



The Daily

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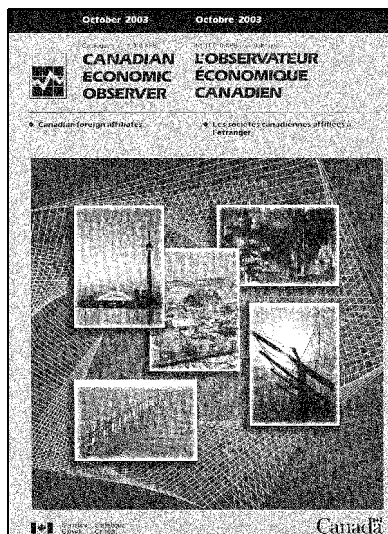
MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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Canadian economic observer October 2003

The October issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in September and presents a feature article titled "Canadian Foreign Affiliates, 1999 to 2001." A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The October 2003 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Volume 16, no. 10 (11-010-XIB, \$19/\$182; 11-010-XPB, \$25/\$243) is now available. See *How to order products*. As a way to encourage you to try the new electronic version, we are offering free access to the electronic version of the August issue of *Canadian economic observer*. This will give you a risk-free opportunity to try out the electronic version. We would also encourage you to send us your feedback on this new medium of delivery by filling the *Readership Survey*.

Visit the *Canadian economic observer's* page on Statistics Canada's website. From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, and on that page, see the banner ad for *Canadian economic observer*. For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.

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OTHER RELEASES

Parental work, child-care use and young children's cognitive outcomes

A new research paper examines whether a parent's work, and the resulting use of substitute child-care, is associated with a lower level of development of the skills that pre-school children need to start school.

The study showed that, for most pre-school children, the full-time work of their parents and the time children spend in substitute child-care have little or no association with lower levels of development of the skills needed to start school.

However, two groups of pre-school children appear to have better school readiness scores when there is a parent who works part-time hours, or who does not work outside the home. One group consisted of the pre-school children of mothers who had above-average parenting skills and levels of education. Likewise, children whose fathers possessed above-average education exhibited slightly higher levels of skill development if their fathers worked part-time.

The results appear to indicate that quantity of time spent in parent-child interaction, by itself, is not associated with decreased cognitive development of pre-school children. However, a combination of quantity and quality of the time spent in parent-child interaction appears to be related to whether pre-school children are intellectually prepared to start school.

In particular, the study points to reading as an important parent-child activity that is associated with higher school readiness scores among some pre-school children. Pre-school children who read, or are read to, on a daily basis, exhibit higher levels of skill development than children who do not read, or are not read to, every day. Children who read, or are read to, several times each day exhibit even higher levels of school readiness.

The analysis in this paper is based on arguments that parent-child interaction fosters the development of the skills that pre-school children need to start school successfully. These arguments hold that full-time labour market participation among parents often results in comparatively less time for parent-child interaction than in families with a stay-at-home parent.

Although the relationship is not strong, hours in substitute care are positively associated with better school readiness scores for pre-school children from higher income families. This finding might be because children in higher income families are exposed to a higher quality of substitute care. Family income is also associated with higher school readiness scores, independent of the number of hours that children spend in child-care. This may be because children in higher

income families have access to greater resources, such as educational books and toys, as well as to a healthy and pleasant living environment.

The study also found that children of working single parents tend to spend more hours in substitute child-care than the children of dual-parent families. The most obvious explanation is that without a spouse in the home to assist in caring for the children, these parents are more likely to rely on substitute care.

Note: The analysis for this paper was conducted at the British Columbia Inter-university Research Data Centre, located at the University of British Columbia. The results are based on data from the 1994, 1996 and 1998 cycles of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY). (As this analysis was conducted prior to the release of the re-calibration of NLSCY's survey weights, the point estimates reflected here are based on population estimates for 1994, 1996 and 1998.)

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4450.

The research paper *Parental work, child-care use and young children's cognitive outcomes* (89-594-XIE2003001, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website. From the home page, select *Studies*, then *Research opportunities*, *Research Data Centres* and *Research papers*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lynda Gagné (250-721-8063), University of Victoria, between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Eastern Time.

For more information about the Research Data Centre program, contact Gustave Goldmann (613-951-1472), Research Data Centre program. ■

Registered retirement savings plan contributions

2002

The number of Canadians who contributed to a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP), as well as the amount of their contributions, have both dropped sharply for the second straight year.

In total, 5,991,440 taxfilers contributed just under \$27.1 billion to an RRSP in the 2002 tax year. The number of contributors was down 4.0% from 2001, while the amount of contributions fell 4.8%.

These declines occurred despite a 2% increase in the number of taxfilers with room, and despite stability

in median employment income. Median employment income in 2002 was \$24,400, down a slight 0.5% from the previous year, after adjusting for inflation.

Both contributors and contributions reached record levels in 2000. During that year, 6,291,170 taxfilers contributed almost \$29.3 billion.

The median RRSP contribution in 2002 declined \$100 from \$2,600 in 2001 to \$2,500. The median is the point at which half of taxfilers are below and half are above.

The median contribution fell in all provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec, where it remained the same.

RRSP participation rates among men and women, and across age groups, shifted slightly. Although the number of women who contributed declined, they accounted for 46% of contributors, up from 45% in 2001. Their median contribution of \$2,100 was down from \$2,200 in 2001.

The number of contributors fell in all age groups except those aged 55 to 64. However, even in this age group, the average contribution declined.

To be eligible to contribute to an RRSP, a taxfiler must have either new room as a result of qualifying income from the previous year, generally employment income, or unused room from earlier years.

For the 2002 tax year, 80% of those who filed taxes had room. Of these, about 34% made contributions.

