



The Daily

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Major releases

- **National Population Health Survey — Obesity: A growing issue,** 3
1994/95 to 2002/03
Once people are overweight, they are more likely to pack on even more kilos than they are to take them off, according to a new study of obesity among Canadians.
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Other releases

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Focus on Culture

The new issue of *Focus on Culture*, Statistics Canada's quarterly publication on culture statistics, features the article "The impact of the culture sector on the Canadian economy," which assesses the sector's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) and employment.

Between 1996 and 2002, the culture sector matched the growth rate of the overall economy in terms of both GDP and employment. In 2002, GDP from culture activities amounted to more than \$39 billion, up 37% from 1996. This matched the overall growth in the Canadian economy during the same period. The culture sector accounted for 3.8% of Canada's GDP in 2002.

Nearly 598,000 individuals worked in the culture sector in 2002, representing 3.9% of Canada's work force. On average, 78% of employees in culture worked full time, compared with the national average of 81% between 1996 and 2002. Just over one-quarter of culture workers were self-employed, well above the national average of 16%. The higher proportion of self-employment was due mainly to project-based work performed by various culture sub-sectors, for example, the film industry.

This issue also contains an article on the culture sector's impact on provincial economies, an article on the use of information technology in the culture sector, provincial data on performing arts and data on heritage institutions.

Focus on Culture, Vol. 15, no. 1 (87-004-XIE, \$8/\$22; 87-004-XPB, \$10/\$29) is now available. See *How to order products*. The article "The impact of the culture sector on the Canadian economy" is available for free online.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; fax: 613-951-9040; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca) or Alice Peters (613-951-4086; fax: 613-951-1333; alice.peters@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



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Major releases

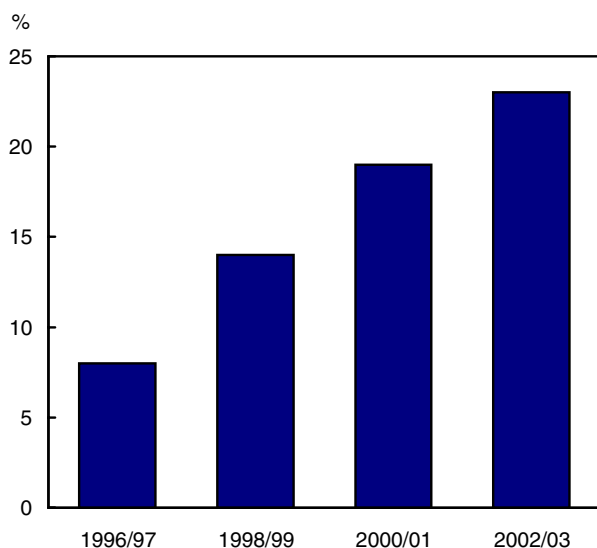
National Population Health Survey — Obesity: A growing issue

1994/95 to 2002/03

Once people are overweight, they are more likely to pack on even more kilos than they are to take them off, according to a new study of obesity among Canadians.

The study found that almost one-quarter of Canadians who had been overweight in 1994/95 had become obese by 2002/03. On the other hand, only half as many, about 10%, who had been overweight were in the normal weight range eight years later.

Nearly one-quarter of adults who had been overweight in 1994/95 had become obese by 2002/03



This translates to more than 1.1 million adult Canadians joining the growing ranks of the obese over the eight years. Women, younger men, and members of low-income households were most likely to become obese.

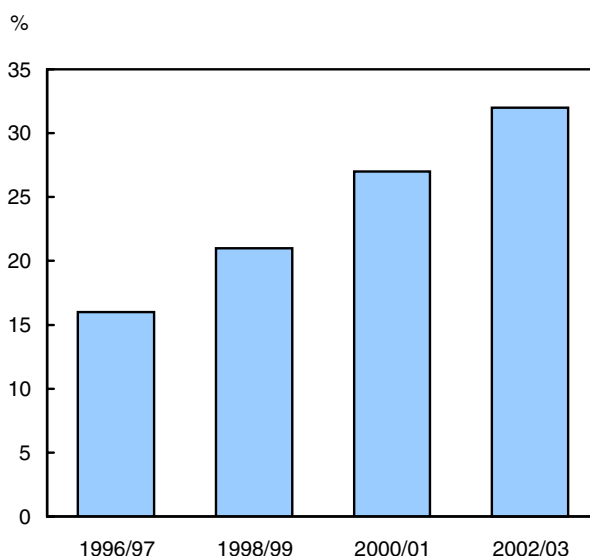
The study used longitudinal data from the National Population Health Survey (NPHS) to follow the same group of people every two years over an eight-year period. At the outset, study participants were aged 20 to 56 and aged 28 to 64 in the final year.

