



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, May 23, 2003

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Social support and mortality among seniors, 1994/95 to 2000/01** 2
Being married or living with a partner is associated with a lower risk of dying for senior men, but not for senior women, according to a study of mortality.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Social support and mortality among seniors

1994/95 to 2000/01

The social support that seniors get through marriage is associated with a lower risk of dying, according to a study of mortality — but only for men.

The same appears to be the case for the support an individual receives by participating in groups such as community or volunteer organizations, but again, only among senior men. The study also found that the higher the level of education a senior man had, the longer he lived; this did not apply to senior women.

The study examined mortality among a group of men and women aged 65 or older over a six-year period, from 1994/95 to 2000/01, using longitudinal data from the National Population Health Survey. It is one of few such studies that examine data for men and women separately.

Specifically, the analysis tested the hypothesis that social support influences the risk of dying among seniors who live in private households. Data for each sex were analysed separately because of differences between men and women in their social relationships.

The study focussed on several aspects, or markers, of social support, specifically, marital status, participation in groups or organizations, contacts with family and friends, and perceived emotional support.

The differences between men and women were assessed while taking account of other factors that might also affect mortality, including age, socio-economic status, stress, health-related behaviour such as smoking and levels of leisure-time physical activity, and health status measured in terms of chronic conditions and dependency.

Social support reduces risk of dying among senior men

Even though the average age of elderly respondents in 1994/95 did not differ by sex, women survived an average of about three months longer than men did in the follow-up period. At the end of the period, 79% of women, compared with 68% of men, were still alive.

Being married had a "protective" impact on mortality among men, but not among women. Married men had a 40% lower risk of death, compared with men who were single, widowed, divorced or separated.

In addition, among men, even when a range of other variables was taken into account, participation in organizations was linked with longevity. Men who engaged in such activities had a 10% lower risk of death, compared with those who did not. In contrast, there was no association between participation in these activities and longer life among women when other factors were considered.

Education a factor in longevity for men

The likelihood of dying was significantly higher among people who had not finished high school and among those who lived in lower income households, compared with more highly educated and more affluent individuals.

When other potential influences were also taken into account, the relationship between low educational attainment and the risk of dying persisted among senior men, but not among senior women.

The full report "Social support and mortality in seniors" appears in *Health reports*, Vol. 14, no. 3 (82-003-XIE, \$15/\$44; 82-003-XPE, \$20/\$58), which is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information about this article, contact Kathryn Wilkins (613-951-1769), Health Statistics Division.

This issue contains two other articles: "Prostate cancer: Testing, incidence, surgery and mortality" and "Tracking diabetes: Prevalence, incidence and risk factors."

The article on diabetes uses longitudinal data from the National Population Health Survey in combination with the 2000/01 Canadian Community Health Survey to estimate the incidence of diabetes since the mid-1990s. It concludes that the number of Canadians aged 18 or older who have been diagnosed with diabetes has generally been increasing since 1994/95, with lifestyle tending to be a major factor. For more information about this article, contact Wayne J. Millar (613-225-4908), Health Statistics Division.

The article on prostate cancer shows that, in 2000/01, 43% of men aged 40 or older reported having had the prostate-specific antigen, or PSA, test. It also analyses trends in the incidence of prostate cancer, surgery and deaths. For more information about this article, contact Laurie Gibbons (613-951-4426), Health Statistics Division.

For more information about the National Population Health Survey, contact Mario Bédard (613-951-8933; fax: 613-951-4198; mario.bedard@statcan.ca) or France Bilocq (613-951-6956; france.bilocq@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

For more information about *Health reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765), Health Statistics Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms — weekly data

Week ending May 17, 2003 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending May 17 totalled 278 863 metric tonnes, down 11.5% from 314 937 tonnes a week earlier and 10.6% from 311 994 tonnes in the same week of 2002.

The year-to-date total as of May 17 was 6 039 420 tonnes, down 3.0% from 6 224 703 tonnes in the same period of 2002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2131.

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), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review

March 2003

In April, Chicago soybean and corn futures held up well over a month that has traditionally experienced seasonal weakness. Soybean futures were initially supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) mid-month report that forecast carryout stocks at a low 145 million bushels, when trade projections had placed ending stocks between 110 and 125 million bushels. Exports were held up longer than usual

because of financial and infrastructure problems in Brazil, which resulted in China switching some cargoes from Brazil to the United States. Corn futures prices were buoyed early in the month by low USDA plantings and stocks estimates but faded later because of favourable weather in the Corn Belt and continued weak export movement.

Winnipeg canola futures changed little until the last week of April. A key supporting factor was the industry expectation that the crop's spring plantings would be up only a few percentage points from last year. Canola contracts later eroded because of pressure from a stronger Canadian dollar and a higher-than-expected intentions estimate.

Data from the March issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries and supply-disposition analyses.

The annual summary of grain storage and movement is included in the March issue.

The April situation report, an overview of current market conditions, both domestic and international, is also included in the March 2003 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112; 22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; les.macartney@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat — a weekly review, May 23, 2003
Catalogue number **11-002-XIE** (\$3/\$109).

Infomat — a weekly review, May 23, 2003
Catalogue number **11-002-XPE** (\$4/\$145).

Health reports, Vol. 14, no. 3
Catalogue number **82-003-XIE** (\$15/\$44).

Health reports, Vol. 14, no. 3
Catalogue number **82-003-XPE** (\$20/\$58).

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

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (P) single 11-001-XIE 11-001-XIE 11-001-XIE



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES



- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the enrollees on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 41 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 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Harbourfront Index May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Flag production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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RELEASE DATES: MAY 26 TO 30

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
26	The relationship between working while in high school and dropping out	2000
27	Employment Insurance	March 2003
27	Farm cash receipts	First quarter 2003
27	Net farm income	2002
28	Characteristics of international travellers	Fourth quarter 2002
28	International travel account	First quarter 2003
29	Employment, earnings and hours	March 2003
29	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	April 2003
29	Balance of international payments	First quarter 2003
30	Gross domestic product by industry	March 2003
30	National economic and financial accounts	First quarter 2003