

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

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The continued increase in common-law unions is transforming family life in Canada, according to new data from the General Social Survey, which tracked trends in relationship ties, marital splits and new unions.

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2001 Census standard data products — Content preview

At noon today, data users can preview the content for a large majority of the 2001 Census standard product line before the actual data are released.

From the *Census* module on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca), click on *Data* to go to the *Standard data products* page, which contains newly active links to *Topic-based tabulations* and *Profiles* pages. Through any of these paths, users now have the ability to choose topic and/or electronic profile releases and to further preview products.

While the products displayed may not yet be released, users can click on *About this product* and obtain a wealth of product-related information, such as title, census year, specific release date, summary description, variables and variable definitions/breakdown.

As products become released, users will be offered additional functionality through *View this product* links that will appear on the right-hand side of each product title.

For further information, contact the Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre nearest you.



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MAJOR RELEASES

Changing conjugal life in Canada

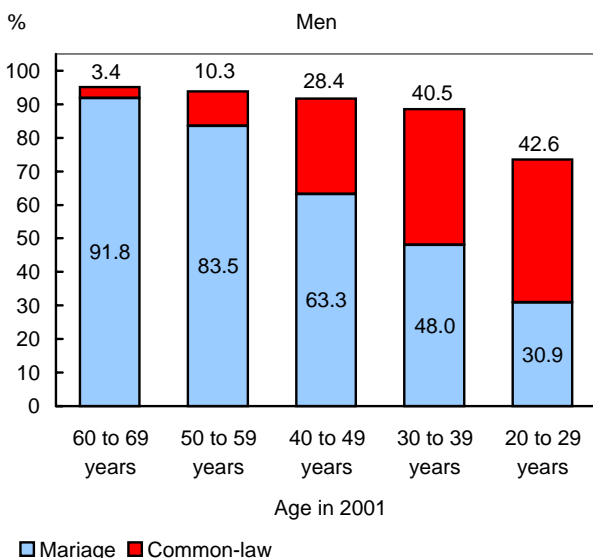
The continued increase in common-law unions is transforming family life in Canada, according to new data from the General Social Survey (GSS), which collected information on relationship ties, marital splits and new unions.

The 2001 GSS showed that close to 1.2 million couples were living in a common-law relationship, up 20% from 1995. In contrast, the number of married couples increased 3% from 6.2 million to 6.4 million.

Common-law unions increasingly popular as first unions, especially in Quebec

In 2001, the vast majority of Canadian men and women aged 50 to 69 had started their conjugal life through marriage. About 9 out of 10 of them chose marriage as their first union; a high proportion of them married before common-law relationships became accepted as an alternative way of having a stable relationship.

A majority of young Canadians are choosing common-law as a first union



Recent generations have seen a change. More than 40% of men and women aged 30 to 39 in 2001 are expected to choose a common-law union as their first union; for those aged 20 to 29, the percentage is estimated to reach 53% for women.

Note to readers

Data for this release came from the General Social Survey, which interviewed 24,310 individuals aged 15 and over from February to December 2001, living in private households in one of the 10 provinces. The response rate was 79.3%.

The survey collected information on various aspects of respondents' families: family structure while growing up, marriages, common-law relationships, children, brothers and sisters, and a wide range of basic characteristics, including the respondent's domestic situation at the time of the survey.

The probabilities of formation and break-up of unions reported in this article estimate the proportion of people who will follow a given conjugal path if the behaviours observed at the time of the survey continued.

The analysis shows that the trends observed in the formation and break-up of unions apply equally to men and women. Since men are on average older than women when they start their conjugal life, they tend to experience the events at an older age.

Definitions

Family refers to a married or common-law couple, with or without children of one or both spouses, or a lone parent, regardless of that parent's marital status, having at least one child living under the same roof.

Intact family refers to a family in which all children in the household are the biological and/or adopted offspring of both members of the couple.

Step family refers to a family in which at least one of the children in the household is from a previous relationship of one of the parents. In a "simple" step family, the child(ren) of one of the spouses lives in the household. A "blended" family contains children of both spouses from one or more previous unions or one or more children from the current union and one or more children from previous unions.

The word **separation** in this article has no legal standing. It is used simply to define the end of a relationship resulting from causes other than death.

