



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

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### Births

2003

Nearly one-half of the women who gave birth in Canada in 2003 were age 30 and older, according to new data on births. In fact, in Ontario and British Columbia, mothers age 30 and older were already in the majority.

This reinforces the long-term trend among Canadian women; they have been waiting longer and longer to start families. Two decades ago, three-quarters of moms in Canada were under 30.

Nationally in 2003, 48% of mothers were age 30 and older when they gave birth, and 52% under. But in Ontario, 54% were age 30 and older, as were 53% in British Columbia.

Older mothers have been in the majority in Ontario since 1999, and in British Columbia since 2001.

Conversely, in the territory of Nunavut, over three-quarters (77%) of mothers in 2003 were under the age of 30.

There were 335,202 births in Canada in 2003, up 1.9% from the previous year.

#### Slight increase in crude birth rate

The crude birth rate (the number of live births for every 1,000 people in the population) rose to 10.6 in 2003, recovering slightly from the record low set in 2002.

During the past 10 years, the number of births and the crude birth rate rose only twice: in 2001 and in 2003.

In 2003, the number of births increased in all provinces and territories except Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Yukon, which recorded small decreases.

Among the provinces, the biggest gain occurred in Prince Edward Island at 6.7%. However, the Northwest Territories had Canada's biggest increase in births at 10.4%.

The neighbouring provinces of Alberta and British Columbia provided an interesting contrast. The number of births in the two provinces was virtually equal, around 40,300. The number of births rose 4.1% in Alberta, but only 1.1% in British Columbia. In terms of absolute numbers, this was a gain of almost 1,600 babies in Alberta, but only 431 in British Columbia.

As a result, the crude birth rate in Alberta was 12.8 for every 1,000 population in 2003, compared with 9.8 in British Columbia.

#### Average age on long upward trend

The average age of women giving birth in Canada in 2003 was 29.6 years, continuing a long-established upward trend. Two decades ago, the average age was 26.9 years.

The oldest mothers on average were in Ontario and British Columbia (30.3 years and 30.2 years respectively), while the youngest were in Nunavut (25.3 years).

Among women giving birth for the first time, the average age was 28.0 years in 2003. The oldest first-time mothers on average were in British Columbia, at 28.8 years, followed closely by Ontario at 28.7.

Nunavut had the youngest first-time mothers with an average age of 21.7.

#### Low birth weight higher in younger and older mothers

Low birth weight has long been a public health concern because of its relationship to poor infant health and mortality.

It is mothers at the lower and upper ends of the age spectrum who have the highest rates of low birth weight babies. In 2003, 6.7% of babies born to teenage mothers and the same proportion of babies born to mothers age 35 to 39 weighed less than 2,500 grams at birth.

However, it was mothers age 40 and older who had the highest proportion of low birth weight babies, 8.4% in 2003.

The vast majority of babies born in Canada have a healthy weight at birth. Fewer than 6% of babies born in 2003 had a birth weight under 2,500 grams, the same proportion seen in each year of the last two decades.

#### Slight gain in fertility rate

The total fertility rate estimates the average number of children women aged 15 to 49 will have in their lifetime. In 2003, it increased slightly to 1.53 children per woman, up from 1.50 in 2002.

The lowest fertility rate for Canada was set in 2000, at 1.49 children per woman.

Nunavut continued to have the highest total fertility rate of any province or territory, at 3.1 children per woman in 2003, followed by the Northwest Territories at 2.0 children per woman.

In contrast, Newfoundland and Labrador recorded the lowest total fertility rate, 1.3 children per woman in 2003.

Despite having the highest average ages of first-time mothers in Canada, Ontario and British Columbia did not have the lowest fertility rates.

Ontario's fertility rate in 2003 was 1.5 children per woman, in the middle of the range, while British Columbia's fertility rate of 1.4 children per woman ranked third lowest.

# Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3231.

The publication *Births, 2003* (84F0210XIE, free), which contains tables on live births and stillbirths, is now available. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Population and demography*.

For general information or to order custom tabulations, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; [hd-ds@statcan.ca](mailto:hd-ds@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Patricia Tully (613-951-1759; [patricia.tully@statcan.ca](mailto:patricia.tully@statcan.ca)) or Leslie Geran (613-951-5243; [leslie.geran@statcan.ca](mailto:leslie.geran@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division.

