



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, April 25, 2005

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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Major releases

Study: Low-paid work and economically vulnerable families

1980 to 2004

Even though today's workers are better educated and more experienced than their counterparts were in the early 1980s, their chances of being employed in a low-wage job have changed little over the last two decades. However, most of them do not live in low-income families.

Between 1981 and 2004, the proportion of adult employees (those aged 25 to 64) who had a university degree rose from 14% to 24%. Because of aging, the adult work force has also become more experienced.

Yet the proportion of adult employees who were working in jobs paying less than \$10.00 per hour (in 2001 dollars) changed little between 1981 and 2004, moving from 17% to 16% over the period.

Meanwhile, the majority of low-paid workers did not live in low-income families. Both in 1980 and in 2000, 70% of those employed full-time lived in families with income above Statistics Canada's Low-Income Cutoffs (LICO's).

These are a few of the findings from a study that summarizes some of the research recently conducted by Statistics Canada regarding low-paid work and economically vulnerable families.

While chances of living in low income have not increased overall for low-paid workers, recent immigrants and adults with low education levels have become increasingly economically vulnerable.

The reason is that their chances of both receiving low pay and living in low income-families have risen.

For instance, 6% of recent immigrants aged 35 to 54 and employed full time both received low pay and lived in low income in 1980. By 2000, this proportion had doubled to 12%.

Four groups were very likely to be in this position: individuals with no high school diploma, recent immigrants, unattached individuals (living alone or with cohabitants) and female lone-parents.

Even though they represented only 37% of all full-time workers, these groups accounted for 71% of full-time employees who were both in low-wage jobs and in a low-income family in 2000.

Note to readers

This release is based on a research paper titled "Low-paid work and economically vulnerable families over the last two decades", available today.

The study synthesizes the findings from several studies recently conducted by Statistics Canada regarding low-paid work and economically vulnerable families in Canada. In this study, low-paid workers are defined as those holding jobs paying less than \$10.00 per hour (in 2001 dollars) or those full-time employees earning less than \$375 per week (in 2000 dollars).

For the reference year 1980, the study defines recent immigrants as those who arrived in Canada between 1975 and 1979. Similarly, for the reference year 2000, recent immigrants are defined as those who arrived in Canada between 1995 and 1999.

Little change in the share of workers in low-wage jobs

Between 1981 and 2004, the proportion of workers aged 25 to 64 holding jobs paying less than \$8.00 per hour fell from 9% to 7%.

Meanwhile, the share of workers employed in jobs paying between \$8.00 and \$9.99 rose marginally from 8% to 9%. As a result, the share of adult workers employed in jobs paying less than \$10.00 per hour changed little.

The share of adult workers employed in low-paid jobs did not drop overall in spite of the fact that the percentage of adult employees with a university degree increased during that period.

This means that some workers with a given level of education ended up having lower wages in the late 1990s than their counterparts had in the early 1980s.

For instance, young Canadian-born males (those aged 25 to 34) with a high school education or less saw their real wages drop substantially over the last two decades. Likewise, older recent immigrant men of all education levels also suffered a decline in wages over the last two decades.

Most low-paid workers do not live in low-income families

In 2000, about 30% of full-time employees (including those under 25) earning less than \$375 per week (in 2000 dollars) lived in families whose income fell

below Statistics Canada's LICO's. This proportion remained unchanged from 1980.

The stability in the incidence of low income among low-paid workers masks two offsetting trends.

The growing number of unattached individuals and single parents (who cannot rely on a second earner for increasing family income) has tended to increase the proportion of low-paid workers in low-income families by 2 to 3 percentage points.

However, this rise was offset by the growing number of dual-earner families and the growing labour market experience of low-paid workers, both of which tended to increase family income among low-paid employees.

Economic vulnerability increases for some families

Overall, only 5% of all full-time employees both received low pay and lived in low income in 2000, which was the same proportion as in 1980.

However, some families have become increasingly economically vulnerable.

For instance, the share of recent immigrant full-time workers who both have low pay and live in low income rose from 9% in 1980 to 12% in 2000.

In fact, recent immigrants were 2.5 times more likely to live in low income than their Canadian-born counterparts in 2000. This is much higher than the corresponding ratio of 1.4 observed in 1980.

Families where both partners have a high school education or less also experienced increasing economic vulnerability.

