

Statistics Canada

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Releases

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Perspectives on Labour and Income

September 2006 online edition

The feature article in the September 2006 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, is "The core-age labour force." The article examines labour force participation rates of women and men aged 25 to 54 over the last 10 years. After rising steadily from 1995 to 2004, participation rates for both sexes declined very slightly yet persistently from 2004 into the first half of 2006. However, it is too early to say if this is the beginning of a trend. One of the study's notable findings is the strong growth in the number of women with children (especially very young ones) entering or staying in the labour market.

The issue also includes an update on minimum wage workers for 2005.

The September 2006 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 7, no. 9 (75-001-XIE, free) is available from the *Publications* module of our website.

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





■ End of release

Employer pension plans (trusteed pension funds)

First quarter 2006

The value of the retirement savings of millions of Canadian workers with trusteed pension plans increased for the seventh consecutive quarter during the first three months of 2006. The value of fund assets increased to \$836.8 billion, 4.7% over the fourth quarter of 2005.

The main factor in this upward trend has been the value of stocks traded on the world's stock exchanges. Except for a small decline in the second quarter of 2004, the value of funds has been rising steadily from lows recorded in 2002 and 2003, a result of falling stock prices.

In the first quarter of 2006, nearly 40% of the value of all fund assets was held in stocks. Foreign investments performed particularly well, rising 11.4% from the fourth quarter of 2005, more than double the 4.4% gain for Canadian stocks.

Fund revenues declined 1.7% from a high reached in the fourth quarter of 2005 to \$28.4 billion while expenditures fell 1.3% to \$9.5 billion. Net cash flow fell 2.0% to \$18.9 billion.

Contributions in the first quarter of 2006 increased to a record high \$9.9 billion, the result principally of a 20.8% increase in employer contributions. Employer contributions totalling \$7.6 billion included special payments for unfunded liabilities. Employee contributions declined 8.8%.

Benefits paid out in the first quarter amounted to just under \$7.3 billion, a 3.8% increase over the fourth quarter of 2005. This level was the second highest since a \$7.4 billion payout in 2004.

About 5.6 million Canadian workers belong to employer pension plans. Of these, about 4.5 million are members of trusteed plans. (Data in this release refer only to the trusteed plans, and all values are in current dollars).

The remaining one million workers with employer pension plans are covered by the consolidated revenue funds of the federal and provincial governments, or by insurance company contracts or Government of Canada annuities.

Available on CANSIM: tables 280-0002, 280-0003 and 280-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2607.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or toll-free 1-888-297-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca). Income Statistics Division.

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending September 16, 2006 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending September 16 totalled 311 479 metric tonnes, up 5.6% from 294 932 tonnes a week earlier and up 3.8% from 299 975 tonnes in the same week of 2005.

The year-to-date total as of September 16 was 11 217 066 tonnes, up 2.0% from 10 994 798 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 (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Large urban transit

July 2006 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 2.7% higher in July than it was for the same month in 2005.

Approximately 98.6 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in July. These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated \$162.4 million in revenue in July (excluding subsidies), a 2.4% increase over July 2005.

Available on CANSIM: table 408-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

New products

Retail Trade, July 2006, Vol. 78, no. 7 Catalogue number 63-005-XIE (free).

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Vol. 7, no. 9 Catalogue number 75-001-XIE (free).

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.

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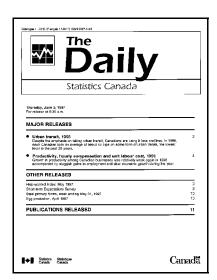
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Release dates: September 25 to 29, 2006

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
26	Pension coverage and retirement savings of Canadian families	1986 to 2003
26	Employment Insurance	July 2006
27	Demographic estimates as of July 1	July 1, 2006
28	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	August 2006
28	National tourism indicators	Second quarter 2005
28	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	July 2006
29	Gross domestic product by industry	July 2006