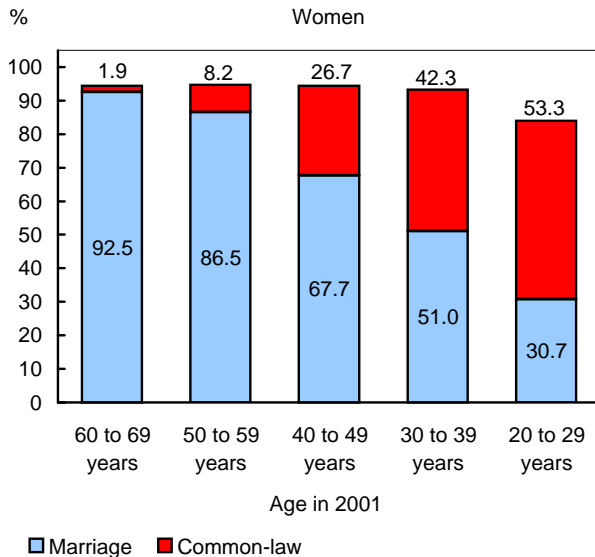
Common-law union: all common-law relationships are self-reported and could refer to unions of any duration.

The first conjugal experience is quite different in Quebec, where the appeal of marriage as a way of forming a first union has declined markedly. For instance, among Quebec women aged 30 to 39, barely 26% are expected to choose marriage as a way to start their conjugal lives. This compares with 59% of women in the other provinces.

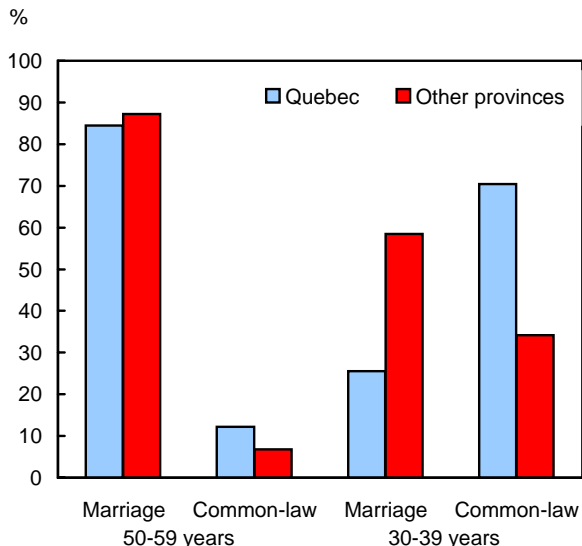
Conversely, among women in the same age group, it is estimated that 70% of those in Quebec will start their conjugal life through a common-law relationship, compared with 34% elsewhere. This reflects the fact that common-law unions were accepted and adopted in Quebec somewhat sooner than in the other provinces. In contrast, the vast majority of women in their 50s, both

in Quebec and in the rest of the country, chose marriage first — more than 80% in both cases.

A majority of young Canadians are choosing common-law as a first union



Young women in Quebec are more likely to choose common-law as a first union



Vast majority of Canadians will get married

While younger Canadians are more likely to start their conjugal life through a common-law relationship, most eventually marry. About 40% of men and women aged 30 to 39 in 2001 are expected to first choose a common-law relationship. However, an estimated 73% of men and 78% of women in the same age group will marry at some point in their conjugal life.

In contrast, about 90% of men and women aged 50 to 69 also formed at least one union through marriage, but this union was far more often the first one.

In Quebec, first common-law unions are less likely to lead to marriage. Among women aged from 30 to 39 who started their conjugal lives through a common-law union, one-third of women in Quebec had married their common-law partner at the time of the survey, compared with 59% of women in the other provinces.

Common-law relationships hold different meanings for different generations. Among the young, it is a prelude to, or substitute for, a first marriage; among older people, common-law unions are generally a prelude to, or substitute for, remarriage.

First common-law relationship twice as likely to end in separation as first marriage

First unions of younger men and women are in general more likely to end than those of older people. It is estimated that about 40% of men and women aged 30 to 39 in 2001 will see their unions end in separation or divorce, twice the proportion of those aged 60 to 69 (20%). However, the probability of a relationship breaking up is related to the form of relationship chosen to start conjugal life. Common-law unions are generally less stable than marriages.

More than 30% of men and women aged 40 to 59 who started their conjugal relationships through marriage are expected to separate, whereas the proportion was more than twice as high among their counterparts who started their conjugal relationships through common-law.

People in their 30s are likely to go through separations in similar proportions to their older counterparts, even though their conjugal lives started more recently. About 30% of those who married directly, and more than 60% of those who first experienced a common-law union, are expected to separate.

First common-law relationships among people aged 30 to 39 are now more stable in Quebec, where they are more widespread, than elsewhere in Canada. For example, the trend among younger Quebec women to separate following a first common-law relationship

is weaker than among younger women in the other provinces.

