



The Daily

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Releases

National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth: Early reading ability and later literacy skills, 1994/1995 to 2004/2005	2
Early reading skills are related to a child's later ability to use and understand printed information, regardless of the child's background, according to data from the most recent cycle of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth.	
Farm Product Price Index, September 2006	6
Salaries and salary scales of full-time teaching staff at Canadian universities: Final report, 2004/2005	7
Refined petroleum products, September 2006	7
Financial statistics of community colleges and vocational schools, 2004/2005	8

New products	9
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Releases

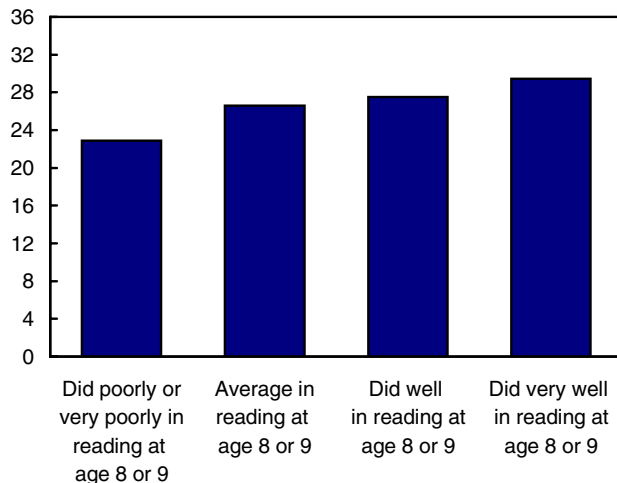
National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth: Early reading ability and later literacy skills

1994/1995 to 2004/2005

Early reading skills are related to a child's later ability to use and understand printed information, regardless of the child's background, according to data from the most recent cycle of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY).

Better reading in school at age 8 or 9 linked to higher literacy scores at age 18 or 19

Average literacy score at age 18 or 19



The survey showed that children aged 8 or 9 whose reading ability in school was better than their peers had significantly higher test scores in literacy a decade later when they had reached 18 or 19.

This held true even when socio-demographic characteristics, child behaviour, school-related factors and parental literacy practices were taken into account.

The survey also showed that improvement in early reading skills was associated with better literacy test scores later on.

The NLSCY, a long-term study, followed the same sample of children through six separate interviews between 1994/1995 and 2004/2005. The sample described in this analysis

Note to readers

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) is a long-term study designed to collect information about factors influencing the social, emotional and behavioural development of children and youth, and to monitor the impact of these factors on their development over time. The survey is conducted by Statistics Canada and is sponsored by Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

The NLSCY began in 1994/1995 with a sample of children in Canada under the age of 12. This analysis includes findings from the sixth cycle of data collected in 2004/2005. It reports on 1,329 children who were aged 8 or 9 in 1994/1995 and who completed the literacy test at the age of 18 or 19 in 2004/2005.

Information was gathered from parents when the children were under 10, and from both parents and children when the youngsters were 10 to 13. The children themselves provided the information when they were 18 or 19 in 2004/2005.

An analysis of partial non-response is available upon request.

Definitions

Literacy test: This direct assessment measures the literacy abilities of youth aged 18 or 19. This assessment is made up of 36 items taken from an adapted, abridged version of the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey and covers two types of literacy: prose literacy, the knowledge and skills needed to understand and use information from texts such as editorials, news stories, poems and fiction; and document literacy, the knowledge and skills required to locate and use information contained in various formats such as tables, forms, graphs and diagrams.

The literacy score used in this analysis was the number of items answered correctly by the respondent. The minimum score was two and the maximum score was 36.

Early reading ability: This was reported by parents and was based on their knowledge of their child's school work, including report cards.

represents about 650,000 children who were aged 8 or 9 in 1994/1995.

This analysis represents a first look at the most recent cycle of NLSCY data. It focuses on links between the literacy of young people and their abilities, characteristics and behaviour in the years before they entered high school.

Parents' education, school-related factors also linked to later literacy

Early reading ability in school was not the only factor linked to later literacy. The survey found that parents' education and certain school-related factors were also associated with literacy skills at ages 18 or 19.

