



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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- **National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth: school component, 1996/97** 2
 Children who are enrolled in early childhood programs and day-care centres appear to get a head start in school over youngsters who stay home with a parent, according to the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth.

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MAJOR RELEASES

National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth: school component 1996/97

Results from analyses of data from the latest release of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth suggest that children who are enrolled in early childhood programs and day-care centres appear to get a head start in school over youngsters who stay at home with a parent.

The analysis compared the level of performance in kindergarten of two groups of children. The first group included those who, during the 1994/95 school year, attended an early childhood program, a day-care centre or received care from a paid worker such as a nanny, a non-relative or a relative other than the mother or the father of the child. The second group of children were those who stayed at home with a parent, who in 90% of the cases was their mother. Two years later, the children in the first group were faring better at school.

About 40% of children who were in an early childhood program at ages 3 and 4 were judged by their teachers as being near the top of their kindergarten class in communication skills, as opposed to only 25% who did not participate in such programs. Also, 38% of these children were rated by their teachers as being near the top of their kindergarten class in learning skills, compared with 24% of kindergarten children who did not attend an early childhood program.

The study also found that higher proportions of children who attended early childhood programs were able to write a simple sentence, compare numbers and understand simple concepts of time, such as "today", "summer" and "bedtime". These relationships held true regardless of the education of the child's mother or the income of the household.

The beneficial effects of participation in early childhood programs carried over to Grade 1. Four- and five-year-old children who attended an early childhood program in 1994/95 were 1.4 times more likely to be rated by their teachers as being near the top of their class in mathematics achievement in Grade 1 in 1996/97 than those who had stayed at home with a parent. These results held true even after taking into account the income of the child's household and the education of the person most knowledgeable about the child, who in most cases was the mother.

Attending kindergarten did not appear to have the same impact on the later academic performance of children as did attendance in an early childhood

Note to readers

This release is based on data from the first and second cycles of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY), a joint project of Human Resources Development Canada and Statistics Canada.

It examines the influence of early childhood education and parental involvement on a child's academic performance. Specifically, it examines the critical transition that children make from home to school.

The NLSCY is a comprehensive survey examining a wide variety of important factors that influence the development of children. It collects information every two years on the same children as they grow up as well as information on the environment in which they live, learn and play.

The second cycle of the survey, which took place in 1996/97, collected information on approximately 20,000 children from newborns to 13-year-olds. It gathered information on aspects of their lives such as demographics, socio-economic background, child health and development, behaviour, relationships, education, literacy, leisure activities, family functioning and parenting, child care arrangements and family custody history.

This information is collected through a variety of methods: interviews with the person most knowledgeable about the child (most often the child's mother), tests administered to the children in schools, and questionnaires completed by both the children (those aged 10 to 13) and by the child's teacher and school principal. The second cycle provided information on the behaviour and educational functioning of a sample of 10,600 Canadian children, with teachers providing information on 8,600 of them.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the children, parents, teachers and school officials who are participating in the NLSCY. Without their collaboration, this unprecedented source of insight into child development in Canada could not exist.

program. The youngsters who were attending an early childhood program in 1994/95 performed better in mathematics and writing, and generally had higher overall academic achievement in Grade 1 in 1996/97 compared with those who were enrolled in a kindergarten class in 1994/95.

Enrolment in an early childhood program influenced by social factors

In 1994/95, about half of all 2- to 3-year-old children attended an early childhood program.

Mothers who completed a high school education or higher were more likely to enrol their children in early childhood programs. Children whose mothers held a post-secondary diploma or degree were nearly twice as likely to have their children attend an early childhood

program compared with those children whose mothers did not graduate from high school.

Similarly, children from households where the total household income is \$40,000 or more were three times more likely to attend an early childhood program compared with children from families with household incomes of less than \$20,000.

Reading to children has a substantial positive impact on academic skills

Reading to children more than once a day has a substantial positive impact on their later academic skills.

Children aged 2 to 3 who were read to several times a day did substantially better in kindergarten at the age of 4 and 5 than youngsters who were read to only a few times a week or less.

