



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Consumer Price Index, September 2004** 2  
The 12-month increase in the Consumer Price Index slowed slightly to 1.8% in September from 1.9% in August.
  - **Social anxiety disorder – beyond shyness, 2002** 6  
Social anxiety disorder, aptly described as "crippling shyness," usually begins in childhood or early adolescence, and the symptoms often persist for decades, a new study shows. The study provides further evidence supporting the description of the disorder as an "illness of lost opportunities."
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## OTHER RELEASES

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|  |    |
|--|----|
| Employment Insurance, August 2004  | 8  |
| Study: Retaining older workers, 2002   | 9  |
| Study: Low-paid workers: How many live in low-income families?, 1980 to 2000     | 9  |
| Oil and gas extraction industry: Volume and value of marketable production, 2003 | 10 |
| Construction type plywood, August 2004   | 10 |

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## NEW PRODUCTS 11

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Consumer Price Index

September 2004

In September 2004, Canadian consumers paid 1.8% more than in September 2003 for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket, following a 1.9% increase in August 2004. The 12-month variation in the All-items index excluding energy declined slightly from 1.5% in August to 1.4% in September.

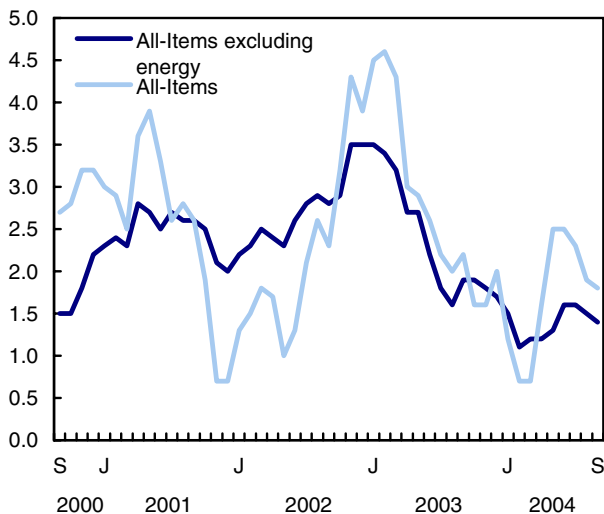
The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada rose by 1.5% between September 2003 and September 2004, the same increase as that recorded in August 2004.

Between August and September, the CPI rose by 0.1%, mainly as a result of an increase in women's clothing prices.

On a monthly basis, the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada was up 0.3%, following a 0.2% decrease in August.

**Percentage change from the same month of the previous year**

% change



### Main contributors to the 12-month increase in the CPI

In September, the CPI registered a 1.8% increase over September 2003. Upward pressure was exerted primarily by gasoline prices, homeowners' replacement cost, as well as prices for cigarettes, restaurant meals, beef and electricity.

These increases were nonetheless attenuated by lower prices for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles; computer equipment and supplies; video equipment; and natural gas.

Gasoline prices were up 7.2% from September 2003. Increases were observed in all provinces, with the highest in Prince Edward Island (+14.4%) and the lowest in Saskatchewan (+1.8%).

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), rose 6.8% from September 2003. Manitoba registered the highest increase (+8.5%) and New Brunswick the lowest (+1.9%). Strong demand in the housing market as well as higher material and labour costs across Canada were the main factors behind this increase.

Increases in tobacco taxes over the last 12 months explain most of the 7.6% rise in cigarette prices since September 2003, although higher tobacco prices and transportation costs also contributed.

Restaurant meal prices increased 2.6% between September 2003 and September 2004.

In September, beef prices were up 18.9%. The September 2004 index was compared with that of September 2003, which was abnormally low as a result of the discovery of a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Alberta on May 20, 2003.

Electricity prices were 4.4% higher than 12 months before. Newfoundland and Labrador (+10.0%) and British Columbia (+6.5%) posted the largest increases, while rates in Alberta declined (-1.4%).

Among the factors contributing to moderating the 12-month increase in the All-items index, was the index for the purchase and leasing of automotive vehicles which declined 2.0% in September 2004, following financial incentives offered in the last 12 months.

Prices for computer equipment and supplies have fallen 13.7% since September 2003.