## Average age of mothers and total fertility rate<sup>1</sup>, 2003

	Average age <sup>2</sup> in years		Total fertility rate <sup>3</sup>
	All mothers	First-time mothers	Per woman aged 15 to 49
<b>Canada<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	28.6	26.9	1.3
Prince Edward Island	28.6	26.6	1.6
Nova Scotia	29.1	27.4	1.4
New Brunswick	28.3	26.6	1.4
Quebec	29.2	27.7	1.5
Ontario	30.3	28.7	1.5
Manitoba	28.2	26.3	1.8
Saskatchewan	27.6	25.3	1.9
Alberta	29.0	27.3	1.7
British Columbia	30.2	28.8	1.4
Yukon	28.7	26.7	1.5
Northwest Territories <sup>5</sup>	28.1	26.2	2.0
Nunavut <sup>5</sup>	25.3	21.7	3.1

1. Excludes births to non-residents of Canada, with unknown age of mother, and stillbirths.
2. To estimate mid-year average age, 0.5 has been added to the mother's age at her last birthday preceding the birth of her child.
3. Total fertility rate is an estimate of the average number of children women age 15 to 49 will have in their lifetime.
4. Canada total includes births with unknown province or territory of residence of mother.
5. Data for Nunavut are excluded from the Northwest Territories.

## Births<sup>1</sup>

	2002	2003	2002 to 2003	
	number		% change	increase/decrease
<b>Canada<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>328,802</b>	<b>335,202</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>6,400</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,651	4,629	-0.5	-22
Prince Edward Island	1,328	1,417	6.7	89
Nova Scotia	8,663	8,650	-0.2	-13
New Brunswick	7,046	7,117	1.0	71
Quebec	72,477	73,905	2.0	1,428
Ontario	128,528	130,927	1.9	2,399
Manitoba	13,888	13,940	0.4	52
Saskatchewan	11,761	12,038	2.4	277
Alberta	38,691	40,287	4.1	1,596
British Columbia	40,065	40,496	1.1	431
Yukon	339	335	-1.2	-4
Northwest Territories <sup>3</sup>	635	701	10.4	66
Nunavut <sup>3</sup>	726	758	4.4	32

1. Excludes births to non-residents of Canada and stillbirths.
2. Canada total includes births with unknown province or territory of residence of mother.
3. Data for Nunavut are excluded from the Northwest Territories.

## Study: Estimating summary measures of health

A study, which has been published in the journal *Population Health Metrics*, describes new software that will help researchers manage large amounts of data and calculations needed to assess the impact of various diseases and risk factors on the Canadian population.

Deciding where to place priorities for improving the health of Canadians is a complicated process. But having information about how diseases compare with one another and how different risk factors such as smoking or diet can affect different diseases can help.

Statistics Canada, in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada and other Canadian researchers, is contributing to national and international measurement of the burden of disease by developing tools that help provide this information.

This study describes the easy-to-use software that brings together a wide range of data needed to estimate health-adjusted life years lost to cancer and attribute them to various risk factors. The software can be adapted for other diseases, specific regions of Canada, or other countries.

The article *Estimating Summary Measures of Health: A Structured Workbook Approach* and software are available for free online, in English only: (<http://www.pophealthmetrics.com/content/3/1/5>).

This study is part of the Population Health Impact of Disease in Canada research program, a collaboration of Statistics Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and researchers from McGill University, the University of Ottawa, the University of Manitoba, the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences and the Agence de développement de réseaux locaux de services de santé et de services sociaux de la Montérégie.

For more information about the concepts, methods or software, or to obtain a copy, contact William Flanagan (1-613-951-6930; [bill.flanagan@statcan.ca](mailto:bill.flanagan@statcan.ca)), Health Analysis and Measurement Group. ■

## New Housing Price Index May 2005

The New Housing Price Index rose 0.5% in May, down slightly from April's increase of 0.6%. On a 12-month basis, the rate of change for this index of contractors' selling prices was the lowest, at 4.6%, since June 2003.

The New Housing Price Index (1997=100) rose to 128.3 in May.

Prices advanced in 17 of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed. Vancouver, Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay, and St. John's all led the way with a monthly increase of 1.3%. These were followed by Regina (+1.2%), Victoria (+1.1%), Hamilton and London (+1.0%). For the most part, these increases were the result of higher costs for labour, building materials and land. In Vancouver, prices were also being driven by a strong market for new housing.

Significant gains were observed in Charlottetown and St. Catharines–Niagara (+0.8%), Windsor (+0.7%), Québec, Ottawa–Gatineau, Kitchener and Calgary (+0.5%), mostly the result of increased material, labour and land costs. Of the 17 metropolitan areas showing increases, land prices rose in 10.

Monthly increases were also noted in Toronto and Oshawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton.

Three metropolitan areas registered no monthly change and the only decrease was in Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton due to competitive factors (-0.4%).