First common-law relationships are now more stable in Quebec

	Quebec		Other provinces	
	50 to 59 years	30 to 39 years	50 to 59 years	30 to 39 years
	%			
Women who have gone through at least one separation	33.8	45.8	30.5	40.6
First union was a marriage	30.6	26.8	30.2	30.7
First union was common-law	64.8	55.3	60.4	66.3

An estimated 55% of Quebec women aged 30 to 39 who first opted for a common-law union will go through a separation, a proportion that increases to 66% among women in the other provinces.

Increasing proportion of adults have gone through at least two unions

The increasing number of break-ups is leading to an increase in the number of adults who are likely to enter a second union.

In fact, the estimated proportion of adults experiencing a second union is increasing. Should the behaviours observed in 2001 continue, one third of men and women aged 30 to 39 will have a second union, twice the percentage of men in their 60s (16%) and three times the percentage of women (11%). Data show that the formation of second unions is occurring at an increasingly younger age.

More separated women in recent generations are opting for common-law unions rather than marriage for their second union

	Age in 2001		
	50 to 59 years	40 to 49 years	30 to 39 years
	%		
First union was a marriage			
Second union was common-law	38.1	45.8	42.4
Second union was a marriage	38.0	35.4	24.2
First union was common-law			
Second union was common-law	59.8	73.3	80.5
Second union was a marriage	12.5	12.5	5.6

An increase in the estimated proportion of people going through a second break-up is also evident. For instance, about 13% of women aged 30 to 39 are

expected to experience a second separation, compared with only 4% of women in their 60s.

More people in recent generations are opting for common-law unions rather than marriage for their second union following a first break-up, even when the first union was a marriage.

Women aged 30 to 39 who had first married are expected to be twice as likely to choose common-law union over marriage for their second union, whereas women who had first gone through a common-law union are expected to be 14 times as likely to do so. There is less of a contrast among people in their 50s.

Step families: 4 out of 10 are "blended"

The increasing number of break-ups and subsequent unions have led to an increase in the number of step families. Canada had 503,100 step families in 2001, compared with 430,500 in 1995. They accounted for almost 12% of all Canadian couples with children in 2001, compared with 10% in 1995.

Generally, when a step family is formed, it contains the children of one of the spouses. In 2001, 5 out of 10 step families contained only the female spouse's children. One out of 10 contained only the male spouse's children.

The other step families, about 40% of them, are "blended". In the majority of cases (81%), they were formed after the birth of a child to the couple, in addition to the children born from a previous union of at least one of the two spouses. The remaining blended families (19%) consisted of children born from previous unions of both spouses.

Half of step families contain only children of the female spouse

Type of step family	Number ('000)	%
His children	50	10
Her children	253	50
Blended families (children in common)	161	32
Blended families (no children in common)	39	8
Total	503	100

The total number of step families is split equally between married and common-law couples, just over 250,000 of each nationally. This distribution varies from one region to another.

The high proportion of common-law unions in Quebec is reflected in the composition couples of step families. Nearly three-quarters of couples live common-law, while more than 55% of couples in step

families in Ontario, the Prairies and British Columbia are married.

The document *Changing conjugal life in Canada*, 2001 (89-576-XIE, free) and the supplemental tables in *General Social Survey — Cycle 15: Family history* (89-575-XIE, free) are now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our*

products and services page, choose *Free publications*, then *Social conditions*.

For more information, or to enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Pierre Turcotte (613 951-2554, pierre.turcotte@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

New Housing Price Index

May 2002

The New Housing Price Index (1992=100) rose 0.6% in May from April. The index of contractors' selling prices increased 4.2% from May 2001, continuing the rise in year-over-year gains.

Monthly rises occurred in 14 of the 21 urban centres surveyed. The largest monthly advance was in Victoria (+3.4%). Increased material costs were a factor, but the primary cause was high demand coupled with low inventory.

Kitchener–Waterloo followed with an increase of 2.2% for May, citing material costs and a skilled labour shortage for the increase. Builders also reported good market conditions.

New Housing Price Index
(1992=100)

	May 2002	May 2001 to May 2002 % change	April to May 2002
Canada total	110.1	4.2	0.6
House only	114.3	5.5	0.8
Land only	104.8	1.2	0.2
St. John's	104.5	4.8	1.4
Halifax	122.6	4.0	0.2
Charlottetown	107.7	0.6	-
Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton	96.3	2.4	1.7
Québec	108.5	3.9	0.6
Montréal	120.0	5.6	0.6
Ottawa–Gatineau	129.5	8.0	0.7
Toronto	112.6	3.4	0.5
Hamilton	111.2	3.5	0.8
St. Catharines–Niagara	111.0	1.8	0.2
Kitchener–Waterloo	113.6	4.7	2.2
London	106.3	2.2	-0.3
Windsor	106.9	0.5	-0.1
Sudbury–Thunder Bay	98.6	1.8	1.1
Winnipeg	121.6	1.9	-
Regina	137.5	1.3	-
Saskatoon	121.4	1.4	-
Calgary	142.0	5.9	0.7
Edmonton	121.6	7.4	1.5
Vancouver	86.0	3.0	-
Victoria	75.3	4.0	3.4

- Nil or zero

Similarly, Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton (+1.7%) builders cited increased labour and material costs, and a vibrant new home market. Edmonton (+1.5%) and St. John's (+1.4%) rose for the same reasons: increased lot servicing costs and higher material and labour costs.