Children who were read to several times a day were 1.6 times more likely to be rated by their teachers as being near the top of their kindergarten class in learning skills. They were also 2.3 times more likely to be near the top of their class in communication skills.

Furthermore, children who had early exposure to books and reading were also better at performing mathematical tasks. In kindergarten, these children were twice as likely to be able to compare numbers than those who were read to less often, 2.6 times as likely to recognize geometric shapes and twice as likely to know simple concepts of time when they were aged 4 and 5.

This relationship was observed regardless of the education of the child's mother and the income of the child's household. Further analyses of the current and future cycles of NLSCY data will allow us to investigate the long-term effect of reading on children's performance.

The complete results of the analysis in this release can be found in the report titled, "From home to school - How do Canadian children cope" on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) under *Products and services* then *Downloadable publications (free)*.

For more information regarding the analysis or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jackie Yiptong-Avila (613-951-0335; jackie.yiptong@statcan.ca) or Garth Lipps (613-951-3184; lippgar@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

For general information about the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, contact Sylvie Michaud (613-951-9482; michsylv@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division or Allen Zeesman (613-946-5713; allen.zeesman@spg.org), Human Resources Development Canada.

Data are also available through custom tabulations. For more information about tabulations and other products and services, contact Tamara Knighton (613-951-7326; fax: 613-951-7333), Special Surveys Division.

Percentage of children near the top of the Grade 1 class 1996/97

	Totals in 1994/95 ¹	Percentage of children near the top of the Grade 1 class in 1996/97			
		Reading	Written work	Mathematics	Overall achievement
Early childhood care and education	202,300	27	24	34	26
Kindergarten	489,500	25	18	25	21
At home	85,700	25 ²	16 ²	18 ²	16 ²

¹ Refers to number of children attending each type of educational program.

² These estimates should be used with caution due to small sample sizes.

OTHER RELEASES

Industrial monitor on CD-ROM

October 1999

The *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* offers up-to-date data on more than 150 manufacturing industries and 33 other industries covering construction, wholesale trade and retail trade. This information is offered for 25 sectors and can be purchased by individual sector or as a complete package.

For each industry, up to 50 variables are organized in the table viewer according to five table types — supply, demand, price, labour/employment, and investment/capital stock. The underlying database is also available via the series browser for more extensive time-series analysis and inter-industry comparisons.

The *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* is linked to the Standard Industrial Classification manual, provides pop-up textual descriptions for every series and embodies consistent data conventions — all features designed to make analysis easy and accurate. State-of-the-art functions offer searching, graphing, viewing, exporting and transforming capabilities, providing you the information quickly and easily.

The October 1999 issue of the *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* (15F0015XCB) is now available. An annual subscription (one CD-ROM per month) to the full package costs \$995, a savings of more than 80% off the annual subscription price of \$258 per individual sector.

For more information, or to request a free demonstration CD-ROM, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 887-IMAD (4623); 613-951-IMAD (4623); fax: 613-951-3688; imad@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division, or contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight (top carriers)

Second quarter 1999

The top 84 for-hire motor carriers (Canada based trucking companies earning \$25 million or more annually) generated operating revenues of \$1.58 billion in the second quarter of 1999. The second quarter total reflects the addition of 10 top carriers over the same period in 1998 and a 3% increase in the average revenue per carrier.

Operating expenses incurred by top carriers continued to hold steady, totalling \$1.48 billion for the quarter. The operating ratio (operating expenses

divided by operating revenues) for top for-hire carriers improved by one point to 0.94 compared with the 0.95 posted in the second quarter of 1998 (any ratio greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss).

Data for motor carriers of freight for all carriers can be accessed from CANSIM (matrix 144).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Paré (613-951-2517; fax: 613-951-0579; paregil@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Telecommunication statistics

First quarter 1999

The first data from the new quarterly survey on the telecommunications industry in Canada (NAICS 5133) are now available. Included for the first time are the major alternative wireline carriers and the wireless industry. In addition, estimates are now provided for those units that are not covered in the survey (reseller, satellite and small wireline and wireless service providers).

The data include operating revenues and expenses, capital expenditures, employment, network infrastructure (access lines and wireless subscribers) and traffic data.