Among young Canadian-born couples (those with males aged 25 to 34) where both partners have low education levels, male earnings fell between 15% and 28% during the 1980 to 2000 period. Despite growing spousal earnings, employment income in these families fell by between 6% and 15%.

Economic vulnerability is highly concentrated

While 5% of all full-time employees both received low pay and lived in low income in 2000, unattached individuals (living alone or with other cohabitants), female lone parents, individuals with a high school education or less and recent immigrants were much more likely to be in this position than other workers.

For example, 25% of all unattached women under 40 who were employed full-time both received low pay and lived in low income in 2000. The corresponding number for their male counterparts was 17%.

Even though they represented only 37% of all full-time workers, the four groups mentioned earlier accounted for 71% of full-time employees who were in low-wage jobs and in a low-income family in 2000.

Chances of escaping low earnings did not improve

For some workers, low-wage jobs may represent a stepping stone to better paying jobs as they acquire labour market experience and participate in job search. This is especially true for highly educated workers, who generally escape low earnings faster than their counterparts with lower education levels.

Since low-paid workers have increased their educational attainment over the past two decades, their chances of escaping low earnings should have improved over time.

This did not happen. For men aged 30 or more, chances of moving out of low earnings were not markedly higher during the 1996 to 2000 period than during the 1985 to 1989 period, two periods with similar labour market conditions.

For instance, roughly 45% of male low earners aged 30 to 39 moved out of low earnings between 1985 and 1989. For the 1996 to 2000 period, the proportion did not change appreciably.

Female earners also saw little change in the likelihood of moving up from low earnings over the period. Only women aged 25 to 29 enjoyed a substantial increase in upward mobility. Their chances of moving out of low earnings rose by about 6 percentage points between 1985 to 1989 and 1996 to 2000.

The research paper *Low-Paid Work and Economically Vulnerable Families Over the Last Two Decades* (11F0019MIE2005248, free) is now available online. A short version of this study entitled *Summary of: Low-paid Work and Economically Vulnerable Families Over the Last Two Decades* (11F0019MIE2005249, free) is also available. From our home page select *Studies*, then under *Browse periodical and series* choose *Free and for sale*. Under *Series* select *Analytical Studies Branch*.

Related studies from the Business and Labour Market Analysis Division can be found at *Update on Analytical Studies* on our Web site (11-015-XIE, free).

For further information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact René Morissette (613-951-3608) or Garnett Picot (613-951-8214), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

Other releases

Study: Provincial year-end review of manufacturing shipments 2004

Canadian manufacturers rebounded in 2004 from a dismal performance the year before, despite widespread concerns over the rising value of the Canadian dollar and soaring prices for crude oil that hit record highs late in the year.

Total shipments last year rose at their fastest pace since the boom years at the turn of the millennium.

In total, Canadian manufacturers shipped goods worth \$592.2 billion, up 8.5% from 2003. This was the largest annual gain since 1999, when shipments rose 16%, and 2000, when they were up 10%. This was also a marked resurgence following the 0.8% decline in 2003.

Shipments increased at rates below the national average in only four provinces: Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario. However, all provinces reported record high levels of shipments.

Among the key factors influencing manufacturing last year were record high industrial prices, a dollar valued at the highest level in over a decade and soaring foreign demand.

Strong international and domestic demand fuelled high industrial prices for various commodities including steel and wood products, while crude oil briefly grazed the US \$55-a-barrel mark in late October, a record high at the time.

The Canadian dollar also hit a 12-year high in the final quarter of 2004 at the expense of the American greenback. This prompted widespread concern as Canada's manufacturing sector is critically dependent on external trade.

Although Canada's factories came out of the starting blocks with a bang, the year ended on a less than stellar note. By the final quarter, shipments began to wane as new orders slowed. Gains in most provinces occurred in the first eight months of the year.

In Ontario, the nation's industrial heartland, shipments were up 7.0%, thanks to robust activity in the motor vehicles and parts industries, food and chemical products manufacturing. Ontario accounted for 52% of the nation's manufacturing shipments last year.

Saskatchewan's manufacturing sector enjoyed a record-breaking year, as shipments soared 21.9% to \$9.6 billion, the fastest rate of growth in the country.

Growth was widespread. Saskatchewan's traditional, resource-based industries led the way, with high industrial prices contributing to the successful

year. In particular, wood and chemical products manufacturing had exceptionally strong gains.

