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Statistics Canada halts publication of Infomat

Statistics Canada publishes today the last issue of *Infomat* (11-002-XWE), its weekly summary of economic and social news. *Infomat's* declining subscriber base no longer justifies producing the publication.

Subscribers will be refunded according to the method of payment used at the time of the purchase.

You can keep up to date with Statistics Canada's news releases by continuing to access *The Daily* for free highlights of the latest economic and social information. *The Daily* can be accessed through RSS feeds.

RSS allows you to stay up to date on subjects of your choice by having new releases posted on our Web site delivered automatically upon release to your desktop using your preferred 'news reader' software.

For more information, contact Jacques Lefebvre (613-951-7220), Communications and Library Services Division.

Releases

Health Reports: Deaths involving firearms

2002

The rate of deaths involving firearms declined by more than one-half between 1979 and 2002, according to a new report based on the most recent data available from the Canadian Mortality Data Base.

The report in the latest edition of *Health Reports* showed that 816 individuals — 767 males and 49 females — died from injuries related to firearms in 2002.

Among males, this represented a rate of 4.9 deaths for every 100,000 population, down from 10.6 in 1979. The rate for females fell from 1.2 deaths for every 100,000 population to 0.3.

In each year during this period, about four-fifths of firearms-related deaths were suicides. Homicides accounted for around 15% of such deaths, and about 4% were unintentional.

In 1979, the rate of deaths related to firearms was highest among young people aged 15 to 24. By 2002, the differences between age groups had largely disappeared for people aged 15 or older.

The risk of death from an injury related to firearms was a fraction of that in the United States. In 2000, the rate of homicide involving a gun in the United States was 3.8 for every 100,000 population, nearly eight times Canada's rate of 0.5.

In Canada, homicides accounted for 18% of deaths involving firearms in 2000, compared with 38% in the United States.

Decline in homicide rates involving firearms

Canada's rate of homicide involving firearms declined since 1979, mirroring a decrease in the overall homicide rate. However, the proportion of homicides in which a firearm was used remained fairly stable over the entire period at just under one-third.

A report based on police records indicates that handguns accounted for two-thirds of homicides involving firearms in 2002, up from about one-half during the 1990s. Rifles and shotguns accounted for one-quarter of all homicides involving firearms.

In 2002, 31 people were unintentionally killed by firearms, less than one-half of the total of 71 in 1979. Three of the victims in 2002 were younger than 15, compared with 16 in 1979. Another 3 were between 15 and 24 compared with 27 in 1979. Declines in death rates in these two age groups accounted for much of the drop in the overall rate of unintentional firearms-related deaths between 1979 and 2002.

Among all suicides committed throughout the 1980s, around one in three involved firearms. By 2002, this proportion had declined to only about one in six.

Geographic differences

The average annual rate of firearms-related deaths between 2000 and 2002 was higher in the three territories than in Canada overall. The rate for the territories was at least 10 deaths per 100,000 population, compared with the average of 2.6 for Canada.

Rates in several provinces also differed from the national rate. Rates were higher in New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Ontario's was lower at 1.7 per 100,000 population.

Among Canada's four largest metropolitan areas (Montréal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver) the only significant difference in the rate of firearms-related deaths was between Montréal and Toronto: 2.2 versus 1.3 deaths per 100,000 population.

The report "Deaths involving firearms" is now available for free online. For more information about this report, contact Kathryn Wilkins (613-951-1769; *Kathryn.Wilkins@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division.

Other articles

This edition of *Health Reports* also contains articles examining health issues among full-time students who work for pay; the proportion of Canadians who had consultations with doctors and nurses; the prevalence of obesity among various ethnic groups; and hearing problems among seniors.

Health issues among students who work

The study, "Weekly work hours and health-related behaviours in full-time students," was based on data from the 2003 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) and the National Population Health Survey from 1994/95 to 2002/03.

Students aged 15 to 17 who worked even a modest number of hours each week had higher odds of drinking alcohol regularly, and occasional heavy drinking, compared with those who had not worked.