The telecommunications industry is an important part of the Canadian economy. Operating revenues in the first quarter were \$6.8 billion while operating margin, the difference between operating revenues and operating expenses, amounted to \$1.2 billion (17.4% of revenues). A full \$1.3 billion was invested in capital expenditures this quarter, or \$54.46 for every public access line in the country and \$52.54 for each cellular subscriber.

In the first quarter, there were 24.9 million access paths to the public switched telephone network (PSTN), consisting of 19.3 million public access lines and 5.6 million mobile telephone subscribers. Most of the recent growth in access comes from wireless or mobile services, which has seen a 31.8% increase in mobile subscribers since December 1997. Wireless telecommunications added over twice the number of access paths to the PSTN (1.4 million) since December 1997 compared with wireline additions (638,000).

The first quarter issue of *Quarterly telecommunications statistics* (56-002-XIB, vol. 23, no. 1, \$21/\$40) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Haig McCarrell (613-951-5948), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending September 21, 1999

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending September 21, 1999 decreased 9.0% to 4.7 million tonnes compared with the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 14.4%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 394 000 tonnes, a 10.3% increase from the same period of 1998. The year-to-date figures increased 13.3%.

Total traffic decreased 7.7% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 182.6 million tonnes, a 1.5% decrease compared with the same period the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca, Transportation Division. ■

Industrial concentration in the manufacturing, mining and logging industries

1996

Industrial concentration ratios for leading enterprises are provided at the four-digit industry level using data from the Annual Survey of Manufacturers. Concentration ratios measure the market share of an industry's largest enterprises according to their shipments. Additionally, these ratios provide an indicator of the degree of competition within a specific industry. For most manufacturing industries, the time series covers 1983 to 1996.

In 1996, most of the increases in the concentration ratios for the top fourth, eighth and twelfth leading enterprises ranged from one to three percentage points compared with the previous year. One of the most notable changes was in the building board industry, which experienced a 12.7 percentage point decrease in the concentration share of the four leading enterprises. Other industries that experienced considerable decreases in concentration in 1996 were the plate work industry (10.4 percentage points) and the basic hardware industry (10.4 percentage points).

The report *Industrial organization and concentration in the manufacturing, logging, and mining industries* (31C0024, \$350) is now available. See *How to order publications*. Custom data tabulations can also be ordered.

For more information, contact Jean-Marie Houle (613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-3522; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing Disclosure and Dissemination Section. To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release contact Daniela Ravindra (951-3514), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Social policy simulation database and model

1995

The *Social policy simulation database and model: Version 7.0* (SPSD/M), which is based on 1995 microdata, is now available. The SPSPD/M is a static microsimulation model. It includes a database, a series of tax/transfer algorithms and models, analytical software and user documentation. The SPSPD/M has been produced as an occasional product since 1985. It has been widely used by policy analysts in Canada studying virtually every change to the tax and transfer system since then.

The SPSPD/M is a tool designed to analyze the financial interactions of governments and individuals/families in Canada. It allows estimation of the income redistributive effects or cost implications of changes in the personal taxation and cash transfer system. The SPSPD/M assists researchers examining the potential impacts of changes in taxes, earnings, demographic trends, and a wide range of other factors. It can be used to study federal and provincial tax and transfer changes from 1984 through 2001.

The SPSPD/M allows the user to answer "what-if" types of questions. What if there were a change to the taxes Canadians paid or transfers they received? Would single parent households in a particular province be better off? By how much? How much extra money would federal or provincial governments collect or pay out?

The *Social policy simulation database and model: Version 7.0* is now available on CD-ROM (89F0002XCB, \$5,000/\$12,500).

For more information, or to order this product, contact Susan Carrothers (613-951-1782; spsdm@statcan.ca), Socio-Economic Modeling Group, Social and Economic Studies Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Consumer Price Index, September 1999

Catalogue number 62-001-XPB

(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).

Available at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, October 15.

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Catalogue 11-001E (11-001E/11-001E/11-001E/11-001E)



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

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 4.5 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 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow increases in unit labour cost during the year.

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- **Short-term Employment Survey** 2
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- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

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Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM and E-STAT, Statistics Canada's data retrieval systems. A telephone inquiry 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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