded from the bachelor's degree group.

college graduates had paid off 45% of their loans and bachelor's graduates 40%.

Based on payback rates for 1986 and 1990 graduates, graduates in 1995 may repay their loans over a longer period of time. Reasons for this may vary. Some students may have pursued further studies after graduation, in which case they can delay repaying loans if they are studying full time. Others may not have been able to find a well-paying job, while still others may have benefited from lower interest rates that encourage a slower rate of repayment.

Size of loan, income after graduation affect ability to pay

The size of the loan and income after graduation were the two most significant factors affecting repayment. Not surprisingly, 34% of bachelor's graduates with loans of \$30,000 or more said they had difficulty repaying their loans, more than four times the proportion (8%) of those owing less than \$2,000.

Similarly, bachelor's graduates with incomes less than \$30,000 were nearly three times as likely as those earning over \$50,000 to have trouble making loan repayments.

Students were more likely to use government student loans if their father had a lower level of

education. Conversely, the use of other loan types (personal, loans from relatives, and credit cards) increased when the parents had higher levels of education.

Older graduates were more likely to borrow money and owe larger amounts on graduation. Those graduates aged 25 to 29 in 1995 were more likely to borrow and owe larger amounts than younger graduates. Younger graduates may rely more on their parents for financial support, while those over 30 more likely had a career and income from a steady job prior to starting post-secondary programs.

Women more likely to have trouble repaying loans

Among bachelor's graduates, women were more likely than men to have difficulty repaying loans. One in five (20%) of female graduates with a bachelor's degree had difficulties compared with 15% of men.

This may be because women borrowed on average about \$1,000 more than men and, in 1996, women's

incomes were about \$3,700 lower. For college graduates, there were no significant differences in repayment difficulties between men and women.

New Brunswick and Newfoundland had the highest proportion of bachelor's graduates (23%) who reported having trouble repaying loans. The lowest rate was in Quebec, which had the lowest undergraduate tuition fees in Canada. There, 14% of bachelor's graduates reported problems repaying loans.

The article "Paying off student loans" will appear in the Winter 1998 edition of *Canadian social trends* (11-008-XPE, \$11/ \$36; Internet version: 11-008-XIE, \$8/\$27) which will be published December 14, 1998. This article is now available by fax on request.

For more information, or to enquire about the concept, methods and data quality of this release, contact Warren Clark (613-951-2560), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Public sector employment

Third quarter 1998 (preliminary)

The public sector employed an average of just under 2.7 million people during the third quarter of 1998, down a marginal 0.5% or 14,650 jobs from the same quarter in 1997.

The vast majority of the decline, about 13,000 jobs, occurred in the public administration workforce, which consists of individuals who work for the federal, provincial/territorial and local governments. On a year-over-year basis, this workforce declined 0.5% to 2.4 million. The remainder of the decline, about 1,700 jobs, occurred in government business enterprises, such as crown corporations. Overall, they employed on average 260,000 employees during the third quarter of 1998, down 0.6% from the same quarter last year.

Among the three levels of government, employment increased only in the provincial/territorial workforce, which rose 0.2% to 1.3 million. However, this slight increase was not enough to offset a 1.2% decline in the local government workforce, which fell to 796,000, and a 1.7% decline to 333,000 in the federal workforce.

Provincially, Ontario and Quebec recorded the largest declines in the workforce at both the provincial and municipal levels of government. The provincial workforce declined in both Ontario (-1.0% to 359,000 employees) and Quebec (-1.0% to 375,000 employees). The number of municipal government workers in Ontario declined 2.6% to 324,000, while the level in Quebec fell 1.9% to 188,000.

In terms of federal government employment, this workforce in Quebec declined 3.1% to 67,000.

However, British Columbia came second with a 2.1% reduction in the federal workforce to 34,000. It should be noted, however, that federal employment reduction in Quebec included a transfer of almost 1,100 employees to the provincial government. This transfer is the result of the implementation of the "Canada-Quebec Labour Market Agreement in Principle" signed in April 1997.

Among the government business enterprises, local government enterprises recorded the largest percentage decline (-1.0%), followed by federal enterprises (-0.8%) and provincial government enterprises (-0.4%). Provincially, the largest declines were reported in Quebec (-1.4%) and in Ontario (-1.2%). Most of the decline came from local government enterprises in Quebec whereas in Ontario, provincial government enterprises were responsible for the decrease.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2720, 2860, 2863 , 2864 and 2866.

