



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

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Canadian Social Trends

Summer 2005

Each quarter, *Canadian Social Trends* integrates data from many sources to examine emerging social trends and issues. The summer 2005 issue contains four articles.

The feature article "Always the bridesmaid: People who don't expect to marry," looks at mature singles, that is, men and women older than the average age at which people first marry (28 for women, 30 for men) but not yet past prime working-age (under 55). These men and women numbered over 1.1 million in 2001; they had never legally married and were not living common-law at the time of the survey. More than half a million of them (550,000) did not think they would ever get married. The article, which is available free online, examines some of the differences between those mature singles who do not expect to marry and those who do.

"Elder care and the complexities of social networks," looks at the relationship between the social networks of non-institutionalized seniors and whether they receive formal, informal or no care.

"The sandwich generation," examines care of the elderly by persons aged 45 to 64 with children still at home. The analysis focuses on the types of care given, the time spent on these activities, the effects on the individual from both a work and a personal perspective, and the resources that could benefit caregivers.

"Social anxiety disorder: Much more than shyness," presents current and lifetime prevalence rates of social anxiety disorder for Canadians aged 15 years or older. It also discusses the age of onset, duration of symptoms, relationship with other mental disorders, the burden of the condition as well as the number of people with the disorder who sought professional help.

This issue of *Canadian Social Trends* also features the latest social indicators as well as information about Statistics Canada's products and services.

The summer 2005 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 77 (11-008-XIE, \$9/\$29; 11-008-XPE, \$12/\$39) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Client Services and Dissemination (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division.



Study: Mature singles who don't expect to marry

2001

Single mature adults who do not expect to marry represent a small, but distinct, group of adults who differ in key ways from "mature singles" who do plan to marry, according to a new report.

For instance, those who do not plan to marry generally have lower median incomes and are less likely to have a university degree. They are also more likely to be single parents, especially if they are women.

The study, which used data from the 2001 General Social Survey on family and marital history, estimated there were more than 1.1 million mature singles in Canada in 2001. Of those, about half, or 550,000, did not expect to marry.

It defined mature singles as men and women older than the average age at which people first marry (28 for women, 30 for men), but not yet past prime working-age, that is, younger than 55.

The key distinction between mature singles who did not expect to marry and those who did related to their attitudes. Individuals who did not expect to marry had decidedly less conventional views about the importance of love, marriage and family.

The odds that a man did not expect to marry were nearly five times greater if he did not believe that being part of a couple was important, all other factors being equal. The odds of not planning to marry were three times greater for women who felt that way.

Similarly, mature singles, who placed no real importance on being married had very high odds that they would not think of getting married. In general, they were about eight times more likely not to marry than those who considered marriage important.

Age was also a prime predictor of marital expectations, especially for women. For instance, the likelihood of not marrying was up to 13 times greater for mature single women in their early 50s than for those aged 35 to 39.

The study also found that mature men and women who did expect to marry were equally (68%) agreed on the importance of having children to being happy. However, those who did not see themselves getting married were sharply split on the issue. In fact, 52% of

women and 34% of men felt children were an important factor in being happy.

Some cultural factors also had an impact. For example, the odds of not expecting marriage were nearly five times higher for a male francophone than a male anglophone.

A woman living in Quebec had much higher odds of not expecting marriage, compared with a woman living elsewhere, when the effects of other socio-demographic factors were accounted for.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4501.

The article "Always the bridesmaid: People who don't expect to marry," is available now in the Summer 2005 edition of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 77 (11-008-XIE, \$9/\$29; 11-008-XPE, \$12/\$39). See *How to order products*. This article is also available free online.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact Susan Crompton (613-951-2556; susan.crompton@statcan.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Farm product prices

April 2005

Prices received by farmers in April for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, potatoes, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Saskatchewan canola price in April was \$261.04 per tonne, up 1% from March 2005 but down 31% from the April 2004 price of \$377.42.

The April hog price in Quebec was \$77.87 per hundredweight, down 1% from March 2005 and down 2% from the April 2004 price of \$79.26.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese or Robert Waugh (613-951-2701; fax: 613-951-3868; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

New products

Infomat: A Weekly Review, June 7, 2005
Catalogue number **11-002-XWE** (\$100).

Canadian Social Trends, Summer 2005, no. 77
Catalogue number **11-008-XIE** (\$9/\$29).

Canadian Social Trends, Summer 2005, no. 77
Catalogue number **11-008-XPE** (\$12/\$39).

Building Permits, April 2005, Vol. 49, no. 4
Catalogue number **64-001-XIE** (\$15/\$156).

Exports by Country, January to March 2005, Vol. 62,
no. 1
Catalogue number **65-003-XMB** (\$67/\$221).

Exports by Country, January to March 2005, Vol. 62,
no. 1
Catalogue number **65-003-XPB** (\$133/\$441).

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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MAJOR RELEASES


- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
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.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses and industry weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-based index: May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production: Apr 1997 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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