Children whose parents had not finished high school scored lower on the literacy test 10 years later than did children whose parents had a higher level of education.

In addition, children who lived in a household where the income was below Statistics Canada's low income cut-off had lower literacy scores 10 years later compared to children from more affluent households. However, this link was no longer significant once other factors, including the education level of the parents, were taken into account.

Previous research has suggested that hyperactivity at an early age may be adversely linked to later literacy skills. In the NLSCY, children who placed high (in the top 10%) on the hyperactivity-inattention scale at the age of 8 or 9 had lower literacy scores subsequently than children who placed lower on the scale.

The relationship between hyperactivity and later literacy, however, was mediated by certain school-related factors.

These factors included repeating a grade in elementary school, and physical, emotional or behavioural limitations for which the child received special help with school work. Both of these factors were linked to lower literacy scores at ages 18 or 19.

Children who reported disliking or hating school at age 12 or 13 also had lower literacy scores later on. Furthermore, children who reported skipping at least one day of school when they were 12 or 13 had lower literacy scores six years later than children who said they had not skipped school.

Parents were asked about their own literacy practices, such as how often they used a public library, wrote letters, read newspapers or magazines, and read books. Children aged 12 or 13 whose parents read books had higher literacy scores six years later than youngsters whose parents did not do so.

On the other hand, data showed that the child's mother tongue was not associated with literacy scores at the age of 18 or 19, nor did it matter whether the child was a boy or girl.

Improvement in early reading skills linked to better literacy scores

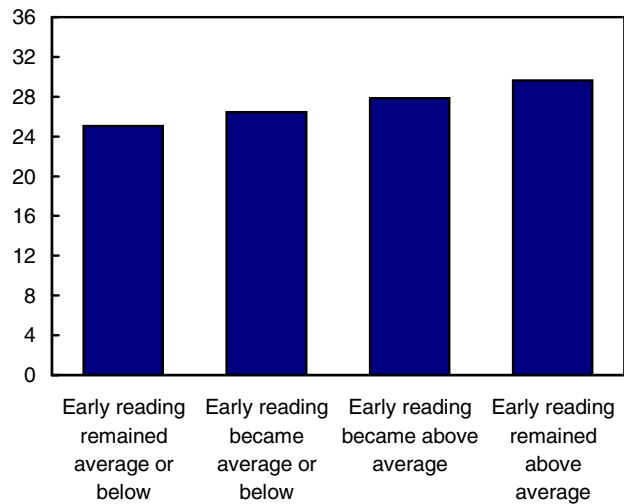
NLSCY data showed that improvement in early reading skills was associated with better literacy test scores later on.

About 10% of children saw their reading ability in school increase from average-or-below when they were aged 8 or 9 to above-average when they were 12 or 13.

By the time they were aged 18 or 19, these children had literacy scores approaching those whose above-average reading ability had remained unchanged.

Positive change in early reading at school linked to higher literacy scores at age 18 or 19

Average literacy score at age 18 or 19



These results held true after taking into account socio-demographic characteristics, child behaviour, school-related factors and parental literacy practices.

For some, higher literacy scores accompanied higher educational expectations

The NLSCY found that higher scores were linked to higher educational expectations, depending on the level of educational attainment.

By the age of 18 or 19, higher literacy scores accompanied higher educational expectations for those who had completed high school but were not yet in some form of post secondary.

Among this group, those who expected to get one or more university degrees had higher literacy scores than those who did not expect to go beyond high school, as well as those who expected to go to college, CEGEP or an apprenticeship program.

For some, current employment status was also linked to literacy. Among students who were still in high school, literacy scores were higher for those who were currently employed compared to those who were not.

The NLSCY has six cycles of data now available. Future research can draw on this wealth of information to explore the many factors influencing the social, emotional and behavioural development of children and youth over time.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4450.

NLSCY microdata are available at Statistics Canada's Research Data Centres. For more information, visit *The Research Data Centres Program* page of our website.

