



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Relationship between working while in high school and dropping out, 2000** 2
Students who worked moderate hours at a paid job during their last year of high school were least likely to drop out. However, students who worked 30 or more hours a week were the most likely to end up leaving.

OTHER RELEASES

- Natural gas sales, March 2003 4
- Natural gas transportation and distribution, October 2002 4

NEW PRODUCTS

Canada e-book

2001

The *Canada year book*, one of the nation's top sources of information on social trends and the economy, is going online for the first time in its 136-year history.

The *Canada e-book* is the most recent phase in a long tradition that began when the first *Canada year book* was published in 1867 to celebrate Confederation.

The electronic version is packed with information on the country under four thematic sections: the Land, the People, the Economy and the State. It contains all 15 chapters of the print version, featuring 56 informative stories and essays, illustrated by photographs, charts and tables.

The *Canada e-book* has also been designed to take advantage of the electronic features of the Internet. It will provide links to various Statistics Canada modules, such as *Canadian statistics*, as well as links to various publications. Information in the *Canada e-book* will be updated periodically.

The *Canada year book* has become the reference standard for researchers and writers, students and professionals who require easy access to abundant and exhaustive information.

The *Canada e-book* (11-404-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca).

For more information, contact Jacques Lefebvre (613-951-7220), Communications Division.



MAJOR RELEASES

Relationship between working while in high school and dropping out

2000

Students who worked moderate hours at a paid job during their last year of high school were least likely to drop out of school, according to a new report. This report used data covering youth aged 18 to 20 from the 2000 Youth in Transition Survey.

However, those who worked 30 or more hours a week during their last year of high school were the most likely to end up leaving.

The report confirmed previous research showing that there is a strong relationship between the number of hours students worked and dropping out of high school. It points to the fact that working and finishing high school can mix, if working is done in moderation.

Although a link clearly exists between the number of hours worked and dropping out, this study does not conclude that this is a simple cause-and-effect relationship. Previous research suggests dropping out of high school is more a process based on a number of factors than a decision one makes all at once.

For example, some students may have been far enough along in the dropping out process to prefer working to schooling. Or some may have needed money. In fact, 44% of students who worked 30 or more hours a week reported dropping out because of "wanting to work" or "having to work/money problems."

The report also considered other factors known to be related to whether a student drops out, such as enjoyment of school, demographic profile, participation in extracurricular activities, and parents' education and occupation.

However, even after taking other factors into account, students who worked 30 or more hours a week were 2.4 times more likely to drop out than students with moderate work schedules (between 1 and 20 hours). Students who did not work at all were 1.5 times more likely to drop out than moderate workers.

Students who were able to maintain a balance between their studies and the workload from their part-time jobs had the lowest risk of dropping out of high school. These students had the advantages of a paying job — some money, some autonomy, and some skill development — and still obtained a high school diploma.

Note to readers

This report uses data from the 18- to 20-year-old cohort of the Youth in Transition Survey, a new longitudinal survey undertaken jointly by Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada.

The survey is designed to examine key transitions in the lives of young people as they move from high school to postsecondary education, and from schooling to the labour market.

This report examines work activities of students during their last year in high school. It looks at who were working, how many hours they worked and the relationship between working and dropping out of school, after taking other factors into account.

The report draws on data from the survey's first cycle, conducted from January to April 2000. More than 22,000 young people aged 18 to 20 in the 10 provinces participated.

For the purpose of this report, a high school leaver, or dropout, was an individual aged 18 to 20 who was not in high school in December 1999, and had not already met the minimum requirements for high school graduation.

Most students work, and most work moderate hours

More than two-thirds of all students surveyed, or about 69%, had worked during their last year of high school. A higher proportion of students had worked in the provinces with lower unemployment rates. Students were also more likely to have had a job if they had parents who worked. Specifically, the proportion of students with a job was higher if their mother worked than if their mother had never worked. Similarly, students were more likely to have a job if their father worked than if their father had never worked.

More than half of the students in the survey worked between 1 and 30 hours a week during their last year of high school. Slightly more than one third did not work at all, and fewer than 10% worked more than 30 hours a week.

Young men tended to work more hours than young women. About 28% of male students worked more than 20 hours a week, compared with 21% of female students.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 4435.

The report *Learning, earning and leaving: The relationship between working while in high school and dropping out* (81-595-MIE, no. 4, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Education*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax:

613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Natural gas sales

March 2003 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 8 115 million cubic metres in March, up 2.9% from March 2002. All three sectors (residential, commercial and industrial) recorded higher sales. Colder-than-normal temperatures throughout most of Canada resulted in higher sales to the residential (+2.4%) and commercial (+1.3%) sectors. Use of natural gas by the industrial sector (including direct sales) rose 4.0% over March 2002, the result of higher demand by electric utilities.

Year-to-date sales at the end of March were up 8.5% from the same period of 2002. Consumption by the residential and commercial sectors rose 10.5% and 11.5% respectively. The industrial sector (including direct sales) posted a 5.7% increase over 2002.

Natural gas sales

| | March 2003 ^P | March 2002 | March 2002 to March 2003 % change |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Thousands of cubic metres | | |
| Natural gas sales | 8 115 376 | 7 888 514 | 2.9 |
| Residential | 2 446 567 | 2 390 178 | 2.4 |
| Commercial | 1 821 711 | 1 798 395 | 1.3 |
| Industrial | 1 811 619 | 1 748 998 | 4.0 |
| Direct | 2 035 479 | 1 950 943 | |
| | Year-to-date | | |
| | 2003 ^P | 2002 | 2002 to 2003 % change |
| | Thousands of cubic metres | | |
| Natural gas sales | 25 612 031 | 23 602 178 | 8.5 |
| Residential | 7 960 563 | 7 201 430 | 10.5 |
| Commercial | 6 004 389 | 5 386 783 | 11.5 |
| Industrial | 5 460 830 | 5 200 600 | 5.7 |
| Direct | 6 186 249 | 5 813 365 | |

^P Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.
(These tables will be available later.)

Information on methods and data quality available in
the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2149.

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), Tom Lewis (613-951-3596; tom.lewis@statcan.ca) or Lloyd Cundell (613-951-7346; lloyd.cundell@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Natural gas transportation and distribution October 2002

Data on natural gas transportation and distribution are now available for October 2002.

Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.

Information on methods and data quality available in
the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2149.

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), Tom Lewis (613-951-3596; tom.lewis@statcan.ca) or Lloyd Cundell (613-951-7346; lloyd.cundell@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Canada e-book,
Catalogue number 11-404-XIE
(free).

Fur statistics, 2003, Vol. 1, no. 1
Catalogue number 23-013-XIE
(free).

Industry price indexes, March 2003, Vol. 29, no. 3
Catalogue number 62-011-XIE (\$17/\$163).

Canada's international transactions in securities,
March 2003, Vol. 69, no. 03
Catalogue number 67-002-XIE (\$14/\$132).

Learning, earning and leaving: The relationship between working while in high school and dropping out, research paper no. 4
Catalogue number 81-595-MIE2003004
(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 20 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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