



# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

**Friday, March 24, 2006**

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### New products

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#### Perspectives on Labour and Income

March 2006 online edition

The March 2006 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, features two articles. "Who gets student loans?" looks at how well loans are targeted to low-income youth, the extent to which the loan amount reflects financial need, and the impact of parental income. "Does it pay to go back to school?" examines adult education in the context of an aging population and a shortage of workers with the skills necessary to meet the challenges of a knowledge economy. The article, based on a more technical paper "Participation in adult schooling and its earnings impact in Canada", also released today, focuses on the earnings gain for workers who go back to school.

The March 2006 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 7, no. 3 (75-001-XIE, \$6/\$52) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; [henry.pold@statcan.ca](mailto:henry.pold@statcan.ca)), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



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## Releases

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### Study: Adult education and its impact on earnings

1993 to 2001

On average, workers who participated in adult education and obtained a post-secondary certificate made significant gains in wages and earnings, according to a new study.

The study documented participation patterns in adult education among workers during two periods: 1994 to 1997, and 1997 to 2000, using data from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics. It also examined the impact of adult education on hourly wages and annual earnings, taking into account factors such as union status, occupation, firm size, industry and province.

Around 14% of Canadian workers participated in adult education during the study period, while 8% obtained a post-secondary certificate through it.

On average, young men who went back to school and obtained a post-secondary certificate saw their wages increase 8% more than those of their counterparts who did not go back to school. The equivalent increase among young women was 10%.

However, gains differed from group to group. For example, increases among older workers, those aged 35 to 59, were restricted to those who stayed with the same employer.

Older men who stayed with the same employer while obtaining a post-secondary certificate registered gains in hourly wages that were on average 13% higher than those registered by their counterparts who did not go back to school. The gain among their female counterparts was 7%.

Both older men and women who stayed with the same employer recorded superior increases in terms of annual earnings as well.

The wages and earnings of older men and women who obtained a post-secondary certificate and switched employers did not increase faster than those of their non-participating counterparts.

Among young women who switched jobs, those who obtained post-secondary certificates registered hourly wage gains on average 15% higher than those who did not participate in adult education.

Among young men who obtained post-secondary certificates, those who switched jobs enjoyed 8% higher wage gains than their non-participating counterparts.

Those who stayed on the same job received 6% higher wage gains than their non-participating counterparts.

It is unclear why older workers who obtained a diploma and switched employer did not enjoy stronger earnings growth than their counterparts who did not go back to school.

One possible explanation is that the additional earnings they might have obtained through their diploma were offset by the loss of firm-specific knowledge and skills they incurred while changing employers.

The study supported previous research and it suggested that workers with high school education or above were twice as likely to participate in adult schooling and to obtain a post-secondary certificate as those with less than a high school education.

It also showed that younger adults were more likely to participate in adult education programs. Those aged 17 to 34 were more likely to participate than their older counterparts aged 35 to 59.

Marital status was another factor, particularly among women. Single women were more likely to participate than married women, and single women were twice as likely as divorced women to obtain a post-secondary certificate.

**Note:** Adult schooling participants are defined as those who had previously left school and worked for at least a year before they went back to school. In the context of this study, attending school is defined as enrolment in a credit program in a formal educational institution.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3889.**

The research paper *Participation in Adult Schooling and its Earnings Impact in Canada* (11F0019MIE2006276) is now available for free online. A short version of this study entitled *Summary of: Participation in Adult Schooling and its Earnings Impact in Canada* (11F0019MIE2006277, free) is also available. From our home page select *Studies*, then under *Browse periodical and series* choose *Free and for sale*. Under *Series* select *Analytical Studies Branch*. An abbreviated version titled "Does it pay to go back to school?" is also available today in the online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 7, no. 3 (75-001-XIE, \$6/\$52).

Related studies from the Business and Labour Market Analysis Division can be found at *Update on Analytical Studies* on our Web site (11-015-XIE, free).

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For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Xuelin Zhang (613-951-4295), Business

and Labour Market Analysis, or Boris Palameta (613-951-2124), Income Statistics Division. ■

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## Profile of Canadian exporters

1993 to 2004

The number of Canadian establishments that export commodities fell for the second consecutive year in 2004, according to the latest version of the Exporter Register. However, the value of their exports went up for the first time since 2000.

Some 44,969 establishments exported merchandise, down 1.2% from 2003. The two consecutive declines reversed a long-term series of increases that date back to 1993 when data were first collected. The 2004 level was still 45% higher than in it was in 1993, but only 1.5% higher than in 2000.

These establishments exported \$378.5 billion in merchandise in 2004, a 9% gain from 2003 and the highest value ever recorded by the register. The increase was the first since 2000 when the value amounted to \$378.3 billion.

Quebec accounted for 60% of the drop in the number of exporters in 2004, followed by British Columbia, which accounted for 24%, and Manitoba, 15%. Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador reported marginal increases.

In terms of value, exporters from Ontario and Alberta accounted for two-thirds of the gain in the value of exports. Exporters in Quebec represented 10%.