In addition, students working any number of hours had higher odds of becoming regular drinkers within two years. Longer working hours were also associated with higher odds of smoking.

On the other hand, employed students had higher odds of being physically active in their leisure time, after the impact of age, household income and urban/rural residence were taken into account.

In 2003, an estimated 63% of full-time high school students aged 15 to 17 had worked for pay in part-time or full-time jobs in the 12 months before their CCHS interview.

For more information on this article, contact Gisèle Carrière (604-666-5907; *Gisele.Carriere@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division, Western Region and Northern Territories.

Shift to telephone help-lines for consulting nurses

In 2003, a large majority of Canadians aged 12 and older, about 20.4 million people or 77% of the population, reported that they had consulted a family physician or general practitioner in the past 12 months. These estimates appear in "Consultations with doctors and nurses."

Over the same 12 months, 11% of the population (2.9 million people) had consulted a nurse. The most recent consultation with a nurse was most likely by telephone. Just two years earlier, a client's home had been the most likely place.

This shift to telephone nursing consultations reflects the implementation in some jurisdictions of "telephone triage" services that are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information on this article, contact Gisèle Carrière (604-666-5907; *gisele.carriere@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division, Western Region and Northern Territories.

The other two articles in this issue of *Health Reports* are based on the 2003 Canadian Community Health Survey. For information on "Overweight, obesity and ethnicity," contact Mark Tremblay (613-951-4385; *mark.tremblay@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division. For information on "Hearing problems among seniors," contact Wayne J. Millar (613-951-1631; *wayne.millar@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division.

Complete articles appear in the June 2005 issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (82-003-XIE, $17/$48; 82-003-XPE, $22/$63), which is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Mary Sue Devereaux (613-951-4381; *mary_sue.devereaux@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division. ■

Movie theatres and drive-ins

2003/04

Canadians' interest in going to the movies ebbed in 2003/04, according to new data from the Motion Picture Theatres Survey. Movie attendance at theatres and drive-ins combined dropped 4.6%, halting an upward trend of more than a decade.

At the same time, the industry was hit with a drop in box office receipts, total revenues and profits. Profits alone fell 15.8%.

Movie theatres sold nearly 118.2 million tickets during the year, 4.6% fewer than in 2002/03. At drive-ins, attendance fell 4.3% to about 1.5 million.

The total attendance at both movie theatres and drive-ins of just over 119.6 million was at roughly the same level as it was in 2000/01. The decline from 2002/03 occurred hand-in-hand with a small increase in the average admission price, which rose 2.5% to $7.45.

The SARS scare in the spring of 2003, particularly in Toronto and Vancouver, may have contributed to the drop in attendance at movie theatres. In addition, film-makers released fewer blockbuster movies than in the previous year, which may have dampened interest among potential theatregoers.

Older larger theatres, those in operation since at least 2002, contributed significantly to the drop in attendance. A 4.2-million decline in attendance at these theatres accounted for nearly three-quarters of the total drop in patrons.

The industry closed 28 small theatres with an average attendance of 29,562 each. The same year, 11 new theatres were opened, mostly operated by chains, and these reported a much larger average attendance, at 114,736.

Employment in the industry fell only slightly. The number of full-time staff declined 0.7% to 1,960, whereas part-time employment fell 2.5% to 15,519.

Albertans still most avid moviegoers

Albertans on average made about 10% fewer visits to movie theatres and drive-ins in 2003/04. But they were still Canada's most avid moviegoers. On average, each Albertan went to the movies 4.6 times, compared with 5.1 times the year before.

Per capita attendance in Alberta, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and British Columbia exceeded the national average of 3.8 visits per year.

According to data from the Survey of Household Spending, Alberta households spent an average of $119 on these visits, down from $132.

Note to readers

The Motion Picture Theatres Survey collects data on all movie theatres and drive-in theatres in Canada. The 2003/04 survey included 574 movie theatres and 54 drive-ins that provided data for the fiscal year April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.

