



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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 Who you are and what you do has a greater influence on the state of your health than where you live, according to a new study that assesses the impact of regional socio-economic environments on health.
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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Regional socio-economic context and health

2000/01

Who you are and what you do has a greater influence on the state of your health than where you live, according to a new study that assesses the impact of regional socio-economic environments on health.

The report *Regional socio-economic context and health* found that the region in which an individual lives has some influence on health, but only a modest one.

In contrast, individual factors, such as education and income and health-related risk factors, such as obesity, play a larger role, accounting for much of the variation from one health region to another.

The study examined the characteristics of people who reported their health as poor or fair in the Canadian Community Health Survey of 2000/01.

The results expand on the conclusions of an article titled "The health of Canada's communities," released in *The Daily* on July 4. That article found that self-perceived health status differed substantially between health regions and that regional socio-economic factors were clearly associated with average health status in each region. People living in large metropolitan areas and urban centres, where education levels are high, had the highest life expectancies in all of Canada. At the other end of the spectrum, people living in remote northern communities, where education levels are lower, had poorer health.

This new article examines the extent to which this regional variation is attributable to the composition of the population within each health region, rather than to the socio-economic context of the region.

#### Individual characteristics: Who is in fair or poor health?

In general, individuals' reports of fair or poor health status in the Canadian Community Health Survey were strongly associated with age, sex, education, household income and health risk factors.

There were notable increases in the reporting of fair or poor health among individuals over the age of 45. For example, Canadians aged 45 to 64 were twice as likely, and those aged 65 or older nearly four times as likely, to report fair or poor health as those in the age group 30 to 44.

Women reported fair or poor health more often than men. However, once other factors such as age were

#### Note to readers

*This report is the second in a series of articles to examine various aspects of the health of Canadians using new data from the 2000/01 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS).*

*For the first time, it is possible to make nationwide comparisons of estimates of health outcomes and risk factors at the community or health region level, because of the large sample size of the CCHS.*

*Future articles, to be released every few weeks, will explore topics such as patterns of unmet health care needs and the health of Aboriginal Canadians living off-reserve.*

taken into account, women were slightly less likely than men to report fair or poor health.

Education and household income were also significant. Lower education levels and household income were both associated with greater odds of reporting fair or poor health.

The odds of individuals in the lowest income category of reporting fair or poor health were five times greater than those of individuals in the top income category, after taking into account other factors such as age, sex, smoking, obesity and physical activity.

Reports of fair or poor health were greater among daily smokers, obese individuals and people who exercised infrequently. Daily smokers were 1.5 times as likely as non-smokers to report fair or poor health. Individuals classified as obese were 1.7 times as likely to report fair or poor health as non-obese individuals.

#### The impact of the regional socio-economic context

To explore the role of regional socio-economic context, a series of 21 demographic and socio-economic variables were derived for each of the 136 health regions in Canada from the 1996 Census and Statistics Canada's Geography Division.

After the effects of population composition, income, education, and individual health risk factors were taken into account, socio-economic context was generally not significant. Which region people live in can have a modest association with self-reported health status, over and above individual factors. But the contextual factors examined — whether the regions was remote, prosperous, cosmopolitan or disadvantaged — generally made no difference.

Overall, these findings suggest that individual factors accounted for much of the variation among health regions in reporting fair or poor health. The influence of specific socio-economic environment

factors on individuals reporting fair or poor health at the health region scale was small by comparison.

### Possible explanations

There are several possible explanations for this relatively small contribution of health regions' social context on individual health status differences.

A number of federal and provincial government programs such as universal health care, unemployment insurance and old age security, are designed to address social disparities, and they may well attenuate the effects of the regional social context.

In addition, the particular geographic unit used in the analysis, the health region, may not be the most appropriate for representing individuals' experiences of socio-economic context.

For example, metropolitan health regions such as Toronto and Montréal have diverse social structures, so that for most people a smaller geographic unit like a "neighbourhood" would be more appropriate.

Differences between health regions may also be the result of regional variables other than socio-economic context as it was measured by this study. For example,

"social capital" is a concept that refers to the overall quality of social relationship within a community. This concept is thought to play an important role in the explanation of variation in health status across geographic localities.

Interestingly, further analysis has examined several health system characteristics, specifically the number of hospital beds, general practitioners, specialists and physicians per capita. None of these variables was statistically significant.

In other words, the variations between regions in the availability of these health care services was dwarfed by these other factors in accounting for individual health status differences.

