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Releases

Study: Earnings of couples with high and low levels of education

1980 to 2000

The gap in earnings between couples who are highly educated and couples with much lower levels of schooling has widened considerably during the past two decades, according to a new study.

Couples consisting of two university graduates have seen their employment income rise substantially. On the other hand, those with high school education or less have struggled to maintain their standard of living.

The study, based on census data, showed that in 2000, Canadian-born couples in which both spouses had a high school diploma or less had annual earnings for the most part that were no higher than those of their counterparts in 1980.

In contrast, Canadian-born couples where both partners had a university degree earned 14% to 22% more than their counterparts did two decades earlier. In 2000, these couples accounted for 10% of all Canadian-born couples, more than twice the rate of 4% in 1980.

The study also found that the relatively poor earnings performance of less educated couples was associated with substantial declines in earnings among low-educated males.

For instance, among Canadian-born couples in which both spouses had a high school diploma or less, men aged 25 to 34 incurred a decline of between 15% and 28% in their annual earnings over the last two decades.

Even though Canadian-born wives earned more in 2000 than their counterparts did in 1980, the growth in their employment income did not always prevent a drop in the earnings of less educated couples.

Furthermore, the earnings of women generally rose more among highly educated than among less educated couples. And, earnings of highly educated males evolved more favourably than those of low-educated men. Both patterns contributed to widen the gap between highly educated and less educated couples.

Substantial earnings declines among men with low levels of education

Regardless of age, Canadian-born husbands with low levels of education experienced substantial declines in earnings between 1980 and 2000.

Note to readers

This release is based on a research paper titled "Earnings of Couples with High and Low Levels of Education, 1980 to 2000?", which is available today.

The study uses census data to examine the evolution of earnings and income of couples with various levels of education between 1980 and 2000. The sample consists of opposite-sex couples (married or common-law) where males are aged 25 to 54.

While this study considers couples in which both spouses are born in Canada (Canadian-born couples) as well as those in which spouses are immigrants, the numbers in this release refer only to Canadian-born couples.

For simplicity, the terms "husbands" and "wives" used in this release include men and women living in a common-law relationship.

For instance, those who were aged 35 to 54 and who, like their spouse, had a high school diploma or less, saw their annual earnings drop between 9% and 27%, relative to those of their counterparts in 1980.

These declines in annual earnings were not simply because of declines in annual work hours. Rather, they were in large part a result of a decline in pay rates.

For instance, husbands aged 45 to 54 who were employed full time and who, along with their spouse, had a high school diploma, saw their weekly earnings drop 11% between 1980 and 2000.

Growing earnings of wives not always enough

Regardless of their age and level of education, Canadian-born wives received higher annual earnings in 2000 than their counterparts did in 1980. However, their growing earnings did not always offset the earning declines experienced by their low-educated partners.

For instance, young couples (those in which men are aged 25 to 34) with high school education or less had annual earnings that in 2000 were 6% to 20% lower than their counterparts in 1980. This was so despite the fact that annual earnings of women in these couples rose by a modest \$1,100 to \$2,900 (in 2001 dollars).

Among older couples with low levels of education, the growing earnings of wives often prevented a drop in living standards. This was the case, for instance, for couples in which men were aged 35 to 44 and in which both spouses had no high school diploma.

In 2000, annual earnings of these couples were almost identical to those of their counterparts in 1980,

even though males suffered a 14% drop in employment income.

Couples with low levels of education lost ground

In general, highly educated wives increased their earnings more than their less educated counterparts.

Among couples consisting of two university graduates, the annual earnings of women rose between \$8,400 and \$23,000 during the 20-year period. In contrast, the corresponding increase was at most \$5,400 among couples in which both spouses had no high school diploma.

As a result, the earnings gap between highly educated and less educated couples widened during the period.

For instance, couples in which men were aged 35 to 44 and in which both spouses had a high school diploma saw their annual earnings rise 7%. This was only one-third of the 22% gain among couples of similar age, in which both spouses had a university degree.

