



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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### Canadian Social Trends

*Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada's publication on emerging social issues, features two new free online articles today.

The feature article "Interreligious unions in Canada" uses data from the Census of Population and the 2002 Ethnic Diversity Survey to examine the prevalence of interreligious unions and social and demographic factors associated with their occurrence.

The article "Junior comes back home: Trends and predictors of returning to the parental home" examines patterns in adult children returning to the family home across the last few decades, the reasons for coming back, and the socio-demographic and economic factors that influence this process.

The October 2006 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 82 (11-008-XWE, free) is now available online from the *Publications* module of our website.

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



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## Study: Returning to the parental home

2001

Young people in the so-called Generation X, especially those born between 1972 and 1976, were three times as likely to return home to live with their parents as baby boomers were, according to a new study.

The study, published today in the online version of *Canadian Social Trends*, used data from the 2001 General Social Survey to examine patterns in the frequency with which young people have returned home over the last few decades. It examined their reasons for returning, and the socio-demographic and economic factors that influenced this process.

It found that the tendency to return home at least once has increased in each of five successive generations, starting with the first wave of baby boomers who were born between 1947 and 1951.

Among these early wave boomers, the probability of returning home within five years of first leaving was less than 12% for men and 10% for women.

In contrast, the probability for the later wave of Gen Xers (born between 1972 and 1976) was just about three times higher: 32% for men and 28% for women.

A number of factors help explain this growing trend. These include the increasing acceptance of common-law relationships (since such unions are more likely to break up than marriages); and the pursuit of higher education, which tends to leave young graduates with heavy student debts.

Other factors include financial difficulties; the reduced stigma attached to living with parents; wanting a standard of living impossible to afford on their own; the new and different roles of parents and children in families; and needing a parent's emotional support during the stressful transition to adulthood and independence.

These so-called "boomerang children" gave a number of reasons for returning home, the most common of which was related to education. Over one-quarter reported that it was either the end of the school year, or they had finished their program or quit school.

Another 25% returned the first time for financial reasons, while 12% said their job had ended. About 1 in 10 returned home with a broken heart, seeking their parents' support at the end of a relationship.

The boomerang children who most often returned for education-related reasons were those who had left to attend college or university.

The large majority of those who returned because they got into financial difficulty were those who had

moved out to be independent or to attend school. Those who came back because their job had ended had most often left in order to take the job.

The study found that men who left to pursue their studies had a 32% higher chance of returning home than those who moved out because of a job. Women in this position had a 38% higher chance of returning home.

On the other hand, men who left home to form a union were about 76% less likely to return, while women had a 71% lower risk, when all other variables in the model are controlled for.

This confirms earlier research that has also found that departures for education or employment-related reasons have higher probabilities of boomeranging than adult children who leave to form a relationship.

### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4501.

The October 2006 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 82 (11-008-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; [sasd-dssea@statcan.ca](mailto:sasd-dssea@statcan.ca)), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

## Study: Interreligious unions

2001

With Canada's increasing cultural diversity, interreligious conjugal unions are on the rise, but the vast majority of couples still consist of partners from the same broad religious affiliation group, according to a new study.

The study, based on census data and published today in the online version of *Canadian Social Trends*, found that in 1981, 15% of people in couples were in an interreligious union, either marriage or common-law.

By 2001, such unions had grown to 19% of couples. Of the 14.1 million Canadians in couples, nearly 2.7 million had a partner from a different religious group.

Not surprisingly, over half of these unions were between Catholics and Protestants, the two largest broad religious groups in Canada.

The 1.3 million people in Catholic/Protestant unions represented 9.6% of all people in couples in 2001, up from 8.6% in 1981.

Unions between Catholics and Protestants were not evenly distributed geographically. In Quebec, where 83% of the population was Catholic in 2001 and

only 5% Protestant, just 2% of Catholics in couples were married to, or in common-law relationships with, Protestants.

In Ontario, where there were nearly equal numbers of Catholics and Protestants, 18% of Catholics in couples were in interreligious unions with a Protestant.

The study found that the likelihood of an interreligious union was associated with where you lived, how homogeneous the religious mix of your community was, how religious you were, how traditional the doctrine of your religion was, and how long you had been in Canada.

People in communities which were religiously homogeneous and people who were highly religious were less likely to be in interreligious unions, as were immigrants and older individuals.

Many immigrants who cited Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism as their religion arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001.

As such, they were more likely to have a strong cultural association with the marital traditions of their country of origin. In fact, for these three religious groups, interreligious unions were less likely in 2001 than in 1981.

The most common interreligious union involving a Muslim partner was with a Catholic, which represented 4% of Muslims in couples. About 71% of Muslim couples resided in Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver.

Buddhists were more likely to be in interreligious unions than Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus.

The study found that interreligious unions had become more frequent among Jewish individuals in couples. About 17% were in such unions in 2001, nearly twice the proportion of 9% two decades earlier.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4508.**

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For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; [sasd-dssea@statcan.ca](mailto:sasd-dssea@statcan.ca)), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

**Supply and demand for natural gas liquids and liquefied petroleum gases**

January to May 2006

Data on the supply and demand for natural gas liquids and liquefied petroleum gases are now available from January to May.

**Available on CANSIM: table 132-0001.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marketing and Dissemination Section (613-951-9497 or toll free 1-866-873-8789; [energ@statcan.ca](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## New products

**Canadian Social Trends**, no. 82  
Catalogue number 11-008-XWE  
(free).

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

**Gross Domestic Product by Industry**, July 2006,  
Vol. 20, no. 7  
Catalogue number 15-001-XIE  
(free).

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997  
For release at 8:30 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Changes in the number of people using urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 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 was relatively weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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