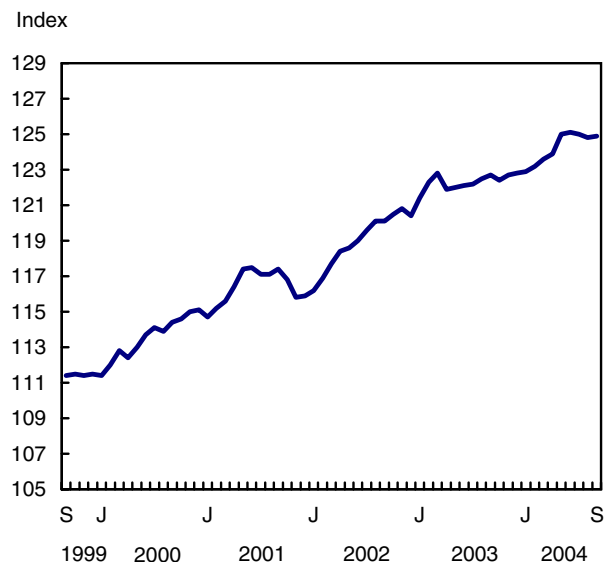
Prices for video equipment were 8.5% lower in September 2004 compared with September 2003. British Columbia showed the most substantial decrease (-12.7%) and Saskatchewan the least significant (-2.8%).

A 2.3% reduction in natural gas prices also contributed towards moderating the increase in the All-items index for September 2004. Decreases in Ontario (-7.2%), British Columbia (-3.1%) and Quebec (-1.1%) accounted for the reduction in the price index for natural gas, despite the increases reported in other provinces.

### Slight increase in the CPI from August to September

From August to September, the CPI rose by 0.1%. The increase in women's clothing prices, tuition fees, as well as in prices for fuel oil and men's clothing was moderated by lower prices for gasoline, automotive vehicle purchases and fresh vegetables.

**The Consumer Price Index  
(not seasonally adjusted) 1992=100**



The new fall-winter clothing collections were introduced in the stores, pushing up the index for women's (+6.2%) and for men's (+2.2%) clothing.

Tuition fees were collected in September for the 2004/05 school year. On average, students experienced a 4.2% increase, less than the 8.1% rise registered in September 2003. The tuition fee index for a province takes into account that some residents of one province are studying in institutions in another province. Advances ranged from 0.6% for residents of Quebec and 13.0% for those of British Columbia.

Canadians paid 5.6% more for fuel oil in September 2004. Concerns over the world supply capacity caused by factors such as confrontations in

Nigeria and the strike in Norway had an affect on fuel oil prices.

From August to September 2004, gasoline prices continued their downward trend for a fourth consecutive month, falling 1.2%.

Automotive vehicle prices fell 0.7% on average in September. Similar declines occurred in all regions of Canada. At this time of year, manufacturers increase incentive programs to help reduce inventories before the new models arrive.

Consumers still had access to Canadian vegetables and enjoyed a 5.8% decrease in fresh vegetable prices in September 2004. Lower prices for "other fresh vegetables" and potatoes were a factor in this decrease but were offset to some extent by higher prices for lettuce and tomatoes.

### The seasonally adjusted CPI advanced from August to September

After seasonal adjustment, the CPI rose 0.2% from August to September 2004.

Upward pressure came from the seasonally adjusted indexes for shelter (+0.2%), food (+0.3%), household operations and furnishings (+0.3%), recreation, education and reading (+0.2%), clothing and footwear (+0.4%), health and personal care (+0.3%), as well as, alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+0.3%).

Transportation (-0.7%) was the only seasonally adjusted index that exerted downward pressure on this increase.

### All-items index excluding the eight most volatile components

The All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada increased by 1.5% from September 2003 to September 2004. The main contributors to this increase were homeowners' replacement cost (+6.8%), restaurant meal prices (+2.6%), beef prices (+18.9%) and electricity prices (+4.4%).

From August to September 2004, the All-items index excluding the eight volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada increased by 0.3%, mostly under the influence of price increases for women's clothing (+6.2%) and tuition fees (+4.2%). Lower automotive vehicle prices (-0.7%) partially offset the upward pressure on the index.

### Energy

The energy index rose 5.8% from September 2003 to September 2004, due mostly to

the rise in gasoline prices (+7.2%) and fuel oil prices (+21.7%). Higher prices for electricity (+4.4%), as well as for fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (+5.1%) also contributed to pushing the index up. These increases were offset to some degree by a decrease in natural gas prices (-2.3%).