For more information about the data collected during the first six cycles of the NLSCY or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; ssd@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division.

Average literacy score at age 18 or 19 by socio-demographic characteristics and behaviour at age 8 or 9

	Average literacy score
Child gender	
Male	28.1
Female	28.0
Language first learned and still understood	
English	28.2
French	27.3
Parents' highest level of education	
Less than high school	23.7 ¹
High school graduate	28.1
Some post secondary	27.4
College or university	28.9
Level of household income	
Below low income cut-off (LICO) ²	25.7 ¹
Equal to less than two times LICO	28.4
Two to less than three times LICO	28.6
Three times LICO or above	29.0
Score on hyperactivity/inattention scale	
Top 10%	26.2 ¹
Bottom 90%	28.3

1. For this characteristic, this estimate is significantly lower (*p* is less than or equal to 0.01) than the other estimates.

2. The LICO is a statistical measure of the income thresholds below which Canadians likely devote a larger share of income than average to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing.

Average literacy score at age 18 or 19 by school-related factors, parental literacy practices, and changes in early reading

	Average literacy score
How well child was doing in reading at age 8 or 9	
Poorly to very poorly	22.9 ¹
Average	26.6
Well	27.5
Very well	29.5
Child repeated a grade by the age of 10 or 11	
Yes	21.4 ¹
No	28.4
Child received special help in school at age 10 or 11	
Yes	21.7 ¹
No	28.6
Child's feelings about school at age 12 or 13	
Do not like it very much/hate it	24.9 ¹
Like it a bit/very much	28.4
Child skipped a day since start of school year at age 12 or 13	
Yes	23.3 ¹
No	28.2
Parents read books (asked when child was 12 or 13)	
Yes	28.4
No	22.9 ¹
Change in early reading between the ages 8 or 9 and 12 or 13	
Early reading remained average or below	25.1 ¹
Early reading became average or below	26.4 ²
Early reading became above average	27.9
Early reading remained above average	29.7

1. For this characteristic, this estimate is significantly lower (p is less than or equal to 0.01) than the other estimates, unless otherwise specified.
2. This average score is not statistically higher than the average score of children whose early reading remained average or below.

Average literacy score at age 18 or 19 by educational expectations and employment status

	Average literacy score
Educational expectations among 18 or 19 year old high school graduates not yet in post secondary	
High school or less	25.3 ¹
Technical, trade or vocational school	26.9
Community college, CEGEP or apprenticeship program	25.9 ¹
At least one university degree	29.8
Employment status among 18 or 19 year old youth still in high school	
Currently employed	26.3
Not currently employed	23.0 ²

1. This average score is significantly lower (p less than or equal to 0.001) than the average score of those who expected to get at least one university degree.
2. This average score is significantly lower (p less than or equal to 0.05) than the average score of those who were currently employed.

Farm Product Price Index

September 2006

Prices farmers received for their commodities fell slightly in September from the same month a year earlier, as overall crop prices continued to fall, and prices for livestock also decreased slightly.

Overall, producers received prices for crops that were 4.0% below levels in September 2005, continuing the general downward trend in year-over-year price changes since the summer of 2003, according to the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI). Farmers received lower prices for all crops except oilseeds, specialty crops and potatoes.

Prices for livestock and animal products were 0.3% below the year earlier level. This was the first decline for the overall livestock and animal products index in the last five months. The continued slide in hog prices and a small decrease in poultry prices were mainly responsible for the decline.

On a monthly basis, prices farmers received for their commodities dropped 1.3% in September from August, as the decline in the overall crops index outstripped the slight increase in the livestock and animal products index.

The FPPI stood at 94.0 (1997=100) in September, down from a revised August level of 95.2. Decreasing in four months of the first nine months this year, the index has ranged from 93.5 to 95.2.

The overall crops index was lower in September compared to August because of lower grain, oilseed and potato prices.

Grain prices were down in September, reflecting the lower initial prices of the new crop year (August 2006 to July 2007) for wheat and barley. Initial prices are generally lower at the beginning of the crop year and as it progresses, adjustments to the initials will increase the farm gate price.

