



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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<p>The number of marriages in Canada appears to have reached a plateau following a flurry of activity around the turn of the millennium. A total of 147,391 couples tied the knot in 2003, only 653 more than in 2002 and just 773 more than in 2001.</p>	
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Releases

Marriages

2003

The number of marriages in Canada appears to have reached a plateau following a flurry of activity around the turn of the millennium.

A total of 147,391 couples tied the knot in 2003, only 653 more than in 2002 and just 773 more than in 2001, according to vital statistics data from the provinces and the territories, which for the first time include limited information on same-sex marriages.

The most recent peak in marriages occurred in 2000 when 157,395 couples took their vows, presumably choosing to marry at the start of the new millennium.

The crude marriage rate in 2003 stayed at its record low of 4.7 marriages for every 1,000 population. This was less than half the rate seen in the 1940s when the rate peaked at 10.9.

In 2003, Ontario and British Columbia became the first two provinces to legalize same-sex marriage.

However, data are available only for British Columbia because Ontario's marriage registration forms do not contain information allowing the type of marriage (opposite-sex, male and female same-sex marriages) to be identified.

Percentage of persons marrying in British Columbia, by place of residence, opposite-sex marriages, 2003

Place of residence	Males	Females	Total
	%		
Same as the province or territory where the marriage occurred	89.0	89.7	89.4
Elsewhere in Canada	6.1	5.7	5.9
Outside of Canada	4.9	4.6	4.8
Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0

Percentage of persons marrying in British Columbia, by place of residence, same-sex marriages, 2003

Place of residence	Males	Females	Total
	%		
Same as the province or territory where the marriage occurred	36.9	41.8	39.6
Elsewhere in Canada	3.8	5.1	4.5
Outside of Canada	59.2	53.1	55.9
Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0

Of the 21,981 marriages that occurred in British Columbia in 2003, 774, or 3.5%, were between people of the same sex. More than half (55.9%) of the people who entered into a same-sex marriage in British Columbia

Note to readers

For the first time, this release includes information on same-sex marriages. Following provincial court rulings in 2003, vital statistics registries in Ontario and British Columbia started registering marriages of same-sex couples.

Marriage statistics by sex are not available for Ontario as the province does not identify whether a marriage is opposite-sex, male same-sex, or female same-sex, or the sex of the person getting married. Any national marriage statistics presented by sex for 2003 exclude Ontario data.

were not residents of Canada. On the other hand, only a small proportion (4.8%) of people marrying someone of the opposite sex in that province did not reside in Canada. In 2003, Canada was the only country in the world that allowed same-sex marriages between people who were not residents of its territory.

Female couples formed majority of same-sex marriages in British Columbia

Of the 774 same-sex marriages in British Columbia, 422, or 54.5%, were female couples and 352, or 45.5%, were male couples.

Over one-quarter (27.6%) of women who married another woman had previously been married, while 14.2% of the men who married another man had previously been married.

In British Columbia, people who married someone of the same sex had an average age at first marriage of around 13 years more than people who married someone of the opposite sex.

Thus, in British Columbia, the average age at first marriage (for same-sex couples) between men was 43.9 years, and for women it was 41.6 years. However, the average age at first marriage (for opposite-sex couples) was 31.0 years for men and 28.8 years for women.

The regions: Gain in marriages in only two provinces and the Yukon

The number of marriages increased in only the Yukon, Ontario and British Columbia. These are the two provinces in which same-sex couples have been allowed to marry since 2003.

In Ontario, the number of marriages increased by 1,870, or 3.0%, from 2002, while in British Columbia, there were 734 more marriages (+3.5%) and in the Yukon 15 more (+10.5%).

In all other provinces and territories, there was a decline.