On a sector basis, the wholesale trade industry accounted for 48% of the decline in the number of exporters, yet it represented 15% of the increase in the value of exports.

The manufacturing sector accounted for almost 42% of the overall drop in the number of exporters. However, that represented a drop of only 1.1% in the number of exporters in manufacturing. The value of exports from the manufacturing sector rose by almost 9%, or \$19.9 billion.

More than 2,000 establishments began exporting in 2004, the smallest number of new exporters in any year covered by the register. The value of their exports

exceeded \$1.9 billion, but this was the lowest reported by new exporters since 1998.

Establishments exporting more than \$25 million annually continued to account for the majority of merchandise exports. The largest 4% of exporting establishments accounted for 82% of the total value of merchandise trade in 2004.

Those exporting less than \$1 million a year represented 72% of all exporting establishments, yet they accounted for less than 2% of the value of merchandise exports.

Establishments with fewer than 50 employees accounted for 72% of exporters, but only 27% of the total value of merchandise exports. Conversely, only 6.2% of all exporters employed more than 200 people, but they represented almost half of all merchandise exports.

The 50 largest exporting enterprises accounted for 44% of all merchandise exports in 2004. Their share has declined steadily since 2000, when they represented 50% of merchandise exports.

**Note:** The current Canadian Exporter Register incorporates the same main aggregates as the previous versions. These main aggregates consist of the number of establishments whose merchandise exports exceeded \$30,000 in at least one year between 1993 and 2004, classified by industry grouping, exporter size, province or territory of residence of the exporter, destination of export and employment size (for 2004 only). This follow-up set of tables includes data for 2004, as well as revisions from 1993 to 2003.

### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2201.

For more information on our products and services, contact Anne Couillard (1-800-294-5583; 1-613-951-6867). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Phil Armstrong (613-951-6755), International Trade Division. □

## Number of exporters by industry grouping

Industry grouping (North American Industrial Classification System)	Number of exporters (establishments)											
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Agriculture, forestry, fishing hunting	1,894	1,971	2,016	2,067	2,159	2,224	2,208	2,408	2,443	2,491	2,309	2,149
Mining, oil and gas extraction	359	350	390	404	426	405	417	445	488	464	547	587
Utilities	46	51	46	54	58	52	58	68	60	68	58	65
Construction	491	595	691	846	905	918	1,062	1,112	1,161	1,172	1,153	1,157
Manufacturing	15,667	16,732	18,017	18,141	18,928	19,381	19,923	20,464	20,662	21,165	21,480	21,264
Wholesale trade	7,079	7,707	8,577	9,720	10,025	9,945	10,122	10,145	10,246	10,272	10,342	10,092
Retail trade	1,058	1,350	1,465	1,670	1,647	1,780	2,094	2,146	2,249	2,420	2,101	2,059
Transportation and warehousing	898	950	1,133	1,196	1,243	1,445	1,404	1,510	1,448	1,424	1,327	1,443
Information and cultural industries	408	497	512	559	551	560	559	579	569	543	552	544
Finance and insurance	639	700	741	848	886	912	948	988	994	929	917	893
Business service	1,708	2,009	2,327	2,616	2,842	2,930	3,019	3,206	3,297	3,328	3,434	3,392
Other <sup>1</sup>	765	882	1,002	1,006	1,072	1,062	1,179	1,223	1,294	1,254	1,267	1,324
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,012</b>	<b>33,794</b>	<b>36,917</b>	<b>39,127</b>	<b>40,742</b>	<b>41,614</b>	<b>42,993</b>	<b>44,294</b>	<b>44,911</b>	<b>45,530</b>	<b>45,487</b>	<b>44,969</b>

1. Includes service industries such as government and education.

## Study: Who gets student loans? 2000

Over half (52%) of the full-time post-secondary students aged 18 to 24 with parental income below \$40,000 received a loan from the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) in 2000, compared with 14% of students with parental income of \$80,000 or more, according to a new study.

The average loan amount declines as parental income increases. In 2000, about two-thirds of the value of CSLP loans went to students with parental income below \$60,000, 73% in the case of dependent students and 51% in the case of independent students.

Since the CSLP is intended to help students from lower- and middle-income families meet the costs of post-secondary education, the study addresses the following questions: How well are student loans targeted to low-income youth?, To what extent does the amount of the loan reflect the level of financial need?, What are the consequences of taking parental income into account for students considered dependent on their parents?

Using a database created by linking the Statistics Canada Longitudinal Administrative Database to CSLP administrative records, the study concentrates on persons aged 18 to 24. Quebec, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut do not participate in the CSLP and were therefore excluded. Yukon was also excluded because of sample size limitations.

The CSLP distinguishes between "dependent" and "independent" students (married people, single parents, those who had been employed in the last 24 months and those who left high school more than four years ago).

In the case of dependent students, parental income is taken into account in assessing financial need. It is therefore not surprising that their CSLP take-up rate declines rapidly at higher parental income, from 61% in 2000 for those with parental income below \$20,000 to 6% for \$100,000 and over.

