



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, February 13, 2006**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

---

## Releases

---

Study: Accessing first-contact health services, 2003	2
Trucking industry, 2004	3
For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers, third quarter 2005	3
Commercial Software Price Index, December 2005	4
Coal production, 2005	4
Refined petroleum products, December 2005	4
Canada's retirement income programs: Erratum	4

---

<b>New products</b>	<b>5</b>
---------------------	----------

---



## **Study: Accessing first-contact health services**

2003

Canadians who do not have a regular family physician were more than twice as likely to report difficulties accessing routine health care compared with those who have a regular doctor, according to a new study conducted by Statistics Canada in collaboration with researchers at McGill University, Department of Geography.

However, the study also showed that respondents with a regular family doctor were just as likely to face difficulties accessing immediate care for a minor health problem as were those without a regular family doctor. While it is important to have a regular doctor, the results of the study indicate that having one does not always guarantee that patients will have access to care for all types of services at all times.

The study also reported that income was not associated with difficulties accessing care. This supports the notion that universal health insurance helps eliminate cost-related barriers to care.

The paper, the first national level analysis of Canadians experiencing difficulties accessing first-contact services, was published recently online in *Healthcare Policy*. This Canadian publication is targeted at health system managers and administrators, doctors and academics.

The study focused on two types of first contact services: first, routine care provided by a family or general practitioner such as annual examinations or ongoing care for an illness, and secondly, immediate care for a minor, non-life threatening problem, such as a fever or a minor cut or burn.

Those reporting poorer health were also more likely to report difficulties accessing routine care. Since these groups tend to have more contacts with the health care system, they have more opportunities to experience difficulties accessing care and therefore, are at a higher risk compared with those who are less likely to need and use health care services.

Younger respondents were consistently more likely to report difficulties accessing first contact services, while people with less than high school education were less likely to report difficulties. The differences may be the result of different expectations across groups regarding when and how health care services are obtained. Evidence to date suggests that older and less educated patients tend to have more modest expectations and are less likely to be dissatisfied with their care.

Recent immigrants (those living in Canada for less than five years) were almost two and a half times more likely to have difficulties accessing immediate care for a minor health problem. However, immigrants living in Canada for more than five years were less likely to experience difficulties accessing routine care compared with Canadian-born respondents.

Overall, 15% of Canadians reported difficulties accessing routine care and 23% reported difficulties accessing immediate care for a minor health problem in 2003.

The chief reason cited for difficulties in accessing routine care was the availability of a physician or services. In terms of immediate care for minor health problems, the primary barrier was long wait times.

The study was based on data from the 2003 Health Services Access Survey (HSAS) and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). The HSAS collected information on patients' experiences accessing health care services. The CCHS is a cross-sectional survey containing information on the health status and health care use of Canadians.

This study is unique since it considers issues related to the process of accessing care or potential access. Traditionally, studies on access to health care have focused on the use of services or realized access which, while important, does not provide information regarding patients' experiences accessing the care they need.

The results provide valuable information about the specific factors associated with difficulties accessing first contact services as well as identifies population groups which may be more vulnerable to experiencing difficulties accessing care.

### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3226 and 5002.**

The study "Experiences accessing first-contact health services in Canada" was published in *Healthcare Policy*. An abstract is available online (<http://www.healthcarepolicy.net>).

The HSAS questionnaire is now available online. From the CCHS main page, choose *Other reference periods*, then *2003 (Cycle 2.1)*, then *Questionnaire and reporting guides*.

For more information about the concepts, methods or data, or to obtain a copy contact Claudia Sanmartin (613-951-6059; [claudia.sanmartin@statcan.ca](mailto:claudia.sanmartin@statcan.ca)) or Jean-Marie Berthelot (613-951-3760; [berthel@statcan.ca](mailto:berthel@statcan.ca)), Health Analysis and Measurement Group. ■

## Trucking industry

2004

For-hire trucking companies recorded strong financial performances in 2004 as net operating income rebounded from several years of little change.

Net income for the industry reached nearly \$1.5 billion, compared to an average of \$1.0 billion over the previous three years.

Operating revenues increased at a faster pace than expenses in 2004, increasing 17.1% to \$24.0 billion, while expenses rose 15.1% to \$22.6 billion.

The industry's operating profit margin reached 6.1% in 2004, up from 4.4% the year before.

There were 3,114 Canada-based trucking companies with annual revenues of more than \$1 million operating in 2004, a 7.6% increase from 2003.

Operating profit margins rose in all regions. The greatest increases were recorded in the territories (+8.0%) and the Prairies (+2.3%). Margins also rose across all types of trucking except movers (-0.4%). Among the largest increases were companies transporting other specialized freight (+2.9%) and forest products (+2.5%).

Trucking companies also improved their balance sheets in 2004. Total assets increased by \$2.0 billion to \$12.0 billion, while total liabilities increased by \$1.4 billion to \$7.9 billion. Shareholders' equity increased from \$3.4 billion in 2003 to \$4.1 billion in 2004.

Trucking continued to be the dominant mode, in terms of revenue, for transporting goods between Canada and the United States. In 2004, about 53% of exports to the United States and 78% of imports from the United States were moved by truck.