The contributions in 2002 represented only about 9% of the total room available to those who filed taxes in 2002, and less than half of the new room that was generated in 2002.

Note: Data came from income tax returns filed in the spring of 2003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4106.

The databanks *RRSP contributors* (17C0006, various prices), *RRSP contribution limit* (17C0011, various prices) and *Canadian taxfilers* (17C0010, various prices) are available for Canada, the provinces and territories, cities, towns, census metropolitan areas, census divisions, federal electoral districts and areas as small as forward sortation areas (the first three characters of the postal code), and letter carrier routes. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720; fax: 1-866-652-8444 or 613-951-4745; saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

**RRSP contributors
2002**

	Number of contributors	2001 to 2002 % change	Contributions \$ thousands	2001 to 2002 % change	Median contribution \$
Canada	5,991,440	-4.0	27,072,812	-4.8	2,500
Newfoundland and Labrador	59,860	-3.6	248,004	-4.5	2,000
Prince Edward Island	19,390	-6.3	78,551	-1.3	2,000
Nova Scotia	132,280	-5.0	551,578	-4.0	2,000
New Brunswick	101,670	-3.7	390,683	-7.5	2,000
Quebec	1,516,510	-2.0	6,258,295	-3.5	2,400
Ontario	2,349,330	-4.6	11,227,411	-6.2	2,700
Manitoba	207,150	-6.6	793,535	-6.9	2,000
Saskatchewan	171,410	-7.3	670,223	-9.1	2,200
Alberta	654,270	-3.8	3,124,388	-4.2	2,700
British Columbia	764,190	-4.6	3,650,061	-1.8	2,800
Yukon	5,830	-2.7	28,542	-1.3	3,000
Northwest Territories	7,240	0.7	37,313	0.9	3,400
Nunavut	2,320	-1.3	14,229	4.4	4,200

Oil and gas extraction industry: capital and operating expenditures

2002

Capital expenditures by the conventional oil and gas extraction industry totalled \$18.0 billion in 2002, down 17.5% from 2001. The large decrease in spending reflected large reductions in natural gas prices in 2002. Expenditures in the exploratory and development drilling categories declined 14.7% from 2001, largely the result of decreased drilling activity. Production facilities expenditures were down 20.5% as a result of the decline in development drilling completions in 2002.

The non-conventional sector capital expenditures amounted to a record \$6.7 billion, up 14.2% from 2001.

As a result of higher natural gas and crude oil prices and increased drilling activity, capital expenditures by the oil and gas extraction industry, as published in *Private and Public investment in Canada, revised intentions 2003* (61-206-XIB, \$33) are expected to edge up slightly in 2003.

Operating expenses for the conventional sector dropped 16.4% from 2001 to settle at \$17.4 billion. Operating expenses for the non-conventional sector reached \$2.7 billion, down 9.3% from 2001. Both declines were primarily the results of lower royalty payments, a major component of operating expenses.

Oil and gas extraction industry: Capital and operating expenditures

	2002	2001 to 2002
	\$ millions	% change
Capital		
Conventional	17,980.4	-17.5
Non-conventional	6,745.8	14.2
Operating		
Conventional	17,373.9	-16.4
Non-conventional	2,739.0	-9.3

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2178.

The 2002 issue of the *Oil and gas extraction* (26-213-XIB, \$24) will be available later this year. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Pierre Després (613-951-3579; pierre.despres@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Oil and gas extraction industry: Volume and value of marketable production

2002

Crude oil and equivalent production rose 6.2% in 2002, primarily on higher deliveries to export market (+6.7%). Synthetic crude oil production (including crude bitumen) has increased solidly in the last 10 years; in 2002, it accounted for 31.4% of total crude oil and equivalent production, compared with 20.9% in 1992. In Alberta, 2002 marks the first year where non-conventional production of crude oil exceeded conventional production. Natural gas production edged up 0.6% to 172.4 billion cubic metres, as a result of a sustained demand from domestic and export markets.

The value of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons produced in 2002 totalled an estimated \$30.0 billion, up 20.2% from \$24.9 billion in 2001. This sharp jump was largely attributable to higher wellhead prices in 2002. The value of natural gas production was estimated at \$23.7 billion in 2002, down 29.6% from 2001, a result of large reductions in wellhead prices.

Oil and Gas Extraction Industry: Volume and value of marketable production

	2002	2001 to 2002
		% change
Crude oil and equivalent		
Volume (thousands of cubic metres)	136,969.2	6.2
Value (\$ millions)	29,956.1	20.2
Natural gas		
Volume (millions of cubic metres)	172,355.2	0.6
Value (\$ millions)	23,719.7	-29.6
Natural gas by-products¹		
Volume (thousands of cubic metres)	28,862.2	-1.6
Value (\$ millions)	3,994.7	-12.7

¹ Excludes volume and value of pentanes plus and elemental sulphur.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

The 2002 issue of the *Oil and gas extraction* (26-213-XIB, \$24) will be available later this year. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Pierre Després (613-951-3579; pierre.despres@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

August 2003 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for August. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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; energ@statcan.ca), Energy, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Canadian economic observer, October 2003, Vol. 16, no. 10
Catalogue number **11-010-XIB** (\$19/\$182).

Canadian economic observer, October 2003, Vol. 16, no. 10
Catalogue number **11-010-XPB** (\$25/\$243).

Retail trade, August 2003, Vol. 75, no. 8
Catalogue number **63-005-XIB** (\$18/\$166).

Parental work, child-care use and young children's cognitive outcomes,
Catalogue number **89-594-XIE2003001**
(free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (1 page) (11-001-XIE2003001)



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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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 1.1 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 relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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