



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

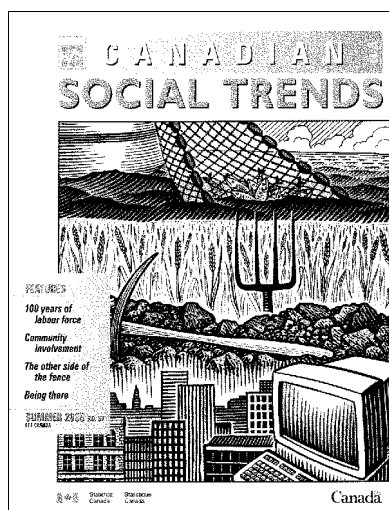
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Canadian social trends

Summer 2000

The current issue of *Canadian social trends* features articles on: one hundred years of the labour force; community involvement, the influence of early experience; neighbours; and the time dual-earner couples spend with their children.

Each quarter, *Canadian social trends* integrates data from many sources to examine emerging social trends and issues. It also features the latest social indicators, as well as information about Statistics Canada's products and services.

The Summer 2000 issue of *Canadian social trends* (11-008-XPE, \$11/\$36; 11-008-XIE, \$8/\$27) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Susan Crompton (613-951-2556; cstsc@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.



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OTHER RELEASES

Time spent with children 1998

Moms may spend much more time than dads with their young children, even when they work full-time for pay. But by time the children are in their early teens, dads devote just as much time to them as mothers, according to data from the 1998 General Social Survey.

In 1998, mothers who were employed full-time spent an average of about 6.4 hours a day with their children under the age of five, compared with about 4.3 hours spent by fathers.

However, the data showed that the time gap between mothers and fathers narrows as their children grow older. In the case of children in their early teens, dads and moms reported spending about 2 hours and 40 minutes a day with their children.

When parents spend time with their children, the child is not necessarily the central focus of the parents' activity. Nevertheless, child care is the most time-intensive activity with younger children because it is characterized mainly by personal care (such as feeding, washing, dressing, and medical care) and also by playing. In 1998, mothers who were employed full-time spent an average of about 148 minutes a day, or almost 2.5 hours, in child care activities with their children under the age of five, compared with about 90 minutes spent by fathers.

However, the data showed that the time gap between mothers and fathers narrows as their children grow older and other forms of child care emerge, such as helping and teaching, reading and talking, and chauffeuring or walking them to places. In the case of children in their early teens, dads reported spending more time in child care activities than did moms. Fathers who had children aged 13 and 14 said they spent about 38 minutes a day in child care activities with them. This compares with 21 minutes reported by mothers.

The same trend occurred with respect to leisure time. In the case of toddlers, mothers reported spending 71 minutes a day in leisure time with the youngsters, compared with 63 minutes spent by fathers. In contrast, dads said they spent 57 minutes in leisure time with children in their early teens, compared with 53 minutes spent by moms.

Much of the difference between parents with younger children may be related to the fact that fathers put in longer hours of paid work. Even though the mothers in this study were employed full-time outside the home, overall they reported fewer average hours of paid work than did fathers when their children are young.

However, mothers had less leisure time than fathers, and they devoted more of that time to their children.

For example, in a family where there was a child under the age of five, fathers reported total leisure time of 210 minutes a day, or about 3.5 hours. They spent about 30% of this time with their toddlers. Mothers reported only 145 minutes of leisure time, or about 2.4 hours, which they split 50-50 with their children.

When children reach their early teens, their fathers' reported leisure time increased to 238 minutes a day, or almost four hours. But they spent 24% of that time with their youngsters.

Mothers, on the other hand, reported a big jump in leisure time to 190 minutes a day, or more than three hours when their children reach their early teens. And instead of a 50-50 split, they spent 28% of that time with the children.

Note: This release is based on an article about the average time each day that parents who work full-time spend with their children under the age of 15. It is published in the Summer 2000 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, available today. Data came from the 1998 General Social Survey, which collected information about how people spent their time and who was with them during one day's activities, plus a broad range of background characteristics. "Time with children" encompasses both time devoted explicitly to child care and to other time spent in the child's presence.

The Summer 2000 issue of *Canadian social trends* (11-008-XPE, \$11/\$36; 11-008-XIE, \$8/\$27) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Cynthia Silver (613-951-2101), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canadian social trends, Summer 2000
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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Change the statistics on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
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Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

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