## New housing price indexes (1997=100)

	May 2005	May 2004 to May 2005 % change	April to May 2005
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>128.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>
House only	136.8	4.7	0.5
Land only	112.0	4.2	0.4
St. John's	125.3	6.8	1.3
Halifax	121.8	0.0	0.0
Charlottetown	113.7	4.2	0.8
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	108.5	4.2	-0.4
Québec	133.8	3.4	0.5
Montréal	141.1	5.1	0.0
Ottawa–Gatineau	153.1	4.4	0.5
Toronto and Oshawa	131.4	4.0	0.4
Hamilton	134.9	6.5	1.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	137.3	9.6	0.8
Kitchener	130.5	5.2	0.5
London	127.1	5.9	1.0
Windsor	105.7	3.5	0.7
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay	100.1	1.7	1.3
Winnipeg	128.7	8.0	0.2
Regina	142.6	7.1	1.2
Saskatoon	126.2	7.6	0.0
Calgary	143.4	4.2	0.5
Edmonton	134.6	4.9	0.3
Vancouver	105.9	5.0	1.3
Victoria	111.0	6.3	1.1

**Note:** View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.

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**Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.**

The first quarter 2005 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$26/\$85) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact our Client Services Section (613-951-9606, fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)) or Randy Sterns (613-951-8183; [sterran@statcan.ca](mailto:sterran@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

## Stillbirths 2003

The number of stillbirths with a gestational age of 28 weeks or more, known as late fetal deaths, remained virtually unchanged in 2003 compared with the previous year.

In 2003, 1,027 children were stillborn, one less than in 2002. The 2003 level was the lowest ever.

There were 3.1 late fetal deaths for every 1,000 total births in 2003, that is, live births plus stillbirths of 28 weeks or longer gestation. This was the same rate as in 2002.

The rate of late fetal death has remained below four deaths for every 1,000 total births since 1990.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3234.**

The publication *Births, 2003* (84F0210XIE, free), which contains tables on live births and stillbirths, is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Health*.

For general information or to order custom tabulations, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; [hd-ds@statcan.ca](mailto:hd-ds@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Patricia Tully (613-951-1759; [patricia.tully@statcan.ca](mailto:patricia.tully@statcan.ca)) or Leslie Geran (613-951-5243; [leslie.geran@statcan.ca](mailto:leslie.geran@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division. ■

## Automotive repair and maintenance services 2003

Total operating revenues for the businesses classified to the automotive repair and maintenance services

industry were \$11.2 billion in 2003, an increase of 4.7% from the \$10.7 billion in 2002. Mechanical and electrical repairs accounted for 61% of operating revenues while auto-body, paint and glass repairs generated 31%.

Nearly two-thirds of the industry's operating revenues were generated by firms located in Ontario (37.6%) and Quebec (24.7%). In terms of 2003 operating revenue growth by province, the industry expanded most rapidly in Quebec (+11.6%), Prince Edward Island (+11.3%), and Alberta (+9.5%).

Total operating expenses for the industry grew by 5.6% to \$10.6 billion in 2003, up from \$10.0 billion in 2002. Contributing to the faster growth in operating expenses were cost of goods sold (+7.4%) and salaries and wages (+2.8%). With operating expenses rising faster than operating revenues, the industry's operating profit margin slipped to 5.2% in 2003, down from 6.0% in 2002.

The industry is dominated by small firms. The market share of the industry's 20 largest firms represented only 7% of the total operating revenue in 2003, relatively unchanged from 2002.

This survey does not include vehicle repairs provided by retailers such as car dealers and retail chain stores selling and servicing motor vehicles. These are covered instead by the Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey. In 2003, the total reported revenues from motor vehicle repairs generated by such retail establishments and automotive repair and maintenance service establishments was \$24.5 billion, of which \$14.2 billion was generated from the sale of parts and accessories and \$10.1 billion from related labour charges.

**Available on CANSIM: table 361-0006.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 4720, 4721 and 4722.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Marg Côté (613-951-0406; [marg.cote@statcan.ca](mailto:marg.cote@statcan.ca)) or Daphne Bennett (613-951-3429; [daphne.bennett@statcan.ca](mailto:daphne.bennett@statcan.ca)), Service Industries Division. ■

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## New products

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**Canada's International Investment Position**, First quarter 2005, Vol. 3, no. 1  
**Catalogue number 67-202-XIE** (\$23/\$51).

**Births**, 2003  
**Catalogue number 84F0210XIE**  
(free).

**2001 Census Data Interpretation Guide — Industry: Conversion of Census Industry Data from the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification to the 1997 North American Industry Classification System: Impact on the Data and Implications for Data Users**  
**Catalogue number 92-404-GIE**  
(free).

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
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 <b>The Daily</b>	
Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 9, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
<b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>	
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● <b>Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995</b> 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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