The article *Regional socio-economic context and health*, Vol. 13, no. 2 (82-003-SIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Health*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Stéphane Tremblay (613-951-4765), Health Analysis and Measurement Group. ■

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Steel primary forms

Week ending July 27, 2002 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending July 27 totalled 286 795 metric tons, down 7.6% from 310 374 tons a week earlier but up 4.1% from 275 520 tons in the same week of 2001. The year-to-date total as of July 27 was 9 321 125 tons (revised), up 7.6% from 8 660 221 (revised) in the same period of 2001.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports

April 2002

There were 508,135 take-offs and landings recorded in April at the 99 airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers or flight service stations, down 4.2% from the 98 airports reported in April 2001.

The April 2002 monthly report, Vol. 1 (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's Web site (<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 (i.e., those with Nav Canada air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (i.e., 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](mailto:villenm@tc.gc.ca)) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; [rajanis@tc.gc.ca](mailto:rajanis@tc.gc.ca)).

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](mailto:aviationstatistics@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

### Labour productivity and related variables

Annual revisions and update to 2001

An update of annual labour productivity and related variables for the business sector and for all manufacturing industries up to 2001 is now available.

These new labour productivity estimates are revised back to 1981 to take into account the capitalization of software expenditures introduced in May 2001 in output data of the Canadian System of National Accounts.

The data released today are still based on 1980 Standard Industrial Classification and they will be replaced in the fall by revised estimates based on the new North-American Industry Classification System.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 383-0003 to 383-0005.**

For more information, to obtain data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, send an e-mail message to [productivity.measures@statcan.ca](mailto:productivity.measures@statcan.ca) or contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-5403; [maynard@statcan.ca](mailto:maynard@statcan.ca)), Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

### Annual Survey of Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing

2000

The commercial and industrial equipment rental and leasing industry earned revenues of \$6.0 billion in 2000, up 22.8% from 1999. The profit margin for the industry was 20.9% in 2000, compared with 14.5% in 1999.

Results from the 2000 Annual Survey of Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment Rental and Leasing are now available. These data provide information such as the industry's revenue, expenditures, salaries and wages, profit margin, and the percentage distribution of revenue earned by type of service and client base.

**Available on CANSIM: table 352-0009.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susan Horsley (613-951-0440; [horsley@statcan.ca](mailto:horsley@statcan.ca)), Service Industries Division. ■

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## Annual Survey of Advertising and Related Services

1999 and 2000

The advertising and related services industry earned revenues of \$4.8 billion in 2000, up 8.7% from 1999. The profit margin for the industry was 9.5% in 2000, compared with 10.1% in 1999.

Results from the 2000 Annual Survey of Advertising and Related Services are now available. These data provide information such as the industry's revenue, expenditures, salaries and wages, profit margin, and the percentage distribution of revenue earned by type of service and client base.

Revised data for reference years 1997 and 1998 will be available on CANSIM as of August 23.

**Available on CANSIM: table 360-0003.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul McDonald (613-951-0665; [mcdopau@stacan.ca](mailto:mcdopau@stacan.ca)), Service Industries Division. ■

## Survey of Household Spending

1997 to 2000

Annual data from the Survey of Household Spending from 1997 to 2000, presented in 17 detailed tables, are available today on CANSIM.

These tables include information about average expenditure per household, the percentage of households reporting and the estimated number of households reporting. Topics include household spending on food, shelter, household operation, furnishings and equipment, clothing, transportation, health care, personal care, recreation, reading materials, education, tobacco and alcoholic beverages, games of chance, miscellaneous expenses, personal taxes, personal insurance, and money gifts, alimony and charitable contributions.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 203-0002 to 203-0018.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; [income@statcan.ca](mailto:income@statcan.ca)), Income Statistics Division. ■

## Child and spousal support: Introduction to the Maintenance Enforcement Survey

1999/2000

The report *Child and spousal support: Introduction to the Maintenance Enforcement Survey* provides the first data from a survey on the collection and enforcement of child and spousal support payments. The Maintenance Enforcement Survey is designed to provide nationally comparable data on the nature of support orders and agreements resulting from separation and divorce.

Maintenance enforcement programs (MEPs) were created in each province and territory during the 1980s and 1990s to assist recipients in obtaining their support payments without having to go before the courts. Data for the Maintenance Enforcement Survey are collected from the MEPs.

The MEPs vary in a number of important aspects, including client profile, enforcement powers and practices, the enrolment process, how payments are handled and registered, and the responsibilities of recipients. These programs are estimated to handle less than half of all support orders and agreements in Canada.