Prices producers received for their oilseeds were also down from the annual peak in August.

Generally, grain prices have found some support this year from dwindling domestic and worldwide supplies. Poor growing conditions in many of the major wheat producing countries have yielded forecasts of very low ending wheat stocks. Feed grain prices are higher as supplies tighten, despite anticipated near-record United States corn production. The strong demand for corn is being fuelled by the growing ethanol industry.

Prices for livestock and animal products were up in September from the revised August index, as all prices except hogs recorded increases. Despite falling to 75.8 in September, the hog index was still well above the 68.7 in January of this year.

Cattle and calf prices were 1.3% higher in September compared with August. After increasing 15.8% in July 2005, when the border re-opened to restricted trade of live animals, the month-to-month changes for the index continue to remain within a narrow range, from a decline of 3.0% to a 3.5% increase.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The September 2006 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 6, no. 9 (21-007-XWE, free) is now available online from the *Publications* module on our website. Under *Find Statistics Canada publications* choose *Free Internet publications*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, call (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax 204-983-7543; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. □

Farm Product Price Index

	September 2005 ^r	August 2006 ^r	September 2006 ^p	September 2005 to September 2006	August to September 2006
	(1997=100)			% change	
Farm Product Price Index	94.6	95.2	94.0	-0.6	-1.3
Crops	86.0	85.0	82.6	-4.0	-2.8
Grains	70.1	62.0	58.1	-17.1	-6.3
Oilseeds	69.8	74.6	72.2	3.4	-3.2
Specialty crops	82.6	78.3	83.4	1.0	6.5
Fruit	110.7	99.8	105.7	-4.5	5.9
Vegetables	115.8	112.8	113.4	-2.1	0.5
Potatoes	148.1	215.1	167.0	12.8	-22.4
Livestock and animal products	104.6	103.9	104.3	-0.3	0.4
Cattle and calves	107.2	106.9	108.3	1.0	1.3
Hogs	79.9	78.8	75.8	-5.1	-3.8
Poultry	93.2	92.0	92.3	-1.0	0.3
Eggs	96.8	98.5	98.5	1.8	0.0
Dairy	130.1	129.1	132.0	1.5	2.2

^r revised

^p preliminary

Salaries and salary scales of full-time teaching staff at Canadian universities: Final report 2004/2005

This report presents the final set of tables for the academic year 2004/2005, which contain information on the salaries of full-time teaching staff for Canadian universities that have more than 100 staff.

This information was collected annually under the University and College Academic Staff System and has a reference date of October 1. Therefore, the data reflect employment in universities as of that date. Each university must authorize Statistics Canada to release their information.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3101.

The bulletin *Salaries and Salary Scales of Full-time Teaching Staff at Canadian Universities, 2004/2005: Final Report* (81-595-MIE2006048, free) is now available online from the *Publications* module of our website.

Also available are special requests from the full dataset of information collected under the University

and College Academic Staff System for 2004/2005. Unlike the bulletin, this dataset includes information on all institutions, including those with fewer than 100 staff.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-4441), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

Refined petroleum products

September 2006 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for September. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (613-951-9497 or toll-free 1-866-873-8789; energy@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

**Financial statistics of community colleges
and vocational schools**

2004/2005

Data for the 2004/2005 academic year coming from the Financial Statistics of Community Colleges and Vocational Schools Survey are now available.

The survey provides financial information (income and expenditures) on all community colleges and public vocational schools in Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3146.

For further information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382 or 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-4441; TTY: 1-800-363-7629; educationstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

New products

Farm Product Price Index, September 2006, Vol. 6,
no. 9
Catalogue number 21-007-XWE
(free).

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, December 2006
Catalogue number 62-013-XIE
(free).

**Education Indicators in Canada: Report of the
Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program**, 2005,
no. 4
Catalogue number 81-582-XPE (\$70).

**Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education
Statistics: Research Papers: Salaries and Salary
Scales of Full-time Teaching Staff at Canadian
Universities, 2004/2005: Final Report**, no. 48
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 20 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, 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

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11



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