On a monthly basis, the energy index dropped by 0.5%. Although fuel oil prices increased (+5.6%), lower prices for gasoline (-1.2%), for natural gas (-0.9%), as well as for fuel, parts and supplies for recreational vehicles (-0.7%) pushed the index down. Electricity prices remained stable in September.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0001, 326-0002, 326-0009, 326-0012 and 326-0016 to 326-0018.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.**

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-XIB, free).

Available at 7 a.m. online under *Today's news releases from The Daily*, then *Latest Consumer Price Index*.

The September 2004 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 83, no. 9 (62-001-XIB, \$9/\$83; 62-001-XPB, \$12/\$111) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The October 2004 *Consumer Price Index* will be released on November 23.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Rebecca McDougall (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division.

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## Consumer Price Index and major components (1992=100)

|   | September<br>2004 | August<br>2004 | September<br>2003 | August<br>to<br>September<br>2004 | September<br>2003<br>to<br>September<br>2004 |
|---|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| unadjusted  |                   |                |                   |                                   |  |
|   | % change          |                |                   |                                   |  |
| <b>All-items</b>  | <b>124.9</b>      | <b>124.8</b>   | <b>122.7</b>      | <b>0.1</b>                        | <b>1.8</b>                                   |
| Food  | 124.7             | 125.3          | 121.3             | -0.5                              | 2.8  |
| Shelter   | 121.2             | 120.9          | 117.9             | 0.2                               | 2.8  |
| Household operations and furnishings  | 115.4             | 115.0          | 115.1             | 0.3                               | 0.3  |
| Clothing and footwear   | 104.9             | 101.8          | 105.0             | 3.0                               | -0.1   |
| Transportation  | 143.7             | 144.7          | 141.9             | -0.7                              | 1.3  |
| Health and personal care  | 119.2             | 118.8          | 117.6             | 0.3                               | 1.4  |
| Recreation, education and reading   | 129.4             | 128.6          | 128.9             | 0.6                               | 0.4  |
| Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products  | 144.6             | 144.7          | 137.1             | -0.1                              | 5.5  |
| All-items (1986=100)  | 160.0             |                |                   |                                   |  |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar<br>expressed in cents, compared to 1992 | 80.1              | 80.1           | 81.5              |                                   |  |
| <b>Special aggregates</b>   |                   |                |                   |                                   |  |
| Goods   | 119.7             | 119.7          | 117.9             | 0.0                               | 1.5  |
| Services  | 130.8             | 130.5          | 128.1             | 0.2                               | 2.1  |
| All-items excluding food and energy   | 122.3             | 121.9          | 120.9             | 0.3                               | 1.2  |
| Energy  | 151.7             | 152.4          | 143.4             | -0.5                              | 5.8  |
| All-items excluding the 8 most volatile<br>components <sup>1</sup>              | 125.1             | 124.7          | 123.2             | 0.3                               | 1.5  |

1. Excluded from the All-items CPI are the following eight volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. The Bank of Canada further adjusts this series to obtain their measure of core inflation, which also excludes the effect of changes in indirect taxes. For data and information on core inflation, please consult the Bank of Canada Web site ([www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm)).

## Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit (1992=100)

|                                      | September<br>2004 | August<br>2004 | September<br>2003 | August<br>to<br>September<br>2004 | September<br>2003<br>to<br>September<br>2004 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Unadjusted                           |                   |                |                   |                                   |  |
|                                      | % change          |                |                   |                                   |  |
| Newfoundland and Labrador            | 123.8             | 123.6          | 121.4             | 0.2                               | 2.0  |
| Prince Edward Island                 | 125.2             | 124.6          | 122.2             | 0.5                               | 2.5  |
| Nova Scotia                          | 126.8             | 126.6          | 124.1             | 0.2                               | 2.2  |
| New Brunswick                        | 124.7             | 124.7          | 123.0             | 0.0                               | 1.4  |
| Québec                               | 121.0             | 120.7          | 118.2             | 0.2                               | 2.4  |
| Ontario                              | 125.8             | 125.7          | 123.9             | 0.1                               | 1.5  |
| Manitoba                             | 128.2             | 128.4          | 125.9             | -0.2                              | 1.8  |
| Saskatchewan                         | 129.7             | 129.5          | 127.2             | 0.2                               | 2.0  |
| Alberta                              | 132.0             | 131.9          | 130.1             | 0.1                               | 1.5  |
| British Columbia                     | 123.5             | 123.3          | 121.2             | 0.2                               | 1.9  |
| Whitehorse <sup>1</sup>              | 121.6             | 121.3          | 120.2             | 0.2                               | 1.2  |
| Yellowknife <sup>1</sup>             | 118.8             | 118.8          | 117.9             | 0.0                               | 0.8  |
| Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100) <sup>1</sup> | 101.6             | 101.4          | 100.3             | 0.2                               | 1.3  |