Growing gap within education levels

The earnings gap did not widen only across education levels. It also rose among couples of similar age and educational attainment.

For instance, young couples with at most one high school graduate saw their earnings fall on average by 15% to 20% between 1980 and 2000.

However, within this group, couples with the lowest earnings (those who were in the bottom one-third of the earnings distribution) saw their employment income fall by at least 41%.

In contrast, those who were in the top third of the earnings distribution suffered a modest drop of at most 8% in their employment income compared with their counterparts in 1980.

The research paper *Earnings of Couples with High and Low Levels of Education, 1980 to 2000* (11F0019MIE2004230, free) is now available online. To access the Analytical Studies Research Paper Series, select *Studies* on the left side bar, under *Browse periodical and series* choose *Free and for sale*. Under *Series* select *Analytical Studies Branch*.

A shorter version of this report also appears today in *Analysis in Brief* (11-621-MIE2004017, free). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Trade*.

For further information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact René Morissette (613-951-3608), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

Crime statistics: Additional detailed information

2003

Crime statistics for 2003 were first released in July 2004. *Canadian Crime Statistics, 2003*, released today, presents additional detailed information. Standard crime tables are presented for Canada, the provinces and territories, and all census metropolitan areas.

Also included in the publication is a set of 20 tables from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, based on data collected from 122 police departments in nine provinces that dealt with 61% of the national volume of police-reported crime. These tables examine the characteristics of the victims and the accused (their age and sex, the relationship of the accused to the victim, level of injury and weapon causing injury), as well as the criminal incident itself (location of the incident, target of violation, presence of weapons and type of property stolen).

Available on CANSIM: tables 252-0013 and 252-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3302.

Canadian Crime Statistics, 2003 (85-205-XIE, \$35) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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

Youth custody and community services

2002/03

Canada's youth incarceration rate reached its lowest point in eight years in 2002/03.

On any given day in 2002/03, an average of just under 29,400 young people aged 12 to 17 were either in custody or under supervised probation. The vast majority (90% or about 26,400 youths) were on probation.

Of the remaining 2,980 young people, 850 were in remand (temporary detention) awaiting a court appearance or sentencing, 1,070 were in secure custody and 1,060 were in open custody. The resulting incarceration rate was 13 young people aged 12 to 17 in custody for every 10,000 in this population in 2002/03. (The national counts and incarceration rate excludes Ontario, because of the unavailability of data for 12- to 15-year-olds.) This rate was down 5% from the previous year and 33% lower compared with 1993/94. Overall,

the number of young people incarcerated has been decreasing during this period in parallel with a decline in the youth crime rate.

Increases in remand counts since 1993/94 have partly offset the declines in the population sentenced to custody. The 850 young people in remand represented a 21% increase from 1993/94. They accounted for approximately one-third of all youth in custody in 2002/03.

The approximate 26,400 youths on supervised probation resulted in a rate of 109 youth on probation per 10,000 youth population, 17% below its peak in 1997/98. (The national counts and probation rate excludes Ontario, due to the unavailability of 12- to 15-year-old data; the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.)

This *Juristat* also provides data on admissions to youth correctional services. In 2002/03, there were about 50,160 admissions in the youth correctional system, down 6% from 2001/02.

Admissions to probation accounted for 52% of the total, followed by remand admissions (29%), secure custody (10%) and open custody (9%).

Decreases were reported for all admissions to correctional services. Open custody decreased 6% while probation, secure custody and remand declined 5%.

In 2002/03, a further 24,500 cases resulted in alternative measures agreements. This was 8% higher than in 2001/02 among jurisdictions reporting data (excludes Nova Scotia, Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds, British Columbia and Nunavut), but 7% lower than in 1998/99.

These agreements refer to formalized programs through which individuals who would otherwise proceed to court are dealt with via non-judicial, community-based alternatives. A youth's involvement in an alternative measures program is contingent upon the youth acknowledging participation in the incident and agreeing to enter the program.