Theatres with total operating revenues of less than $500,000 are referred to as small theatres. Medium-sized theatres earned $500,000 to $999,999, while large theatres were those with revenues of $1 million to $5 million. Very large theatres are those with revenues over $5 million. The large and very large theatres are frequently grouped together in this release and referred to as larger theatres.

The term older theatres refers to establishments that were in operation in both 2002/03 and 2003/04.

No survey was conducted for the survey year 2001/02.

Newly opened theatres mentioned in this release are those that opened in 2003/04.

There was a minor revision of certain figures for 2002/03.

This keen interest in movies in Alberta may be the result of high per capita income, a younger age structure and a proportionately larger number of chain-operated theatres in metropolitan areas than in most other provinces and territories.

Residents of Newfoundland and Labrador have had the lowest per capita attendance for years. This may be due to the concentration of theatres in a few larger urban centres and a lack of theatres in the numerous small communities.

All provinces and territories reported declines in attendance, except Prince Edward Island, where ticket sales were up 4.8%, and Nova Scotia, where they rose 0.7%. The declines ranged from 1.7% in Quebec to 12.9% in the combined territories.

Biggest decline in attendance at small theatres

The first drop in attendance at movie theatres, excluding drive-ins, in over a decade occurred in 2003/04, after an average annual rate of increase of about 5.4% between 1991/92 and 2002/03. Movie theatres recorded total attendance of 118.2 million in 2003/04, down 4.6% from the previous year.

Some 24 movie theatres reporting total attendance of 777,338 closed in 2003/04. This was more than offset by the opening of 11 new movie houses, which reported 1,262,101 visits.

The decline in attendance in 2003/04 can be attributed to the older movie theatres, that is, those in operation since at least 2002.

Small older theatres, those with operating revenues of less than $500,000, recorded the biggest percentage decline in attendance at 19.6%. At the same time, medium-sized older movie theatres recorded 6.3 million visits, down 7.5%, while larger theatres reported 104.9 million visits, a 3.9% drop.

The overall growth in attendance over the last decade has increased the market share of attendance at larger theatres at the expense of smaller theatres.

In 1991/92, small theatres accounted for more than one-half (54%) of all theatres and 16% of attendance. By 2003/04, their share was down to 43% of all theatres and only 5% of attendance.

In contrast, over the same period, the share of larger theatres increased from 27% to 44% of all theatres, while their share of attendance rose from 67% to 89%.

Although movie theatre attendance decreased, the number of seats remained virtually unchanged, resulting in lower capacity utilization. The proportion of seats filled, on average, fell from 21% to 18%.

Decline in profits, profit margin

The movie theatre industry earned $1.2 billion in operating revenues in 2003/04, down 1.0% from the previous year. Admission receipts accounted for 69% of this total, while most of the remaining revenues came from refreshment bar sales.

As a whole, the industry recorded an operating profit of $54.7 million in 2003/04, a 15.8% decline. The profit margin of movie theatres overall also fell from 5.3% to 4.5%.

Movie theatres, excluding drive-ins, reported a total profit of $52.7 million, down 16.7%.

Only larger theatres were profitable, earning an average profit of $217,804, although this was down 16.9%.

Medium-sized theatres incurred an average loss of $19,545, and small theatres, an average loss of $2,844.

Chain-operated movie theatres earned more than nine times the average profit of the independently operated theatres. This is because most of the chain theatres are multi-screen theatres located in urban centres.

In 2003/04, the average profit for each chain theatre was about $168,000, compared to $18,000 for each independent.

The 11 newly opened movie houses (mostly chain theatres) accounted for 1.1% of total attendance. But they contributed 3.3% to the total profits of movie theatres. Four new larger cinemas earned a total profit of $1.9 million, whereas seven new small- and medium-sized theatres had losses of about $106,900.

