



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, October 16, 2003

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MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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NEW PRODUCTS

Perspectives on labour and income

October 2003 online edition

The October 2003 online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income*, released today, features two articles. "Family wealth across the generations" examines the change in wealth of families from 1984 to 1999. The second article, "Precarious jobs: A new typology of employment," looks at the issue of non-standard work. Non-standard work refers to employment situations that differ from the traditional model of a full-time, permanent, paid job. These include part-time employment, temporary employment, own-account self-employment and multiple jobholding. For more information on this article, contact Nancy Zukewich (613-951-8645; nancy.zukewich@statcan.ca).

The October 2003 online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income*, Vol. 4 no. 10 (75-001-XIE, \$6/\$52) is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



OTHER RELEASES

Family wealth across the generations

1984 to 1999

The study "Family wealth across the generations" examines changes in family wealth during a 15-year period, using the 1999 Survey of Financial Security and the 1984 Survey of Consumer Finances. Assets and debts are analysed for six cohorts of families, based on the age of the major income recipient in 1984.

During this 15-year period, the Canadian economy experienced a recovery from the 1981–1982 recession, another recession in 1990–1991, and then another recovery. Financially, not all families benefited equally from the economic booms that followed these recessions.

In 1999, families whose major income recipient was born in the 1940s had the highest mean wealth, about \$291,600. Those whose major income recipient was born in the 1960s had the lowest, about \$110,900. This is consistent with the well-known pattern of wealth being low for younger families and peaking in the pre-retirement years. (Wealth is not income. It is the value of an individual's or family's assets net of any debts. The principal residence accounted for about 41% of total assets, and mortgages on that residence accounted for two-thirds of total debt.)

From 1984 to 1999, families whose major income recipient was born in the 1940s, 1950s or 1960s made substantial gains in wealth. However, those in which the major income recipient was older (born before 1930) incurred a loss.

Gains in wealth reflected the acquisition of non-financial assets, such as a house or a business, and of financial assets, such as stocks, mutual funds or savings in tax-sheltered registered plans.

Families in the older groups experienced a decline in wealth as they liquidated some assets because of a drop in income or changed demographics.

Changes in the types of assets held and the debts owed by families in different cohorts resulted in a change in their respective wealth distributions.

The median wealth of families with a major income recipient born in the 1960s rose from \$3,100 in 1984 to \$40,500 in 1999. In contrast, median wealth fell from \$129,100 to \$125,000 among families in which the major income recipient was born in the 1920s.

During this period, the proportion of families with \$500,000 or more in wealth doubled from 4% to almost 9%, although their share of total wealth increased only from 35% to 49%.

Even though some generations of families saw their wealth increase more than others, overall inequality in wealth remained unchanged. Equity in the principal residence, the single largest component of wealth of families in all family groups, helped to reduce wealth inequality.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3502 and 2620.

The article "Family wealth across the generations" is available in the October 2003 online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income*, Vol. 4, no. 10 (75-001-XIE, \$6/\$52). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Raj Chawla (613-951-6901; raj.chawla@statcan.ca), or Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

Food consumption

2002

Canadians are eating more fruit and fish, according to new data on food consumption. Each Canadian ate on average 93 kg of fruit in 2002, 15% more than a decade earlier.

Canadians also ate more fish in 2002 than the year before, amounting to just over 7 kg per person. Two reasons for this increase are a wider array of convenient and easy-to-prepare products and a demand for alternate sources of protein.

The information comes from new experimental data designed to estimate how much food and nutrients Canadians consume after adjusting to account for waste in stores, homes and restaurants.

Fresh fruit made up the majority of fruits consumed, especially apples, bananas and oranges.

Blended traditional and tropical juices have also become more popular over the past decade. Canadians each drank 25 litres of fruit juice in 2002, an increase of more than 24% from 1992.

Vegetables, especially potatoes, remained a frequent choice for consumers, in spite of a drop in consumption in 2002 from the year before. Each person crunched through an average of 110 kg of veggies, compared with 106 kg a decade earlier.