1. View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of Iqaluit.

## Social anxiety disorder – beyond shyness

2002

Social anxiety disorder, aptly described as "crippling shyness," usually begins in childhood or early adolescence, and the symptoms often persist for decades, a new study shows.

The study, based on data from the 2002 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS): Mental Health and Well-being, provides further evidence supporting the description of the disorder as an "illness of lost opportunities."

People with social anxiety disorder, also known as social phobia, go through life feeling extremely uncomfortable or paralyzed in social or work situations because of their intense fear of being scrutinized or embarrassed. They either totally avoid social encounters, or face them with dread.

According to data from the 2002 CCHS, social anxiety disorder is associated with lower educational attainment and reduced likelihood of employment, low income and dependence on welfare or social assistance, decreased likelihood of marriage or having a successful marriage, social isolation, higher rates of disability, and dissatisfaction with life and health.

The majority of people with social anxiety disorder do not seek professional help, and those who do often wait years before doing so.

Just over 2 million Canadians aged 15 or older reported a "lifetime history" of social anxiety disorder, meaning that they had symptoms at some point in their lives. This represents about 8% of the population.

In 2002 alone, about 750,000 Canadians aged 15 or older, or about 3% of the population, reported that they had had symptoms of the disorder in the past year. These individuals had a higher risk of having major depressive disorder, panic disorder and dependency on illicit drugs and alcohol than did people in the general population.

Young people aged 15 to 24 were more likely to have current social anxiety disorder than were middle-aged people, while individuals aged 55 or older were less likely. Women were slightly more likely than men to have both lifetime and current social anxiety disorder.

### Early onset most striking feature

One striking feature of social anxiety disorder is its early age of onset. Symptoms typically begin appearing in childhood or early adolescence. Among individuals with a lifetime history of the disorder, the average age of onset was 13.

#### Note to readers

*This report is based on the article "Social anxiety disorder – beyond shyness." It is the first of four articles to be released this fall in the series How Healthy are Canadians? (an annual supplement to Health Reports).*

*The study uses data from the 2002 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS): Mental Health and Well-being to estimate the prevalence of social anxiety disorder, or social phobia, among the population aged 15 or older.*

*This cycle of the CCHS was the first survey designed to provide comprehensive information on mental health issues at the national level, as reported by the respondents themselves.*

*Future releases focus on bipolar I disorder, panic disorder, and alcohol and illicit drug dependence. A print compendium of all articles, Focus on Mental Health, will be released in December 2004.*

In contrast, the first symptoms of two other common disorders – panic disorder and depression – were evident much later, around the ages of 25 and 28, respectively.

The symptoms of social anxiety lasted an average of 20 years. This underestimates the true burden of the disorder, however, because many were still suffering from it when they were interviewed for the CCHS.

### Marital status and income are major factors

The prevalence of social anxiety disorder in 2002 was higher among people who had never married, or who were divorced or separated, compared with individuals who were married.

It was also more prevalent among individuals living in lower, rather than higher, income households.

People who reported symptoms of social anxiety disorder in the 12 months before the survey were less likely to have jobs, and those who did have jobs, had lower personal incomes. This may partly result from the lower educational levels among people with social anxiety disorder, as well as difficulties remaining in jobs that demand a fair amount of social interaction.

People with the disorder were also more likely to be financially dependent. In 2002, 10% of those who had current symptoms lived in households reporting income from social assistance or welfare in the previous year. This was more than twice the proportion (4%) among people with no history of the disorder.

### Sufferers tend to report lower quality of life

People with social anxiety disorder tended to report a lower quality of life, as indicated by their negative perceptions of their own health and their dissatisfaction with life.