The decrease in attendance for larger older theatres was accompanied by a decline in profits, which fell from $64.4 million to $53 million in 2003/04. Lower operating revenues and higher occupancy costs also contributed to this decline.

Drive-ins: Decline in attendance, but profits up

Total attendance at drive-in theatres, about 1.5 million, accounted for only 1.2% of all theatre attendance in 2003/04. Their attendance was down 4.3%, the eighth consecutive decline. Four drive-ins closed during the year.

Despite the drop in attendance, operating profits of drive-ins rose 14.9% to $2.0 million. Their profit margin also increased from 10.0% to 11.5%.

Factors that contributed to the gain in profits included a 16% cut in full-time staff to 89, and a resulting 11.4% drop in the salary budget to $3.6 million. In addition, drive-ins increased their average admission price by 3.4% to $7.54.

Available on CANSIM: table 501-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2416.

Selected details from the Motion Picture Theatres Survey is now available for free online in the publication *Movie Theatres and Drive-ins: Data Tables* (87F0009XIE, free) are now available online. Data from this survey are also available by province and for the territories. Researchers can request special tabulations on a cost-recovery basis.

To obtain more information, order data or enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (telephone: 1 800 307-3382 or 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; *cult.tourstats@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

□

Movie and drive-in theatres

	Movie theatres			Drive-ins			Total		
	1998/99	2002/03	2003/04	1998/99	2002/03	2003/04	1998/99	2002/03	2003/04
Number of theatres	614	587	574	68	58	54	682	645	628
Number of screens	2,444	2,890	2,896	106	89	84	2,550	2,979	2,980
Full-time employees	1,568	1,868	1,871	101	106	89	1,669	1,974	1,960
Part-time employees	10,901	15,378	14,961	706	533	558	11,607	15,911	15,519
	'000								
Attendance	109,688	123,815	118,161	1,945	1,543	1,477	111,633	125,358	119,637
Box office receipts ($)	570,531	843,686	835,152	11,384	10,335	10,379	581,915	854,021	845,531
Total revenues ($)	823,301	1,218,803	1,206,328	19,419	17,692	17,584	842,720	1,236,495	1,223,912
Profit ($)	71,935	63,263	52,701	2,201	1,764	2,027	74,136	65,027	54,728

Note: *Detail may not always add to total due to rounding.*

Annual per-capita attendance at movie theatres and drive-ins

	Number of visits				
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2002/03	2003/04
Canada	**3.7**	**3.9**	**3.9**	**4.0**	**3.8**
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.7	1.5	1.4	2.5	2.4
Prince Edward Island	3.5	2.8	3.1	4.1	4.3
Nova Scotia	2.9	3.3	3.5	3.8	3.8
New Brunswick	2.6	2.7	3.1	2.8	2.6
Quebec	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.9
Ontario	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.6
Manitoba	3.4	3.8	3.6	4.2	4.0
Saskatchewan	3.4	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.4
Alberta	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.1	4.6
British Columbia	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.9
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavat	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.7	3.2

Market share of attendance, by size of movie theatre

	1991/92	1999/00	2000/01	2002/03	2003/04
Total number of movie theatres	620	644	677	587	574
Total movie attendance (millions)	69.2	117.4	117.6	123.8	118.2
	%				
Small theatres					
Number of theatres	54	42	48	44	43
Attendance	16	6	7	5	5
Medium theatres					
Number of theatres	19	17	14	13	13
Attendance	17	10	8	6	6
Larger theatres					
Number of theatres	27	41	38	43	44
Attendance	67	84	85	89	89
All theatres					
Number of theatres	100	100	100	100	100
Attendance	100	100	100	100	100

■

Study: Shifts in production and consumption of potatoes

2003

Whether they are mashed, scalloped or french fried, potatoes have always been an important part of Canadians' diets. In fact, they are our favourite vegetable.

A new study showed that in 2003, each Canadian consumed on average 113 kilograms of vegetables. About 30% of this consumption was potatoes, well ahead of the next most popular veggies: Lettuce, carrots, onions and tomatoes.