Female students had a higher CSLP take-up rate than their male counterparts (34% versus 29%). But they also had a higher full-time post-secondary participation rate (38% versus 30%).

Students of families who came to Canada since 1980 had a much higher CSLP take-up rate than others (45% versus 31%). The difference is partly attributable to lower parental income: 58% of these immigrant students had parental income below \$40,000, compared with 29% of other students.

Of all the regions, Ontario stands out as having the most targeted loans and the most evenly distributed enrolment rates. Its average CSLP take-up rate was similar to other regions except the Atlantic, but the gap in rates between low and high parental income was the greatest.

## Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4107.

The article "Who gets student loans?" is now available in the March 2006 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 7, no. 3 (75-001-XIE, \$6/\$52). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lahouaria Yssaad (613-951-0627; [lahouaria.yssaad@statcan.ca](mailto:lahouaria.yssaad@statcan.ca)), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

## Management, scientific and technical consulting services

2004

The management, scientific and technical consulting services industry consists of firms that provide expert advice and assistance to other organizations on management, environmental, scientific and technical issues. Growth in these consulting services mirrored that of many other service activities in 2004, with a strong increase in business and technical consulting stemming from resource development, particularly in Alberta.

The consulting services industry generated \$8.8 billion in operating revenues in 2004, up slightly from 2003. While operating expenses remained relatively stable at \$7.0 billion, the industry's operating profit margin rose to 20% in 2004, up from just over 17% in 2003. As the primary input to consulting services is human capital, salaries and wages accounted for 43 cents of every dollar of operating expenditure during 2004.

Businesses providing consulting services in Alberta showed the strongest growth rate in 2004, increasing 11% over 2003, while those businesses operating in Ontario were up 5%. Approximately half (49%) of the industry's operating revenues were generated by firms located in Ontario, followed by Quebec and Alberta at 17%, and British Columbia at 12%.

Data for 2004 and revised data for 2002 and 2003 are now available. The data for 2002 and 2003 have been revised to reflect more accurate coverage of the target population for this industry.

**Available on CANSIM: table 360-0001.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4717.**

For more information about the survey, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Luc Provençal (613-951-1960; fax: 613-951-6696; [luc.provençal@statcan.ca](mailto:luc.provençal@statcan.ca)), Service Industries Division. ■

## Natural gas sales

January 2006 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 7 752 million cubic metres in January, down 18.3% from January 2005. Warmer

than normal temperatures in January across all regions of the country were the major forces behind the sharp drop in sales. The commercial sector led the way, with a decline of 22.9% followed by the residential sector (-18.8%). Sale volumes in the industrial sector (including direct sales) were down by 15.6%.

## Natural gas sales

	January 2006 <sup>P</sup>	January 2005	January 2005 to January 2006
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 751 940</b>	<b>9 486 510</b>	<b>-18.3</b>
Residential	2 488 790	3 063 963	-18.8
Commercial	1 666 082	2 160 012	-22.9
Industrial	1 680 105	1 910 915	-15.6
Direct	1 916 963	2 351 620	

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.**

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; [energ@statcan.ca](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending March 18, 2006 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 18 totalled 300 095 metric tonnes, up 0.2% from 299 347 tonnes a week earlier and down 2.2% from 306 835 tonnes in the same week of 2005.

The year-to-date total as of March 18 was 3 263 641 tonnes, down 5.9% from 3 467 604 tonnes in the same period of 2005.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.**

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

## New products

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its Earnings Impact in Canada**, no. 277  
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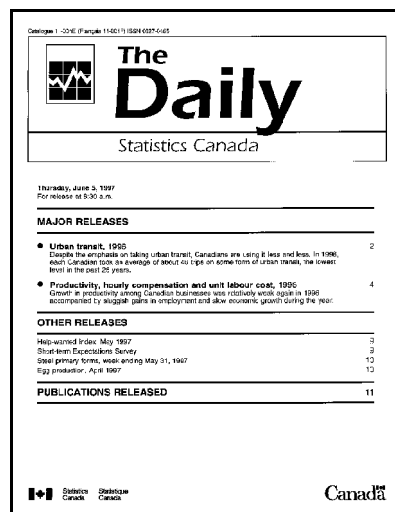
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**Release dates: March 27 to 31, 2006**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
27	<b>Annual retail trade</b>	2004
27	<b>New frontiers of research on retirement</b>	
28	<b>Youth custody and community services</b>	2003/04
28	<b>International trade in culture services</b>	1996 to 2003
28	<b>Employment Insurance</b>	January 2006
29	<b>National tourism indicators</b>	Fourth quarter 2005
29	<b>Work hours instability in Canada</b>	1997 to 2001
29	<b>Payroll employment, earnings and hours</b>	January 2006
30	<b>Industrial product and raw materials price indexes</b>	February 2006
30	<b>Income of Canadians</b>	2004
31	<b>Television viewing</b>	Fall 2004
31	<b>Gross domestic product by industry</b>	January 2006