Nearly 30% of people who currently had social anxiety disorder in 2002 rated their physical health as fair or poor. This was much higher than the 17% of those who previously had the disorder, and 13% of those with no history of it.

Some 37% of people who reported having the disorder in 2002 rated their mental health as fair or poor. This was double the proportion of 16% among those who previously had the disorder, and well above the 5% among those with no history.

More than one-fifth of people with social anxiety disorder also reported they were dissatisfied with life in general, twice the proportion of those with a past history.

### **Majority don't seek treatment**

Only 37% of people with social anxiety disorder reported to the CCHS that they had sought treatment for their fear or avoidance of social situations from a doctor, psychologist, psychiatrist or other professional.

This was well below the rates for major depressive disorder or panic disorder; in both of these cases, about 7 out of 10 sufferers had sought professional help for these disorders.

Individuals with social anxiety disorder were far more likely to seek treatment if they had another mental health disorder.

The CCHS found that people with a lifetime history of social anxiety disorder waited an average of 14 years

after the age of onset before seeking help. These low treatment rates for social anxiety disorder are consistent with findings from other studies.

In general, sufferers may just be too inhibited by their social fears to seek help. They may be reluctant or embarrassed to discuss their symptoms, even with a health professional.

In fact, the act of contacting a professional may be extremely difficult for someone with the disorder. Many are not aware they have a recognized mental disorder and attribute their intense fears to shyness.

### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5015.**

The article "Social anxiety disorder – beyond shyness" (82-003-SIE, free) is now available online. This study is the first of several articles to be released this fall in the series *How Healthy are Canadians?*, an annual supplement to *Health Reports* (82-003-XIE, \$17/\$48; 82-003-XPE, \$22/\$63).

Future releases focus on bipolar I disorder, panic disorder, and alcohol and drug dependence. A print compendium of all articles, *Focus on Mental Health*, will be released in December.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Margot Shields (613-951-4177; [margot.shields@statcan.ca](mailto:margot.shields@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division. ■

## OTHER RELEASES

**Employment Insurance**

August 2004 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in August 2004 was 549,690, up 3.4% from July.

Most provinces and territories recorded increases, led by Manitoba (+10.7%), Prince Edward Island (+9.3%) and Quebec (+7.5%). The increase in British Columbia (+4.7%) was the first in just over a year. Compared with August of last year, the number of regular beneficiaries has fallen by 6.2% nationally.

Also on a seasonally adjusted basis, regular benefit payments in August totalled \$801.6 million, while the number of people making initial and renewal claims was 249,180.

**Employment Insurance statistics**

|  | August<br>2004       | July<br>2004         | August<br>2003 | July<br>to<br>August<br>2004 | August<br>2003<br>to<br>August<br>2004 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| seasonally adjusted                          |                      |                      |                |                              |  |
|  | % change             |                      |                |                              |  |
| Regular beneficiaries                        | 549,690 <sup>P</sup> | 531,800 <sup>P</sup> | 586,270        | 3.4                          | -6.2                                   |
| Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)          | 801.6 <sup>P</sup>   | 711.8 <sup>r</sup>   | 770.2          | 12.6                         | 4.1                                    |
| Initial and renewal claims received ('000)   | 249.2 <sup>P</sup>   | 240.0 <sup>r</sup>   | 244.1          | 3.8                          | 2.1                                    |
| unadjusted                                   |                      |                      |                |                              |  |
| All beneficiaries ('000) (see note to users) | 786.0 <sup>P</sup>   | 750.7 <sup>P</sup>   | 816.3          |                              |  |
| Regular beneficiaries ('000)                 | 519.7 <sup>P</sup>   | 489.5 <sup>P</sup>   | 551.8          |                              |  |
| Initial and renewal claims received ('000)   | 192.9                | 295.4                | 167.4          |                              |  |
| Payments (\$ millions)                       | 1,328.0              | 986.2                | 1,074.7        |                              |  |
| year-to-date (January to August)             |                      |                      |                |                              |  |
|  | 2004                 | 2003                 | 2003 to 2004   | % change                     |  |
| Claims received ('000)                       |                      | 1,794.9              | 1,878.8        | -4.5                         |  |
| Payments (\$ millions)                       |                      | 10,525.4             | 10,183.6       | 3.4                          |  |

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

Note: "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week, which is usually the week containing the 15th day of the month.