The index for Sudbury–Thunder Bay was up 1.1%, as builders reported a shortage of serviced land and a good market as reasons for the upward movement.

In Hamilton (+0.8%) and Ottawa–Gatineau (+0.7%), favourable new home market conditions moved up prices; Calgary's index (+0.7%) rose as a result of increased labour, material and lot prices.

Québec and Montréal both increased 0.6%, the result of higher material and labour costs. In addition, Montréal experienced higher land costs and an active market.

Toronto posted a gain of 0.5%, reporting a good market and increased construction costs. Halifax and St. Catharines–Niagara both advanced 0.2% and attributed this to good market conditions. Halifax also reported higher operating costs as a factor.

Five urban centres showed no monthly change: Charlottetown, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon and Vancouver.

Two centres posted a decrease from April. London's decrease (-0.3%) was the result of builders offering promotions to encourage sales; Windsor (-0.1%) cited a competitive market.

On an annual basis, Ottawa–Gatineau still leads the way with the largest 12-month increase (+8.0%) for new homes. Edmonton is right behind Ottawa at 7.4%, followed by Calgary (+5.9%) and Montréal (+5.6%). There were no annual decreases in May.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

The second quarter 2002 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in September. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Louise Chainé (613-951-0785; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Anne Williamson (613-951-2035; willann@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending July 6, 2002 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending July 6 totalled 299 922 metric tonnes, down 3.2% from 309 846 tonnes a week earlier and up 0.5% from 298 562 tonnes in the same week of 2001. The year-to-date total as of July 6 was 8 440 860 tonnes, up 9.1% from 7 739 390 in the same period of 2001.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts,

methods, or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

January 2002

There were 42,491 take-offs and landings recorded in January at the 112 airports without air traffic control towers, down 2.8% from January 2001.

The January 2002 monthly report, Vol. 2 (TP141, free) is now available on Transport Canada's Web site at the following URL: (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm>).

Note: The TP141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (those with Nav Canada air traffic control towers and flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (those without air traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release at Transport Canada's Web site.

For more information about this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; villenm@tc.gc.ca) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; rajanis@tc.gc.ca), Transport Canada.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca) Transportation Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics

2001

Airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers or flight service stations recorded over 6.2 million take-offs and landings in 2001, down 1.3% from 2000.

For the largest Canadian airports, the sector distribution for itinerant movements was 82% domestic, 15% transborder, and 3% other international. The proportions were similar to 2000. Air carriers represented the largest proportion of itinerant movements (69%) compared with other commercial (15%), private (13%) and government (3%).

Statistics for the Canadian airports without air traffic control towers are also available. These 116 airports reported 0.78 million take-offs and landings in 2001.

The annual report *Aircraft movement statistics* (TP577, free) is now available on Transport Canada's Web site (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/TP577/tp577.htm>). For more information on this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; villenm@tc.gc.ca) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; rajanis@tc.gc.ca), Transport Canada.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Health Services Access Survey

The survey gathered comprehensive and comparable information at the national level on the patterns of use and potential difficulties faced by Canadians in accessing health care when they need it.

You will be able to access the survey results free of charge on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) at 8:30 am Eastern time July 15 in the Agency's official release bulletin, *The Daily*.

For more information, contact Jean-Marie Berthelot (613-951-3760; fax: 613-951-3959; berthel@statcan.ca) or Christian Houle (613-951-3767; fax: 613-951-3959; houlchr@statcan.ca), Health Analysis and Measurement Group. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Production of eggs, May 2002
Catalogue number 23-003-XIB
(free).

General Social Survey — Cycle 15: Family history, 2001
Catalogue number 89-575-XIE
(free).

Changing conjugal life in Canada, 2001
Catalogue number 89-576-XIE
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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Catalogue 11-001E (Paragraphe 11-001E) (ISSN 0890-6455)



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 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 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 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Structural Equilibrium Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, value ending May 31, 1997** 12
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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's data retrieval system. 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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