



The Daily

Statistics Canada

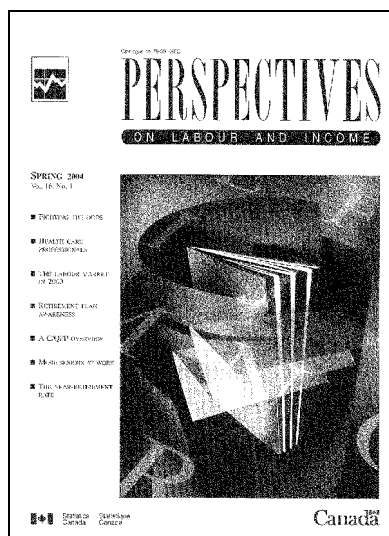
Friday, March 19, 2004

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

(continued on page 2)



Perspectives on Labour and Income

Spring 2004

The Spring 2004 issue of *Perspectives on Labour and Income* contains seven articles.

"Fighting the odds" reveals that 1 in 20 people in Canada in 2002 were, or had the potential to become, problem gamblers. "Health care professionals" looks at the characteristics and earnings of health workers, with particular emphasis on doctors and nurses. "Retirement plan awareness" investigates how well full-time permanent employees in the private sector understand their retirement pension plan coverage. "A C/QPP overview" uses a question-and-answer approach to present basic information about the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans and highlight some recent changes. "More seniors at work" examines the occupations of seniors who continue to work beyond age 65. "The near-retirement rate" looks at the percentage of workers who are within 10 years of the median retirement age. Finally, "The labour market in 2003" reviews employment in Canada over the past year.

All these articles have appeared previously in online editions of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*. Also included in the "Key labour and income facts" section is a profile of women entrepreneurs, that is, women who are self-employed, with or without employees.

The Spring 2004 issue of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 16, no. 1 (75-001-XPE, \$20/\$63) is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



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OTHER RELEASES

Study: Mapping the socio-economic diversity of rural Canada

The concept of diversity within Canada's rural regions is well established, but the challenge is to understand the nature of this diversity and its distribution.

The study *Mapping the Socio-economic Diversity of Rural Canada* assesses the degree of diversity across rural and urban Canada in terms of a number of demographic, social and economic indicators.

In turn, the study groups these indicators into six "dimensions," which are used to profile and map the 288 census divisions in Canada. (Census divisions are roughly equivalent to counties.)

Two dimensions alone account for 45% of the variation in the socio-economic characteristics across Canada's urban and rural census divisions. The first captures a broad range of labour force and economic attributes, such as labour force participation, unemployment rate and average income. The second, covering remote and agro-rural attributes, identifies census divisions with lower housing costs, more children, lower wages and lower educational attainment.

The diversity of rural Canada is most evident when economic attributes are considered.

The map of census divisions based on labour force and economic attributes shows a major divide of lower economic outcomes in the north and east of Canada, and higher economic outcomes in the south and west.

Census divisions with high outcomes reported a labour force participation rate of 73%. About 60% of families had two or more members in the work force, and social transfer income was only 11% of total income.

At the other end of the scale, census divisions ranking low had a labour force participation rate of 54%. Only 34% of the families had two or more members in the work force, and social transfer income accounted for 28% of total income.

The four other dimensions cover attributes such as aging, complex manufacturing as opposed to primary production, traditional manufacturing as opposed to government employment, and demographic dynamics, such as higher housing costs.

For example, census divisions with an aging population are differentiated from those in which the work force is younger in a demographic and labour force attributes dimension.

Mapping the country using these six dimensions allows analysts to investigate a crucial question: whether, and to what extent, it is possible to implement development strategies and policies for each type of region.

The socio-economic performance of localities has increasingly come under scrutiny from a national perspective. Regions have different characteristics that shape their potential path of development — a diversity that policy makers have to address.

The study *Mapping the Socio-economic Diversity of Rural Canada* (21-006-XIE, free) is now available in the *Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin* series. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alessandro Alasia (613-951-1204; alessandro.alasia@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Employer pension plans (trusteed pension funds)

Third quarter 2003

In the third quarter, trusteed pension funds reported a positive cash flow for the second consecutive quarter, putting them well on the road to recovery after a period of losses.

At the end of the third quarter, the total value of fund assets was estimated at \$584.2 billion, up 3.1% from the second quarter. At the peak, the value of fund assets was \$614.4 billion.

Cash flow reached nearly \$4.4 billion in the third quarter on revenues of \$14.2 billion and expenditures of \$9.8 billion. It was the second consecutive quarter in which a positive cash flow had been reported. The cash flow in the second quarter of 2003 was about \$4.3 billion.

These two quarters of positive cash flows were preceded by three quarters of losses. The largest loss, \$6.5 billion, the biggest in the history of the survey, occurred in the third quarter of 2002.

Cash flow has been positive for two consecutive quarters for mainly two reasons: profits from the sale of investments have exceeded losses, and employer contributions are at high levels. Profits from the sale of investments are high because stock prices are rising. The Standard & Poor's/Toronto Stock Exchange Composite Index (S&P/TSX) gained 17% in value between March 31 and September 30, 2003.

Employer contributions reached about \$4.5 billion in the third quarter of 2003, more than twice the average quarterly contribution of \$1.8 billion in 2000. Employers have been trying to compensate for recent losses in the funds' total asset value.

The other main types of revenue (interest and dividends) and expenditure (pension payments) do not vary much quarter to quarter. In the third quarter

of 2003, investment income (mostly interest and dividends) hit about \$5.5 billion and pension payments were estimated at \$6.3 billion.

About 5.5 million Canadian workers belong to employer pension plans, and of these, about 4 million are members of trustee plans.

The remaining 1.5 million workers with employer pension plans are covered by the consolidated revenue funds of the federal and provincial governments or by insurance company contracts or Government of Canada annuities.

Note: Cash flow is the difference between revenues and expenditures. When revenues are greater, the flow is positive. When expenditures are greater, the flow is negative (a loss). In the trustee pension fund industry, revenue is primarily composed of contributions, profits on the sale of investments (mostly from equities) and dividends and interest (mostly from bonds). Industry expenditures consist primarily of pension payments and losses on the sale of investments.

Available on CANSIM: tables 280-0002 to 280-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2607.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact

Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending March 13, 2004 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 13 totalled 314 587 metric tonnes, up 4.6% from 300 806 tonnes a week earlier and 3.6% from 303 677 tonnes in the same week of 2003.

The year-to-date total as of March 13 was 3 172 443 tonnes, up 0.6% from 3 153 315 tonnes in the same period of 2003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: 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. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

**Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin:
Mapping the Socio-economic Diversity of Rural
Canada, 1996, Vol. 5, no. 2**
Catalogue number **21-006-XIE**
(free).

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Spring 2004,
Vol. 16, no. 1
Catalogue number **75-001-XPE** (\$20/\$63).

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 (11-001-XIE) 11-001-XIE



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are taking it less and less. In 1995, about 1.5 billion trips were taken on public transit in 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 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expenditure Survey** 9
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 13

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Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to lstproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

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RELEASE DATES: MARCH 22 TO 26

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
22	Study: Student reading performance in minority language schools	2000
23	Leading indicators	February 2004
24	Canada's international investment position	Fourth quarter 2003
24	Study: Labour market outcomes of postsecondary graduates: A comparison	
25	National balance sheet accounts	Fourth quarter 2003
25	Study: Permanent layoff rates	
26	Retail trade	January 2004
26	Wholesale trade	January 2004