This has important implications for the interpretation of the survey data. For example, in some provinces all support orders and agreements are registered with the maintenance enforcement program, while in others enrolment is voluntary. In the latter situation, the more difficult cases — those in arrears or default — tend to be registered.

The survey is not yet fully implemented. Readers are therefore cautioned against using these data to evaluate specific enforcement programs. For this report, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia provided data for the fiscal year 1999/2000. These same three provinces plus Quebec and Ontario provided snapshot data for September 2000.

The data indicate that the majority of cases involve a support amount for children. On March 31, 2000, 97% of cases registered with the maintenance enforcement program in British Columbia included a support amount for children, as did 86% of cases in Saskatchewan.

The recipient of support is generally the person who has custody of the children. Often, but not always, this is the mother. On March 31, 2000, in over 95% of MEP cases in Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, a man was paying support to a female recipient.

For all five reporting provinces, more than half of cases registered with the MEP had a monthly payment of \$400 or less, including figures of 58% for Quebec and 66% for Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

There are many ways of looking at compliance with support orders. One measure considers the amount paid as a proportion of the regularly scheduled amount

due. During 1999/2000, both Prince Edward Island and British Columbia collected 70% of the money that was due in the form of regular monthly payments. For Saskatchewan, the figure was 80%.

The report *Child and Spousal Support: Introduction to the Maintenance Enforcement Survey, 1999/2000* (85-228-XIE, \$27) is now available. Also released today is *Maintenance*

*Enforcement Programs in Canada: Description of Operations, 1999/2000* (85-552-XIE, \$27). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Cereals and oilseeds review**, May 2002, Vol. 25, no. 5  
Catalogue number **22-007-XIB** (\$11/\$112).

**Cereals and oilseeds review**, May 2002, Vol. 25, no. 5  
Catalogue number **22-007-XPB** (\$15/\$149).

**Employment, earnings and hours**, May 2002, Vol. 80,  
no. 5  
Catalogue number **72-002-XIB** (\$24/\$240).

**Regional socio-economic context and health**, 2002,  
Vol. 13, no. 2  
Catalogue number **82-003-SIE**  
(free).

**Child and spousal support: introduction to the  
Maintenance Enforcement Survey**, 1999/2000  
Catalogue number **85-228-XIE** (\$27).

**Maintenance enforcement programs in Canada:  
Description of operations**, 1999/2000  
Catalogue number **85-552-XIE** (\$27).

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**Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.**

Catalogue 11-001E (F) (English) 11-001E/11-001E001E-01-01



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997  
For release at 8:30 a.m.



**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 201 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 modestly 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** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, Apr. 1997** 12

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**RELEASE DATES: AUGUST 2002**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

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<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
1	<b>Regional socio-economic context and health</b>	2000/01
2	<b>Business Conditions Survey: Canadian manufacturing industries</b>	July 2002
7	<b>Building permits</b>	June 2002
8	<b>Help-wanted Index</b>	July 2002
9	<b>Labour Force Survey</b>	July 2002
12	<b>New Housing Price Index</b>	June 2002
14	<b>New motor vehicle sales</b>	June 2002
16	<b>Composite Index</b>	July 2002
19	<b>Monthly Survey of Manufacturing</b>	June 2002
19	<b>Travel between Canada and other countries</b>	June 2002
20	<b>Canadian international merchandise trade</b>	June 2002
20	<b>Wholesale trade</b>	June 2002
21	<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	July 2002
22	<b>Retail trade</b>	June 2002
22	<b>Regional differences in self-reported unmet care needs</b>	
23	<b>Estimates of production of principal field crops</b>	July 31, 2002
23	<b>Livestock</b>	July 1, 2002
26	<b>Canada's international transactions in securities</b>	June 2002
26	<b>Farm cash receipts</b>	Second quarter 2002
27	<b>Employment Insurance</b>	June 2002
27	<b>The health of the off-reserve aboriginal population</b>	
28	<b>Employment, earnings and hours</b>	June 2002
28	<b>Characteristics of international travellers</b>	First quarter 2002
28	<b>International travel account</b>	Second quarter 2002
29	<b>Industrial product price and raw materials price indexes</b>	July 2002
29	<b>Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises</b>	Second quarter 2002
30	<b>Gross domestic product by industry</b>	June 2002
30	<b>National economic and financial accounts</b>	Second quarter 2002
30	<b>Balance of international payments</b>	Second quarter 2002

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