Marriages¹

	2002	2003	2002 to 2003	2003
	number		% change	crude marriage rate per 1,000 pop- ulation
Canada	146,738	147,391	0.4	4.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,959	2,876	-2.8	5.5
Prince Edward Island	901	823	-8.7	6.0
Nova Scotia	4,899	4,742	-3.2	5.1
New Brunswick	3,818	3,724	-2.5	5.0
Quebec	21,987	21,138	-3.9	2.8
Ontario	61,615	63,485	3.0	5.2
Manitoba	5,905	5,659	-4.2	4.9
Saskatchewan	5,067	4,977	-1.8	5.0
Alberta	17,981	17,622	-2.0	5.6
British Columbia	21,247	21,981	3.5	5.3
Yukon	143	158	10.5	5.2
Northwest Territories	144	139	-3.5	3.3
Nunavut	72	67	-6.9	2.3

1. Marriage statistics are compiled on the basis of province or territory of occurrence and may include marriages of non-residents of Canada and non-residents of the province or territory where the marriage took place.

The crude marriage rate was highest in Prince Edward Island in 2003, where it was 6.0 marriages for every 1,000 population. It was followed by Alberta (5.6) and Newfoundland and Labrador (5.5). The lowest rates in the country were in Quebec with 2.8 marriages for every 1,000 population, and Nunavut (2.3 per 1,000).

Quebec's low crude marriage rate is due partly to the high proportion of cohabitation in this province. Data from the 2001 Census indicate that in Quebec, 29.8% of all couples lived common-law, compared to 11.7% in the rest of Canada.

In 2003, Canada's crude marriage rate at 4.7 marriages per 1,000 population was lower than that of its neighbour, the United States, where the rate was 7.5. However, it was practically the same as that of several European countries, notably France, Austria and Germany, which had a rate of 4.6 in 2003.

Continuing rise in the average age at first marriage

Single people are getting married at an increasingly later age.

In 2003, in Canada (excluding Ontario), the average age of persons marrying for the first time (to someone of the opposite sex) was 30.6 years for men and 28.5 years for women. In 2002, in Canada (excluding Ontario), it was 30.4 years for men and 28.3 years for women.

The data for Canada (including Ontario) from 1973 to 2002 indicate that the average age at first marriage of newlyweds, who married someone of the opposite sex, gradually rose among men and women. In 1973, the average age at which men (25.2 years) and women (22.8 years) married for the first time was about five years lower than in 2003. This gradual rise in the average age at first marriage is largely due to couples cohabiting and delaying marriage.

Large gap in the average age at first marriage among the provinces

Among the provinces, excluding Ontario, the average age of the bride and of the groom at first marriage (opposite-sex couples) was highest in Quebec and lowest in Saskatchewan.

The average age of grooms in Quebec (31.9 years) was 2.6 years higher than that observed in Saskatchewan (29.3 years). The average age of brides in Quebec (30.4 years) was 3.4 years higher than that of brides in Saskatchewan (27.0 years).

Three-quarters (75.2%) of marriages in Canada were performed in a religious ceremony. The vast majority (98.3%) of marriages in Ontario were performed by a member of the clergy, the highest proportion in Canada. The lowest proportions were in British Columbia (41.0%) and the Yukon (26.6%).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3232.

The publication *Marriages, 2003* (84F0212XWE, free) is now available online from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information or to order custom tabulations, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; hd-ds@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Brigitte Chavez (613-951-1593), Health Statistics Division. ■

Study: Revenue fluctuations for newspaper publishers

1975 to 2005

The article "Revenue fluctuations for newspaper publishers" focuses on sources of revenue for the Canadian newspaper industry. Specifically, it looks at how the industry's advertising revenue has been affected by economic conditions since 1975. In addition, it looks at circulation revenue during this 30 year period.

The industry's advertising revenues tended to rise when the economy was growing. Conversely, during the two major recessions since 1975, national and classified advertising revenues declined, but the effect of the recessions on advertising from local sources was less clear.

The article also shows that the rate of growth of circulation revenues has declined in recent years. While circulation revenues grew by an average of 8.0% per year from 1975 to 1990, they rose by an average of only 2.8% per year from 1991 to 2005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4710.

The research paper "Revenue fluctuations for newspaper publishers" is now available as part of the *Analytical Paper Series: Service Industries Division* (63F0002XWE2007051, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

Other information from Service Industries Division can be found in the *Services Industries Newsletter* (63-018-XWE, free) on our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Allison Bone (613-951-3010; fax: 613-951-6696; allison.bone@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

Agriculture value added account

2005 (revised)

The value of agricultural production rose only slightly in 2005 as a strong decline in the value of inventory change offset rising sales of agricultural products and higher program payments.