About half of Canada's potato production goes to the fresh market and half to making processed foods such as fries and hash browns, potato chips and other potato products such as potato starch.

Overall, consumption of fresh potatoes has been showing a gradual, but steady decline. Consumption of frozen potato products, mainly french fries, is also going down. On the other hand, Canadians are eating more other processed potato products, such as pressed potato chips and dehydrated products.

The demand for potatoes may be declining because of various diets as well as consumer perceptions about its nutritional value. However, the fact is that they are a healthy food product.

This study examines the history of the potato and recent shifts in markets. It also introduces data from a new experimental series on per capita consumption of potatoes in terms of fresh, frozen, chips and other products at the fresh equivalent, retail and consumer levels.

Potato production is also a key segment of Canada's agriculture industry. In 2003, Canadian potato growers produced a record crop of 5.3 million tonnes worth $882.6 million.

Canadian growers have also opened up an extensive export market for certain processed potato products such as french fries.

In 2004, this export market, mainly south of the border, was worth $902 million. In fact, for the first time last year, just over one-half of Canada's total potato crop was exported, mostly to the United States.

The industry has also undergone a huge transformation within Canada. Farmers in Prince Edward Island still lead the pack when it comes to growing spuds.

However, since the 1990s, more and more production has headed west into the Prairies. In terms of acreage grown, growers in Manitoba have taken over the number two spot from those in New Brunswick.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3446.

The June 2005 issue of the newsletter *Vista on the Agri-Food Industry and the Farm Community* entitled *Potatoes: Changing Production, Changing Consumption* (21-004-XIE, free) is now available online. 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 Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; *barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Canada's Aboriginal population in 2017

The Aboriginal population could account for roughly 4.1% of Canada's population by 2017 when the nation celebrates its 150th anniversary, according to new population projections. This report is the result of a project initiated in 2004 by the Multiculturalism and Human Rights Program at the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Under scenarios considered for these projections, between 1.39 million and 1.43 million persons could belong to one of the three Aboriginal groups: North American Indian population, Métis and Inuit.

In 2001, the Aboriginal population of about 1,066,500 represented 3.4% of Canada's total population. (This figure, based on results of the 2001 Census, has been adjusted upwards to take into account factors such as net undercoverage.)

Previous censuses have shown that the Aboriginal population is growing much faster than the total population, a trend which will continue through to 2017. The Aboriginal population is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.8%, more than twice the rate of 0.7% for the general population.

The biggest contributing factor to the more rapid growth is fertility, as the current Aboriginal birth rate is about 1.5 times the overall Canadian rate.

According to the medium-growth scenario, the Inuit population will have the fastest rate of growth, about 2.3%, compared with 1.9% for the North American Indian population and 1.4% for the Métis.

By 2017, there would be 971,200 North American Indians, 380,500 Métis and 68,400 Inuit. The overall composition of the Aboriginal population would not change significantly. The majority, 68%, would be North American Indian; the Métis would represent 27%, and the Inuit about 5%.

The Aboriginal population is much younger than the total Canadian population, yet a trend toward aging is evident.

The median age of the Aboriginal population in 2001 was 24.7 years, which was about 12 years lower than that of the Canadian population. By 2017 it could reach 27.8 years but this would still be 13 years under the Canadian mark. (The median is the point at which one-half of the population is older and the other half is younger.)

The main cause of this trend is the increasing life expectancy and gradually declining fertility of the Aboriginal peoples.

The biggest challenge confronting the Aboriginal population by 2017 could be their large number of young adults aged 20 to 29 entering the labour market. This age group is projected to increase by over 40% to 242,000, more than four times the projected growth rate of 9% among the same age group in the general population.

At the other end of the age spectrum, the number of Aboriginal seniors aged 65 and older could double by 2017, although their share of the population would rise from only 4.0% to 6.5%.

The highest concentration of the Aboriginal population in 2001 was in the Prairies and in the North. This distribution is not expected to change during the next 12 years.