The annual publication *Public sector employment and wages and salaries 1996* (72-209-XPB, \$44) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

Data are also available through custom tabulation. For information or for general enquiries on the Public Institutions Division's products and services, contact Viola Jabbour (613-951-0767; jabbvio@statcan.ca).

For further information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alain Paquet (613-951-8565), Public Institutions Division. □

Public sector employment

Third quarter 1998
(preliminary)

	Federal government	Provincial and territorial government	Local government	Total government	Government business enterprises	Total public sector	Third quarter 1997 to third quarter 1998
							% Change
Canada	333,643	1,298,957	796,124	2,428,724	259,723	2,688,446	-0.5
Newfoundland	7,203	31,931	13,123	52,258	4,093	56,350	1.7
Prince Edward Island	3,252	9,454	2,525	15,231	1,128	16,360	-0.5
Nova Scotia	24,033	48,995	21,239	94,267	8,215	102,481	-1.8
New Brunswick	13,001	53,515	6,977	73,494	6,779	80,273	2.3
Quebec	67,408	375,401	187,603	630,412	65,946	696,357	-1.5
Ontario	130,885	358,692	323,487	813,064	96,113	909,177	-1.5
Manitoba	14,770	63,359	32,995	111,124	12,850	123,974	1.9
Saskatchewan	9,280	55,521	28,490	93,291	13,589	106,879	1.7
Alberta	24,811	125,884	82,769	233,464	16,237	249,701	1.5
British Columbia	33,894	165,022	93,718	292,634	34,124	326,758	0.3
Yukon Territory	952	3,657	404	5,012	x	5,012	5.4
Northwest Territories	1,163	7,526	2,794	11,484	x	11,484	5.0
Exterior	2,989	-	-	2,989	-	2,989	-3.5

^x Confidential data
- Nil or zero.

Note: Federal government includes military. Provincial and territorial government includes provincial and territorial general government, universities and colleges and health and social service institutions. Local government includes school boards.

Provincial and territorial government finance: Assets and liabilities

March 31, 1997

At March 31, 1997, all provinces except Quebec and Ontario recorded a decrease in net debt while both territories had an excess of financial assets over liabilities. The total provincial and territorial governments' net debt reached \$241.7 billion, an increase of \$5.8 billion (+2.5%) over March 31, 1996. The financial assets stood at \$181.0 billion, while total liabilities reached \$422.7 billion.

These statistics are based on the actual data released in the provincial and territorial governments' Public Accounts dated March 31, 1997 and converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System.

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) standardizes the presentation of government accounting. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because their policies and structures differ. So the FMS adjusts data from government Public Accounts and other records to provide comparable data. As well, the FMS

provides national aggregates that are consistent over time. Thus, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements. Reconciliation statements of the two presentations are available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3198 and 3201-3213.

Data are available through custom and special tabulation. For more information, or general inquiries on the products or services of the contact Viola Jabbour (613-951-0767; jabbvio@statcan.ca).

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact A.J. Gareau (613-951-1826) or Robert Larocque (613-951-1836), Public Institutions Division. ■

Crime statistics

1997

Crime statistics for 1997 were first released in July 1998. *Canadian crime statistics, 1997*, which is now available, presents additional information such as

standard crime tables for Canada, the provinces and territories, as well as all census metropolitan areas.

Also included is a set of 20 tables from the "revised" crime survey based on data collected from 179 police departments in six provinces, representing 48% of the national volume of reported crime. These tables examine the characteristics of victims and the accused (their age and sex, the relationship of the accused to the victim, level of injury, weapon causing injury), as well as the criminal incident itself (location of the incident, target of violation, presence of weapons, type of property stolen).

Available on CANSIM: table 00150202.

Canadian crime statistics, 1997 (85-205-XPE, \$42, Internet version: 85-205-XIE, \$32) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this

release, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023; 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

Average retail prices

January to September 1998

Average retail prices for the first three quarters of 1998 are now available. The data will be included in the third quarter issue of *Consumer prices and price indexes* (62-010-XPB, \$25/\$83; Internet version: 62-010-XIB, \$19/\$62), which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact (613-951-9606, fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canadian crime statistics, 1997
Catalogue number 85-205-XIE
(Canada: \$32; outside Canada: US\$32).

Canadian crime statistics, 1997
Catalogue number 85-205-XPE
(Canada: \$42; outside Canada: US\$42).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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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, each Canadian took an average of about 21.9 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 modest weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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