Note: The *Juristat* report, Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2002/03, provides data on the caseload and characteristics of the youth population in correctional services.

The data in this report represent the final full year of youth corrections activity under the *Young Offenders Act* (the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act* came into effect on April 1, 2003).

Youth corrections data come from three sources. The Corrections Key Indicator Report collects average daily counts of youths in custody (remand, secure custody and open custody) as well as month-end probation counts. The Youth Custody and Community

Services Survey collects data on admissions and releases of youths to custody and probation and the Alternative Measures Survey collects data on youth reaching an agreement to participate in an alternative measures program.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3313, 3323 and 3325.

The report *Juristat: Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2002/03*, Vol. 24, no. 9 (85-002-XIE20040098408, \$9/\$75; 85-002-XPE20040098408, \$11/\$100) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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

Admissions of young offenders in the correctional system by jurisdiction
2002/03

	Remand ¹	Secure custody ²	Open custody ²	Probation ³
Total	14,566	4,840	4,527	26,222
Newfoundland and Labrador	285	201	148	490
Prince Edward Island	43	37	41	138
Nova Scotia	205	33	282	1,101
New Brunswick	179	196	159	686
Quebec	1,676	876	696	8,092
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	6,368	1,601	1,507	7,963
Manitoba	1,966	223	364	1,087
Saskatchewan	..	309	347	1,715
Alberta	2,225	845	389	2,632
British Columbia	1,522	448	485	2,281
Yukon	50	11	18	37
Northwest Territories	27	48	73	..
Nunavut	20	12	18	..

.. Not available for any specific reference period.

1. Due to the unavailability of data, excludes Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds and Saskatchewan .

2. Due to the unavailability of data, excludes Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds.

3. Due to the unavailability of data, excludes Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut .

Average number of young offenders in the correctional system on any given day, by jurisdiction
2002/03

	Remand ¹	Secure custody ¹	Open custody ¹	Incarceration rate per 10,000 youth population ²	Probation ³	Probation rate per 10,000 youth population ⁴
Total	849	1,067	1,064	12.5	26,438	109.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	13	42	51	24.2	802	184.5
Prince Edward Island	2	7	6	12.2	151	122.6
Nova Scotia	22	21	85	17.0	875	116.5
New Brunswick	10	45	52	18.1	836	141.3
Quebec	84	192	121	7.2	5,136	93.8
Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds	368	344	329	...	9,692	...
Manitoba	104	61	91	25.5	2,045	203.7
Saskatchewan	73	145	101	34.1	1,805	192.7
Alberta	96	123	106	11.8	2,619	95.4
British Columbia	67	68	85	6.7	2,444	75.2
Yukon	1	1	4	21.1	33	116.0
Northwest Territories	4	13	28	109.4
Nunavut	5	5	5	37.9

.. Not available for any specific reference period.

... Not applicable.

Note: Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds have been excluded due to the unavailability of data. Data for Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds have been included to show the trend of this sub-group. Ontario data should not be compared with other jurisdictions and has been excluded from the national counts and rates. Figures may not add up to total as a result of rounding.

1. Due to the unavailability of data, excludes Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds.

2. The incarceration rate excludes Ontario 16- to 17-year-olds.

3. Due to the unavailability of data, excludes Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

4. The probation rate excludes Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

New products

Earnings of Couples with High and Low Levels of Education, 1980 to 2000
Catalogue number 11F0019MIE2004230
(free).

Earnings of Highly and of Less Educated Couples in the Canadian Labour Market, 1980–2000, no. 17
Catalogue number 11-621-MIE2004017
(free).

Juristat: Youth Custody and Community Service in Canada, 2002/03, Vol. 24, no. 9
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE20040098408 (\$9/\$75).

Juristat: Youth Custody and Community Service in Canada, 2002/03, Vol. 24, no. 9
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE20040098408
(\$11/\$100).

Canadian Crime Statistics, 2003
Catalogue number 85-205-XIE (\$35).

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, 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 six 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 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. 8, 1997 13

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