Provincially, Alberta may overtake British Columbia in 2017 as the province with the second largest Aboriginal population. Alberta, projected to have 232,000 Aboriginal people, would be just behind Ontario with 268,000.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5131.

The publication *Projections of the Aboriginal Populations, Canada, Provinces and Territories* (91-547-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Population and demography*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636; *mediahotline@statcan.ca*), Communications and Library Services Division. ■

Employment Insurance

April 2005 (preliminary)

After four consecutive months of small increases, the estimated number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits edged down 0.8% in April from March. Compared to the same time last year, the number of regular beneficiaries fell 4.5% nationally.

The decline in April was due to decreases in Alberta (-4.9%), Saskatchewan (-2.7%), Quebec (-1.0%) and Ontario (-0.8%). Provinces showing monthly increases included Prince Edward Island (+3.4%) and Manitoba (+1.1%).

The number of regular beneficiaries in Alberta has now dropped for eight consecutive months, continuing a pronounced downward trend that began in the middle of 2003. Since July of that year, the number of regular beneficiaries in Alberta has fallen by 34.9%. Other provinces have also shown declines since July 2003, notably British Columbia (-25.8%), Saskatchewan (-14.1%), Quebec (-12.2%) and Ontario (-9.5%).

Also on a seasonally adjusted basis, regular benefit payments in April totalled $688.9 million, while the number of people making initial and renewal claims was 234,550.

Employment Insurance statistics

	April 2005	March 2005	April 2004	March to April 2005	April 2004 to April 2005
	seasonally adjusted				
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	525,030[p]	529,490[r]	549,910	-0.8	-4.5
Regular benefits paid ($ millions)	688.9[p]	725.8[r]	723.9	-5.1	-4.8
Initial and renewal claims received ('000)	234.6[p]	255.7[r]	234.2	-8.3	0.1
	unadjusted				
All beneficiaries ('000)[1]	882.2[p]	966.3[p]	911.3		
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	588.8[p]	665.4[p]	617.6		
Initial and renewal claims received ('000)	181.9	219.1	179.6		
Payments ($ millions)	1,397.7	1,334.2	1,332.4		
	year-to-date (January to April)				
			2005	2004	2004 to 2005
					% change
Claims received ('000)			926.9	921.5	0.6
Payments ($ millions)			5,773.9	5,836.1	-1.1

r Revised figures.
p Preliminary figures.
1. "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.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	April 2005p	March to April 2005	April 2004 to April 2005
	seasonally adjusted		
		% change	
Canada	**525,030**	**-0.8**	**-4.5**
Newfoundland and Labrador	37,870	0.4	1.7
Prince Edward Island	8,400	3.4	5.7
Nova Scotia	30,240	0.0	-1.7
New Brunswick	34,820	-0.2	0.7
Quebec	177,760	-1.0	-3.5
Ontario	133,730	-0.8	-3.5
Manitoba	13,000	1.1	-5.8
Saskatchewan	11,250	-2.7	-12.2
Alberta	23,070	-4.9	-22.0
British Columbia	52,360	0.2	-12.4
Yukon Territory	900	2.3	-7.2
Northwest Territories	710	0.0	-15.5
Nunavut	400	0.0	0.0

p *Preliminary figures.*
Note: *The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually 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 fifteenth day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire 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 May will be released on July 26.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services at 613-951-4090 or, call toll free 1-866-873-8788; (*labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

April 2005 (preliminary)

Total sales of the restaurants, caterers and taverns industry reached $3.1 billion in April, a 2.3% increase over April 2004 on a year-over-year basis. (Data are neither seasonally adjusted, nor adjusted for inflation.)

The most important year-over-year increases in sales at the provincial level were in Alberta (+11.6%), British Columbia (+11.4%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+6.3%).