The study supports findings from previous research, and what many people have already discovered, that it appears easier not to put weight on in the first place than it is to take it off. As a result, interventions that focus

on prevention may be more effective than efforts to lose weight.

The weight gain was not limited to overweight Canadians. The study documented that between 1994/95 and 2002/03, one-third of people who started out in the normal weight range became overweight.

One-third of adults whose weight had been normal in 1994/95 were overweight by 2002/03



Patterns differ for men, women

Men were more likely than women to make the transition from a normal weight to being overweight. At the end of the eight years, 38% of the men whose weight was normal in 1994/95 had become overweight compared to 28% of the women.

However, women were more likely to go from being overweight to being obese. By 2002/03, 28% of the women who had been overweight became obese, compared to 20% of the men. Nonetheless, even for men, given the large number who had been overweight in 1994/95 (3.1 million), this translated into more than 600,000 new cases of obesity in less than a decade, compared to almost 500,000 new cases for women.

While the study does not include children, it notes that parental obesity significantly increases the risk of obesity among children.

Younger men, smokers at higher risk of obesity

Among people who were overweight in 1994/95, young adults, especially men, had an elevated risk of obesity.

During the eight-year period of the study, overweight men in their twenties and thirties were more likely than those in their fifties to become obese. Overweight women in their twenties were somewhat more likely to become obese than were those in their 50s.

Overweight men who smoked daily in 1994/95 were almost 50% more likely to have become obese by 2002/03 than were those who had never smoked.

This appeared to contradict other studies that found smokers less likely to be obese than those who had never smoked. However, further analysis of the NPHS data also found evidence of a weight gain among people who had stopped smoking since 1994/95.

As income rises, risk of obesity drops

For both men and women, being a member of a high-income household was associated with a decreased likelihood of becoming obese.

Overweight men in the richest household income categories fared better than their counterparts from households in the bottom income category. The risk of the upper-income men becoming obese was about 40% less than for men in the lowest income group.

Similarly, women in the top household income categories were less likely to become obese than women from households in the lowest income group. Again, the higher-income groups were 40% less likely to become obese.

Physical activity, occasional drinking offer some protection

Not surprisingly, overweight people who were restricted in their daily activities were at increased risk of becoming obese.

The study found the association was statistically significant for men. Physical restrictions may lead people to become inactive, thereby increasing their risk of gaining weight.

Moderate physical activity, including walking and standing, did offer overweight women some protection against obesity.

The risk of becoming obese was almost 50% lower among overweight women who reported occasional drinking, compared with those who never drank.

While a similar pattern was observed for men, the association did not reach statistical significance.

The study also examined geographic differences, but found no relationship between region of residence and the risk of becoming obese.

This analysis based its findings on height and weight measurements that respondents themselves reported. Studies have shown that both men and women who respond to health surveys tend to underestimate their weight and overestimate their height. This can potentially underestimate the rate of obesity and overweight. It is unclear how this situation would affect this study.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3225.

This release is based on the article *Obesity: A Growing Issue* (82-618-MWE2005003, free), which is now available online. This article is the third of four to be released in the Internet publication *Healthy Today, Healthy Tomorrow? Findings from the National Population Health Survey* (82-618-MWE, free). The next article will be on healthy ageing.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Christel Le Petit (613-951-3856; christel.le-petit@statcan.ca) or Jean-Marie Berthelot (613-951-3760; jean-marie.berthelot@statcan.ca), Health Analysis and Measurement Group.

NPHS micro data are available at Statistics Canada's Research Data Centres. For more information, visit *The Research Data Centres Program* page of our Web site.

To order custom tabulations, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; hd-ds@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

For further information on the Household Component of NPHS, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, contact Mario Bédard (613-951-8933; mario.bedard@statcan.ca) or France Bilocq (613-951-6956; france.bilocq@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

Other releases

Taxi and limousine service industry 2003 (preliminary)

(613-951-4889; or jan.patenaude@statcan.ca),
Transportation Division. ■

Operating revenue in the taxi and limousine service industry rose 6.6% in 2003 compared with a year earlier to reach \$1.3 billion. However, operating expenses jumped 8.1% which resulted in the operating margin edging down 0.3%.