**Note:** Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time-to-time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits for the week containing the 15th day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

**Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits**

|                                   | August<br>2004 <sup>P</sup> | July<br>to<br>August<br>2004 | August<br>2003<br>to<br>August<br>2004 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| seasonally adjusted               |                             |                              |  |
|                                   | % change                    |                              |  |
| <b>Canada</b>                     | <b>549,690</b>              | <b>3.4</b>                   | <b>-6.2</b>                            |
| Newfoundland and Labrador         | 37,600                      | 3.7                          | 9.2                                    |
| Prince Edward Island              | 8,560                       | 9.3                          | 3.4                                    |
| Nova Scotia                       | 29,920                      | 1.3                          | -1.7                                   |
| New Brunswick                     | 34,430                      | 0.0                          | -1.3                                   |
| Quebec                            | 181,530                     | 7.5                          | -4.1                                   |
| Ontario                           | 137,320                     | 1.0                          | -8.8                                   |
| Manitoba                          | 14,090                      | 10.7                         | -2.7                                   |
| Saskatchewan                      | 12,160                      | 1.1                          | -4.9                                   |
| Alberta                           | 29,430                      | 1.9                          | -16.1                                  |
| British Columbia                  | 58,960                      | 4.7                          | -14.7                                  |
| Yukon Territory                   | 910                         | 0.0                          | -11.7                                  |
| Northwest Territories and Nunavut | 1,200                       | 3.4                          | 4.3                                    |
| unadjusted for seasonality        |                             |                              |  |
|                                   | % change                    |                              |  |
| Northwest Territories             | 690                         | -1.4                         | 6.2                                    |
| Nunavut                           | 400                         | -4.8                         | 0.0                                    |

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

Note: The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, which is the week usually containing the 15th day of the month.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.**

Data on Employment Insurance for September will be released on November 30, 2004.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-4090; 1-866-873-8788; [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts,



methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division. ■

## **Study: Retaining older workers 2002**

Alternative working arrangements may be an important incentive in encouraging older workers to stay on the job, according to a new study.

Over one-quarter of people who retired between 1992 and 2002 would have continued working had they been able to reduce their work schedule, either by working fewer days or shorter days without their pension being affected, the study found.

Similarly, 28% would have continued working if they had been offered part-time employment.

About 27% might have been tempted to keep working if their health had been better, while 21% would have stayed if their salary had been increased, although they were not asked by how much.

The study used data from the 2002 General Social Survey to examine how willing Canadians who retired during the previous 10 years would have been to continue working given certain incentives.

The growing number of people nearing retirement has spurred interest in encouraging older workers to stay on the job.

Only 12% of these retirees said they would have kept working if mandatory retirement policies had not existed. An additional 6% said they would have stayed if suitable arrangements for caregiving had been provided. In all cases, men and women responded similarly.

The extent to which older workers constitute a potential supply of labour is undoubtedly overstated since about one-third retired for health reasons.

One-third of recent retirees did not retire for health reasons; however, they said they would not have continued working given any of the incentives. The remaining one-third were healthy individuals who would have been willing to remain in the work force, at least on a part-time basis. This group offers the best prospect for increasing the overall supply of labour.

Immigrants, individuals with a university degree, and those who received an early retirement incentive were among the most likely to say that alternative working arrangements would have encouraged them to keep working.

Retirees from health care, social assistance, and education were least likely to prefer continued employment. This is an important consideration given the growing number of employees nearing retirement in those industries.

Furthermore, individuals whose financial situation had deteriorated since retirement were much more likely

to feel they would have kept working under different conditions.

## **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4502.**

The article "Retaining older workers" is available in the October 2004 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 5, 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 Grant Schellenberg (613-951-9580; [grant.schellenberg@statcan.ca](mailto:grant.schellenberg@statcan.ca)), Demography Division. ■

## **Study: Low-paid workers: How many live in low-income families? 1980 to 2000**

Low-paid workers in 2000 were, on average, no more likely to live in low income families than their counterparts 20 years earlier, according to a new study. However, some groups saw their risk of being in low income change.

The study showed in 2000, roughly 16% of full-time employees received relatively low earnings, defined as less than \$375 per week. Of these individuals, 30% lived in low-income families, virtually unchanged from 1980, according to census data.