With its rich natural resource base, Alberta shipments increased a substantial 16.0% to \$53.2 billion, the second highest rate of growth.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2101.

The analytical article *Manufacturing in 2004: Year-end Review by Province* (11-621-MIE2005025, free) is now available online in the *Analysis in Brief* series (11-621-MIE). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Business enterprises*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Consolidated government finance: Assets and liabilities

March 31, 2003

The consolidated net debt of the federal, provincial, territorial and local governments, defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets, fell to \$794.5 billion as of March 31, 2003, down \$2.2 billion or 0.3% from the same date the previous year.

The federal government net debt declined by \$8.2 billion, while the net debt of the provincial, territorial and local governments rose by \$6.0 billion.

The consolidated net debt of these governments represented 65.4% of gross domestic product in 2003, down from 71.0% the year before. This decline was due mainly to the growth in gross domestic product (GDP).

It was the seventh consecutive decline since 1996, when the net debt of these governments peaked at 102.1% of GDP.

On a per capita basis, net debt fell from \$25,483 in 2002 to \$25,168. The highest per capita net debt was recorded in 1997 at \$28,543.

Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest per capita net debt in 2003 (\$19,805), followed by Quebec (\$14,927) and Nova Scotia (\$13,072).

Governments in Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories did not register any net debt. In each case, their financial assets exceeded their liabilities on a per capita basis: by \$3,666 in Alberta; \$9,267 in the Yukon; and \$4,310 in the Northwest Territories.

Consolidated net debt of federal, provincial, territorial and local general governments as of March 31

Year	Consolidated net debt	% of GDP	Per capita	GDP first quarter	Population at April 1
	\$ millions		\$	\$ millions	thousands
1991	532,636	78.5	19,066	678,172	27,936
1992	593,797	85.7	21,008	692,940	28,265
1993	667,196	93.3	23,331	714,776	28,597
1994	739,122	98.5	25,571	750,696	28,905
1995	797,582	99.5	27,304	801,904	29,211
1996	836,993	102.1	28,358	819,976	29,515
1997	851,118	98.1	28,543	867,828	29,819
1998	847,318	93.4	28,167	906,904	30,082
1999	848,660	89.4	27,993	949,136	30,317
2000	832,687	79.9	27,215	1,042,100	30,597
2001	800,373	71.8	25,891	1,115,408	30,913
2002	796,743	71.0	25,483	1,121,528	31,266
2003	794,509	65.4	25,168	1,214,880	31,568

Consolidated net debt of provincial, territorial and local general governments as of March 31, 2003

Province	Consolidated net debt	Per capita	Population at April 1
	\$ millions	\$	thousands
Newfoundland and Labrador	10,279	19,805	519
Prince Edward Island	1,214	8,861	137
Nova Scotia	12,222	13,072	935
New Brunswick	6,315	8,409	751
Quebec	111,606	14,927	7,477
Ontario	99,686	8,166	12,207
Manitoba	10,529	9,085	1,159
Saskatchewan	9,018	9,063	995
Alberta	-11,536	-3,666	3,147
British Columbia	18,871	4,558	4,140
Yukon	-278	-9,267	30
Northwest Territories	-181	-4,310	42
Nunavut	272	9,379	29

Note: The consolidated financial assets and net debt of the Ontario provincial, territorial and local governments at March 31, 2002 have been revised.

The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial and local governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ.

The FMS adjusts data from governments' Public Accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as national aggregates that are consistent over time. As a result, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 385-0014 and 385-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1702, 1709 and 1723.

Data are available through custom tabulation. For more information, or general enquiries on our products or services, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767; jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division.

Data on debt guaranteed by provincial and territorial governments has been moved from CANSIM table 385-0014 to the new CANSIM table: 385-0026 (Debt Guaranteed by Provincial and Territorial Governments).

For further information on this release, contact Terry Moore (613-951-5195) or Robert Larocque (613-951-1836), Public Institutions Division. ■

Local government finance: Assets and liabilities

December 31, 2002

The net debt of local governments, defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets, hit \$12.1 billion at December 31, 2002, down 4% (or \$486 million) from a year earlier.

Their financial assets stood at \$52.1 billion, while total liabilities reached \$64.2 billion.

Among the provinces, local governments in Quebec had the highest per capita net debt at \$2,177, followed by those in Newfoundland and Labrador (\$1,480) and those in New Brunswick (\$525).