Potatoes made up 35% of all vegetables consumed in 2002. Each Canadian ate about 38 kg of potatoes

in 2002, either in fresh or processed form such as french fries and potato chips. In 1992, Canadians ate just 33 kg of potatoes each.

Canadians also consumed more than 23 kg of oils and fats in 2002. That amount hasn't changed much over the past four years, although consumption did increase in the 1990s. The growing use of salad and shortening oils in salad dressings, deep-fried products and other commercially prepared foods fuelled the increase.

Each Canadian is also consuming more nutrients compared with a decade ago, according to new data. Energy consumed jumped 18% from 1992 to 2002, while carbohydrates rose 16%.

Fat intake, on the other hand, has remained about the same since 1998, although it increased considerably during the early 1990s. Oils and fats alone made up 56% of all intake in 2002, compared with just 47% a decade earlier, followed by the combined group of red meat, poultry and fish.

Protein levels, with meat remaining the major source, have also risen since 1992.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0010, 002-0011 and 002-0019.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404, 3407, 3430 and 3475.

The *Canada food stats* CD-ROM (23F0001XCB, \$81/\$129) will be available soon. This is an easy-to-use system that provides access to a broad spectrum of data, preformatted reports and articles on food and the food industry. See *How to order products*.

Food statistics, Vol. 2, no. 2 (21-020-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Conrad Ogrodnik (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2860; fax 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

Services indicators

Second quarter 2003

According to a new study, available today in the second quarter 2003 issue of *Services indicators*, the commercial activities of the services sector account for almost 29% of total spending in research and development in Canada, and about 37% of the labour force engaged in research and development.

The study highlights the steady rise in output and employment in research and development in business services, as well as the performance of information and communications technologies and biotechnology in research and development in recent years.

In 2002, gross domestic spending on research and development in commercial services amounted to \$3.2 billion (28% of total research and development), up 16% from 1998. On their own, business services accounted for 17% of all research and development spending in the economy.

The study also found that the services sector is a heavy user of highly skilled research and development labour. In 2000, almost 33,800 people were employed in the commercial services sector; 6 out of 10 were professionals.

The publication *Services indicators* also contains an analysis of economic output for the services sector in the second quarter of 2003. Services output between April and June rose 0.5% from the first quarter, about the same rate as in the previous two quarters. By comparison, output in goods fell 1.1%.

The relatively weak second-quarter growth was attributed to major concerns about SARS and mad cow disease and to uncertainties over the American economy and the situation in Iraq. Other important developments were the rapid appreciation of the dollar and the declining interest rates.

The article "Research and development in Canada's services sector" is now available in the second quarter 2003 issue of *Services indicators*, Vol. 10, no. 2 (63-016-XIB \$28/\$94; 63-016-XPB \$38/\$125). See *How to order products*.

For more information contact Gaston Levesque (613-951-9344; levegas@statcan.ca), Services Industries Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

September 2003

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in September compared with the August level of 128.0 (1992=100). The composite index increased 2.3% compared with the September 2002 index.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes (1992=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The third quarter 2003 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$26/\$85) will be available in January 2004. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rebecca McDougall (613-951-3357; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Food statistics, 2002, Vol. 2, no. 2
Catalogue number 21-020-XIE
(free).

Services indicators, Second quarter 2003, Vol. 10,
no. 2
Catalogue number 63-016-XIB (\$28/\$94).

Services indicators, Second quarter 2003, Vol. 10,
no. 2
Catalogue number 63-016-XPB (\$38/\$125).

Canadian international merchandise trade,
August 2003, Vol. 57, no. 8
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB (\$15/\$151).

Perspectives on labour and income, October 2003,
Vol. 4, no. 10
Catalogue number 75-001-XIE (\$6/\$52).

Causes of death, 2001
Catalogue number 84-208-XIE
(free).

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

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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 six 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 and industry weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-wanted index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, Apr. 1997 13

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