However, some groups were more vulnerable than others to change.

For example, 44% of low-paid recent immigrants who were not members of a visible minority were in low income in 2000, well above the proportion of 28% in 1980. The main reason for the increase is that the earnings of their spouse and of other family members fell substantially.

In contrast, the proportion of low-paid lone mothers in low income fell from 66% in 1980 to 56% in 2000, thanks mainly to an increase in government transfers.

While the proportion of full-time workers receiving low pay remained steady during the 20-year period, low-paid workers in 2000 earned less than their counterparts did in 1980. Their average weekly earnings fell 8% during the period.

In contrast, average weekly earnings of other full-time employees increased 13%, measured in 2000 constant dollars.

Yet low-paid workers—both those living in low income as well as others—did not appear to have experienced a decline in living standards during the period.

After accounting for changes in family size, their average family income grew a moderate 5%. This slight

increase occurred because low-paid workers increased their number of weeks worked and benefited from increases in government transfers.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3901.**

The article "Low-paid workers: How many live in low-income families?" is available in the October 2004 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 5, 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 Lucy Chung (613-951-1903; [lucy.chung@statcan.ca](mailto:lucy.chung@statcan.ca)), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

**Oil and gas extraction industry: Volume and value of marketable production 2003**

Crude oil and equivalent production rose 5.7% in 2003, primarily on higher deliveries to export market. Synthetic crude oil production (including crude bitumen) has increased solidly in the last 10 years; in 2003 it accounted for 34.6% of total crude oil and equivalent production, compared with 20.6% in 1993. In Alberta, 2003 marks the second year where non-conventional production of crude oil exceeded conventional production. In contrast, natural gas marketable production edged down 3.4% to 166.4 billion cubic metres.

The value of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons produced in 2003 totalled an estimated \$33.6 billion, up 12.2% from the \$30.0 billion in 2002. This jump was attributable to both higher wellhead prices and volume in 2003. The value of natural gas marketable production was estimated at \$37.1 billion in 2003, up 56.4% from 2002, a result of large increases in wellhead prices.

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

|  | 2003      | 2002<br>to<br>2003<br>% change |
|--|-----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Crude oil and equivalent</b>            |           |                                |
| Volume (thousands of cubic metres)         | 144,813.1 | 5.7                            |
| Value (\$ millions)                        | 33,610.5  | 12.2                           |
| <b>Natural gas</b>                         |           |                                |
| Volume (millions of cubic metres)          | 166,360.7 | -3.4                           |
| Value (\$ millions)                        | 37,085.1  | 56.4                           |
| <b>Natural gas by-products<sup>1</sup></b> |           |                                |
| Volume (thousands of cubic metres)         | 29,439.7  | 2.0                            |
| Value (\$ millions)                        | 5,702.6   | 42.8                           |

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

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.**

The 2003 issue of the *Oil and Gas Extraction* (26-213-XIB, \$24) will be available later this year.

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

**Construction type plywood**  
August 2004

Data on construction type plywood for August are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0056 and 303-0057.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2138.**

**Note:** CANSIM tables 303-0056 and 303-0057 replace CANSIM table 303-0005 beginning with January 2004 reference month.

The August 2004 issue of *Construction Type Plywood*, Vol. 52, no. 8 (35-001-XIB, \$6/\$51), 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 the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

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Catalogue number 11-002-XWE (\$100).

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no. 8  
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB (\$12/\$120).

**Construction Type Plywood**, August 2004, Vol. 52,  
no. 8  
Catalogue number 35-001-XIB (\$6/\$51).

**The Consumer Price Index**, September 2004, Vol. 83,  
no. 9  
Catalogue number 62-001-XIB (\$9/\$83).

**The Consumer Price Index**, September 2004, Vol. 83,  
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**Perspectives on Labour and Income**, October 2004,  
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**Health Reports: Supplement: How Healthy are  
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
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban transit, 1996<br/>Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 21 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.</li> </ul> | 2  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996<br/>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.</li> </ul>   | 4  |
| <b>OTHER RELEASES</b>  |    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map-based index, May 1997</li> </ul>  | 3  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short-term Expectations Survey</li> </ul>   | 2  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steel primary forms, steel ending May 31, 1997</li> </ul>   | 12 |
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