Local governments in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut were again in a position where their financial assets exceeded liabilities.

These statistics are based on annual reports of municipalities and school boards as well as provincial and territorial governments reports dated December 31, 2002. Data were converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System.

Note: The 2001 value of Ontario financial assets has been revised. As a result, the 2001 Ontario financial position and Canada assets and financial position were also revised.

The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial and local governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ. The FMS adjusts data from governments Public Accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit

inter-government comparisons as well as national aggregates that are consistent over time. As a result, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements.

Net debt of local governments

	Net debt			Per capita		
	millions of dollars			\$		
	1992	1997	2002	1992	1997	2002
Newfoundland and Labrador	657	681	768	1,133	1,256	1,480
Prince Edward Island	115	37	64	871	272	467
Nova Scotia	435	366	334	471	393	357
New Brunswick	326	373	394	436	497	525
Quebec	14,214	15,187	16,276	1,989	2,083	2,177
Ontario	1,287	1,251	-2,925	121	110	-240
Manitoba	778	765	312	698	673	269
Saskatchewan	-400	-636	-859	-398	-625	-863
Alberta	2,558	277	-961	962	96	-305
British Columbia	2,450	2,217	-1,248	692	557	-301
Yukon	-5	-18	-16	-167	-563	-533
Northwest Territories	29	14	3	460	209	71
Nunavut	-6	-207
Total	22,444	20,514	12,136	785	682	384

... not applicable.

Available on CANSIM: tables 385-0014, 385-0017 and 385-0026.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1702, 1709 and 1723.

Data are available through custom tabulation. For more information, or general enquiries on our products or services, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767; jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division.

For further information on this release, contact Aldo Diaz (613-951-8563) or Diana-Lynn Walters (613-951-1833), Public Institutions Division. ■

Traveller accommodation services price indexes

First quarter 2005

Traveller accommodation services price indexes for the first quarter of 2005 are now available. These monthly indexes reflect changes in room rates, excluding all indirect taxes, for overnight or short stays with no meals or other services provided. The indexes are available by province and by territory, for Canada, by major client group.

Available on CANSIM: table 326-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2336.

For more information on these indexes, contact Prices Division (613-951-9606; 1-866-230-2248; infounit@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts and methods of this release, contact Anne Williamson (613-951-0708; anne.williamson@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Natural gas sales

February 2005 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 7 893 million cubic metres in February, down 6.0% from February 2004. Weaker sale volumes in all sectors reflected the warmer temperatures recorded in most regions of the country.

Natural gas sales

	February 2005 ^P	February 2004	February 2004 to February 2005
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas sales	7 893 151	8 397 301	-6.0
Residential	2 516 400	2 614 002	-3.7
Commercial	1 743 612	1 902 420	-8.3
Industrial	1 597 594	1 725 386	-6.4
Direct	2 035 546	2 155 493	
	year-to-date		
	2005 ^P	2004	2004 to 2005
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas sales	17 458 198	18 193 746	-4.0
Residential	5 634 530	5 785 491	-2.6
Commercial	3 871 180	4 158 009	-6.9
Industrial	3 573 893	3 699 886	-3.6
Direct	4 378 596	4 550 360	

^P Preliminary figures.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

**Particleboard, oriented strandboard and
fibreboard**

February 2005

Data on particleboard, oriented strandboard and
fibreboard are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0058.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey
number 2141.**

For more information, or to enquire
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New products

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Catalogue number 11F0019MIE2005248
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Catalogue number 11F0019MIE2005249
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Analysis in Brief: Manufacturing in 2004: Year-end Review by Province, 2004, no. 25
Catalogue number 11-621-MIE2005025
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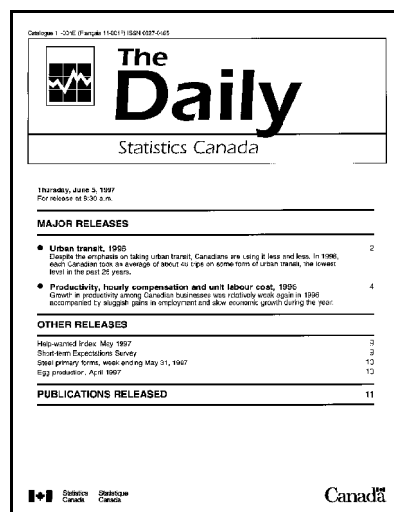
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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.

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