The 2004 issue of *Trucking in Canada* contains the results from the Quarterly and Annual Motor Carriers of Freight Surveys. Also included are the results from two special studies on the trucking industry.

The first study provides a socio-economic profile of truck drivers, which is Canada's most popular occupation among men. Results indicate truckers earn a wage near the average for all occupations, but they receive fewer benefits, especially with respect to a retirement plan.

The second study takes an in-depth look at the competition for space on the nation's roads. It found that, between 2000 and 2003, the number of trucks edged down 0.2% while there were 5.5% more cars on the roads. However, trucks travel greater distances than cars so car drivers are likely to see more trucks on the road than the registration counts would suggest.

The For-hire Trucking (Commodity Origin and Destination) Survey has been re-designed and will be

replaced by the new Trucking Commodity Origin and Destination Survey beginning with reference year 2004. Data for the 2004 reference year are not yet available but are expected to be released in the spring of 2006.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2741, 2742 and 2748.**

The 2004 edition of *Trucking in Canada* (53-222-XIE, \$42) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ron Chrétien (613-951-8774; fax: 613-951-0009; [ron.chretien@statcan.ca](mailto:ron.chretien@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers

Third quarter 2005

There were an estimated 3,376 for-hire trucking companies based in Canada with annual revenues of \$1 million or more in the third quarter of 2005, up 8.4% from the 3,115 carriers in the third quarter of 2004.

Operating revenues totalled \$6.91 billion, up 9.5% from the third quarter of 2004. Operating expenses reached \$6.28 billion, up 7.6% from the same period in 2004.

On a year-over-year basis, average operating revenues rose 1.0% to \$2.05 million, while average operating expenses decreased marginally to \$1.86 million.

The decrease in average expenses was driven by lower expenses for purchased transportation, lower miscellaneous expenses and decreased payments to owner operators. The operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenues) improved to 0.91 from 0.92 for the same quarter in 2004.

For-hire trucking transportation revenues from domestic movements increased by 16.3% to \$4.60 billion in the third quarter, up from \$3.96 billion during the same quarter in 2004. In contrast, revenues from international movements decreased by 2.5%, while inbound movements decline by more than 11%.

**Available on CANSIM: table 403-0002.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2748.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ron Chrétien (613-951-8774;

---

fax: 613-951-0009; [ron.chretien@statcan.ca](mailto:ron.chretien@statcan.ca)) or Denis Pilon (613-951-2707; fax: 613-951-0579; [denis.pilon@statcan.ca](mailto:denis.pilon@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## **Commercial Software Price Index**

December 2005

The Commercial Software Price Index (CSPI) is a monthly series measuring the change in the purchase price of pre-packaged software typically bought by businesses and governments. The CSPI (2001=100) for December was 70.1, down 1.4% from November.

This index is available at the Canada level only.

**Available on CANSIM: table 331-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5068.**

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Fred Barzyk (613-951-2493; [fred.barzyk@statcan.ca](mailto:fred.barzyk@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

## **Coal production**

2005 (preliminary)

Data on the volume and value of coal production by province are now available for 2005.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2177.**

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

## **Refined petroleum products**

December 2005 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for December 2005. 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; 1-866-873-8789; [energy@statcan.ca](mailto:energy@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## **Canada's retirement income programs: Erratum**

Some of the information in *The Daily* release of February 7, 2006 concerning people who cashed in registered retirement savings plans (RRSP) savings under the Home Buyers Plan requires clarifying.

The text referred to nearly 1.4 million holders of registered retirement savings plans aged 25 to 64 who cashed in RRSP savings under the Home Buyers Plan (HBP) to help finance the purchase or building of a home. This estimate represents the number who did so since the inception of the program, not only those who did so in 2004 as the text implied.

In addition, about 49,000 individuals withdrew close to \$363 million from their RRSP under the Lifelong Learning Plan (LLP) to finance full-time education or training since the inception of the LLP, and not only for 2004.

The statistics related to these programs are based on a file of tax returns received and processed in September 2005 for the 2004 tax year.

We regret any inconvenience caused to our users by this lack of clarity.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; [income@statcan.ca](mailto:income@statcan.ca)), Income Statistics Division. ■

## New products

Trucking in Canada, 2004  
Catalogue number 53-222-XIE (\$42).

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; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc and -XBB or -XBE a database.

### How to order products

**To order by phone, please refer to:**

- The title
- The catalogue number
- The volume number
- The issue number
- Your credit card number.


From Canada and the United States, call: **1-800-267-6677**  
From other countries, call: **1-613-951-7277**  
To fax your order, call: **1-877-287-4369**  
For address changes or account inquiries, call: **1-800-700-1033**

**To order by mail, write to:** Statistics Canada, Finance, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, K1A 0T6.  
Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

**To order by Internet, write to:** [infostats@statcan.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.ca) or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

**Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.**

Catalogue 11-001-XIE (1 page) 11-001-XIE-001-001



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.



**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 the average of about 15 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 noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Harbour Index: May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-G, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to [listproc@statcan.ca](mailto:listproc@statcan.ca). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2004. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references.