The 2.3% year-over-year advance in sales at the national level was due to the increase in demand for full (+2.5%) and limited (+2.0%) service restaurants, which accounted for 85% of the industry sales in April. Social and mobile caterers (+8.0%) and food service contractors (+5.8%) posted even higher year-over-year increases but they accounted for only 7% of industry sales in April.

Food services sales

	March 2004r	March 2005r	April 2004r	April 2005p
	Not seasonally adjusted ($ thousands)			
Total, food services sales	**2,913,986**	**3,018,912**	**3,048,347**	**3,119,319**
Full service restaurants	1,355,592	1,407,893	1,421,970	1,457,587
Limited service restaurants	1,140,381	1,147,547	1,176,265	1,199,238
Food service contractors	153,489	180,039	157,547	166,607
Social and mobile caterers	49,238	54,756	59,265	64,019
Drinking places	215,286	228,677	233,300	231,869
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	30,984	36,793	34,565	36,730
Prince Edward Island	11,198	10,490	11,100	9,953
Nova Scotia	76,725	67,564	76,211	71,431
New Brunswick	60,575	54,877	56,415	57,086
Quebec	576,033	601,803	641,921	637,186
Ontario	1,141,312	1,183,463	1,229,500	1,220,851
Manitoba	81,539	76,731	83,586	80,745
Saskatchewan	75,525	70,773	81,980	76,443
Alberta	346,626	382,479	348,911	389,505
British Columbia	500,136	523,983	475,341	529,351
Yukon	3,694	2,493	2,391	2,430
Northwest Territories	8,406	7,011	5,836	7,238
Nunavut	1,234	452	589	369

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

Note: The Monthly Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns Survey has undergone several important changes. Effective starting the April 2004 reference month, the survey was restratified and a new sample was selected. Commencing with the reference month of May 2004, the survey incorporated increased use of GST data to reduce response burden and collection costs. As a result of these changes, total food services sales for Canada and the provinces/territories have been revised back to January 1998.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, or to obtain the new methodology paper about the Monthly Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns Survey contact Alain Mbassegue (613-951-2011; fax: 613-951-6696, *alain.mbassegue@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

Longitudinal Administrative Databank
1982 to 2003

Data for 2003 have been added to the Longitudinal Administrative Databank (LAD). This databank now spans 22 years, from 1982 to 2003, and contains information about individuals and census families.

The LAD consists of a 20% longitudinal sample of Canadian taxfilers and provides researchers and analysts with a tool for studying the changes in income experienced by individuals and their families. The LAD contains a wide variety of income and demographic variables such as employment income, self-employment income, Registered Retirement Savings Plan contributions, alimony, age, sex, and census family composition. The large sample (4.8 million persons in 2003) ensures reliable estimates for Canada, the provinces, census metropolitan areas, and some subprovincial regions, based on aggregations of postal codes.

The LAD also contains information from the Longitudinal Immigration Data base, which covers almost 600,000 immigrants landed between 1980 and 2003 and provides information on their key characteristics at landing.

The *Longitudinal Administrative Data Dictionary* (12-585-XIE, free) is available online. The 2003 version will soon be available. Custom tabulations, including 2003 data are also available (13C0019, variable prices).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4107.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720; fax: 1-866-652-8444 or 613-951-4745; *saadinfo@statcan.ca*), Small Area and Administrative Data Division. ■

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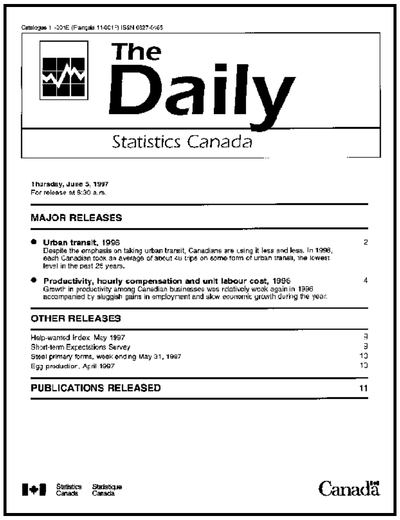

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