The taxi and limousine industry is divided into two major segments; associations and companies, and self-employed drivers. The taxi associations and companies segment consists of a small number of large businesses while the self-employed drivers segment has a large number of small businesses. Specifically, 5% of the businesses were taxi associations and companies and they generated 43% of the operating revenue.

In 2003, there were 1,900 taxi and limousine associations and companies, up 2.0% from the previous year. Average operating revenue was \$287,400, little changed from the previous year. Average operating expenses edged up 0.5% to \$267,500, leaving these businesses with an average operating margin of \$19,900 or about 7% of their operating income. Over two-thirds of operating expenses for taxi associations and companies went to salaries, wages and benefits (37%), other purchased services (20%) (such as telecommunications costs), and energy and supplies (12%).

There were 33,400 self-employed taxi and limousine drivers in 2003. The average operating revenue of self-employed drivers was \$21,400, 3.7% higher than 2002, while average operating expenses rose 7.0% to \$16,200. The result was an average operating margin of \$5,200, or about one-quarter of operating revenue. This proportion is considerably higher than associations and companies because self-employed drivers often use their operating margin as personal income. About one-half of operating expenses for self-employed taxi and limousine drivers were spent on other operating expenses, repair and maintenance expenses, and energy and supplies.

Available on CANSIM: table 407-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4707.

For general information or to order data, contact Transportation Division, Dissemination Unit (1-866-500-8400 Transportationstatistics@statcan.ca). For more information about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jan Patenaude

Accounting services price indexes 2002 and 2003

The Accounting Services Price Index (ASPI, 2000=100) is now available for 2002 and 2003. The ASPI measures the change in the price of accounting services including auditing, tax preparation and bookkeeping.

The ASPI posted increases of 2.2% in 2002 and 3.3% in 2003. Prices for accounting services have risen consistently since these indexes were established in 1999.

Higher prices were registered for all accounting services for both years, with the exception of tax preparation services for corporate clients, which declined in 2002 only to rebound in 2003. The decline was due in part to falling revenues experienced in this segment of the industry in 2002.

Price gains were largest for bookkeeping and tax preparation for individuals and unincorporated businesses.

British Columbia (including Nunavut and the territories) posted a two-year price increase of 7.2%, the largest across Canada, followed by the Prairie region (including Alberta) at 6.9%. Price increases were lowest in Ontario, growing only 4.8% since 2001, while representing the largest share of the market for these services.

The ASPI are disseminated at national and regional levels and further information is now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 326-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2334.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), or Matthew MacDonald (613-951-8551; matthew.macdonald2@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Flows and stocks of fixed residential capital 2004

The annual fixed residential capital flows and stocks series at the provincial level for 2004 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 030-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5016.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; bdp_information@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

Canadian Business Patterns

December 2004

The CD-ROM *Canadian Business Patterns*, which is released today, provides counts of active establishments by geography, industry and employment size.

Canadian Business Patterns is compiled from the Business Register, which is a repository of information reflecting the Canadian business population.

Nationally, there were 2,377,107 active business establishments in December 2004 compared with 2,346,881 in June 2004.

Data from the *Canadian Business Patterns* CD-ROM are shown using the 2001 Standard Geographical Classification, the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2002), and by employment categories.

Starting with this issue, the Standard Industrial Classification will no longer be available in *Canadian Business Patterns* tables.

The CD-ROM *Canadian Business Patterns*, December 2004 (61F0040XCB) is now available. Cost of data varies between \$150 and \$2,000 depending on the number of tables or cells requested.

For more information, or to find out about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Beau Cinnamon (613-951-9021; BRDinfoDRE@statcan.ca) or Joanne Proulx (613-951-9006), Business Register Division. ■

New products

Canadian Business Patterns, December 2004
Catalogue number 61F0040XCB
(various prices).

Building Permits, February 2005, Vol. 49, no. 2
Catalogue number 64-001-XIE (\$15/\$156).

Healthy Today, Healthy Tomorrow? Findings from the National Population Health Survey: Obesity: A Growing Issue, 1994/95 to 2002/03, no. 3
Catalogue number 82-618-MWE2005003
(free).

Focus on Culture, Vol. 15, no. 1
Catalogue number 87-004-XIE (\$8/\$22).

Focus on Culture, Vol. 15, no. 1
Catalogue number 87-004-XPB (\$10/\$29).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -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 (F) English 11-001-XIE04-0007-0-005	
	
Thursday, June 5, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
MAJOR RELEASES	
• Urban transit, 1995 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.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses also noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4
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