Sales of agricultural products edged up 2.9% to \$38.4 billion, which was slightly below the previous five-year average for the period between 2000 and 2004.

The average was dragged down by back-to-back droughts in 2001 and 2002 as well as the closure of the US border to live cattle exports.

The increase in sales of agricultural products between 2004 and 2005 was influenced by higher revenues from cattle and calves, which more than offset a decline in revenues from crops and hogs. For cattle, the surge was due, in large part, to the resumption on July 18, 2005, of trade in live cattle (under 30 months of age) with the United States.

The reopening of the border also helped bolster prices for cattle and calves marketed domestically. Crop receipts fell in 2005, pushed down by abundant world grain supplies, including lower quality domestic grains from the 2004 harvest, as well as by a strong Canadian dollar. Revenues for hogs fell, driven by lower prices.

Program payments reached a record \$4.9 billion in 2005. Payments remained well above the previous five-year average of \$3.9 billion. Canadian farmers received large payments through the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program and the Farm Income Payment program.

The value of inventory change reached \$677 million in 2005, a smaller increase than the \$1.8 billion registered in 2004. Lower grain and oilseed prices in 2005 reduced the increase in the value of crop inventories compared to 2004. As well, a drop in cattle and calf inventories moderated the rise in inventory value.

As a result, the total value of agricultural production edged up to \$46.4 billion. All provinces recorded increases in the total value of production, except in Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

Net value added, which is the value of production minus expenses on input, business taxes and depreciation, fell 11.0% to \$10.3 billion in 2005.

Interest charges and non-family wages each accounted for roughly 23% of net value added, while corporation profits accounted for roughly 16%.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5030.

The publication *Agriculture Value Added Account: Agriculture Economic Statistics*, January 2007, Vol. 5, no. 2 (21-017-XWE, free) is now available online. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marco Morin (613-951-2074; marco.morin@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Balance sheet of the agricultural sector

December 31, 2005 (revised)

Farm sector equity in Canada increased 3.3% in 2005 to \$192.2 billion, as assets rose more rapidly than liabilities. The value of farm real estate continued the steady growth started in 1988. It advanced 2.6% in 2005 and was an important contributor to the increase in assets.

Farm liabilities at the end of 2005 reached \$46.8 billion, up 4.6% from 2004, the 12th consecutive annual rise. Current liabilities advanced 4.8%, while long-term liabilities recorded an annual increase of 4.5%.

The debt-to-asset ratio progressed for a 10th consecutive year, rising to 19.6% in 2005. This ratio, which measures the dependence of farm businesses on debt, reached a new record for the 1981 to 2005 period, slightly above the 19.4% reached in 2004. The lowest ratio occurred in 1981 at 12.4%.

After reaching its lowest level in 2003 since 1981, the current assets-to-current liabilities ratio continued to edge up slightly in 2005, reaching 2.170, compared to 2.067 in 2004. The lower levels recorded in the past three years meant that operators within the agriculture sector had a lower ability to pay short-term debts, compared to the 1981 to 2002 period.

The interest coverage ratio, which indicates the ability to pay interest charges and to protect creditors from interest payment default, decreased to 2.710 in 2005, after reaching an eight-year high of 3.434 in 2004. The 2005 level remained slightly below the 10-year average of 2.774 (1995 to 2004).

Return on equity fell to 2.1% in 2005, also after reaching an eight-year high in 2004 (3.0%). The 2005 level remained slightly below the 10-year average of 2.3%.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5029.

The publication *Balance Sheet of the Agricultural Sector: Agriculture Economic Statistics*, January 2007, Vol. 5, no. 2 (21-016-XWE, free) is now available online. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marco Morin (613-951-2074; marco.morin@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Farm business cash flows

2005 (revised)

Cash income for Canadian farm businesses fell 2.2% in 2005 as higher revenues from cattle and calves were insufficient to offset declining receipts from crops and hogs.

Cash income for the year amounted to \$8.2 billion. This small change followed substantial annual fluctuations recorded over the previous five years.

The level of cash income was 1.6% below the previous five-year average between 2000 and 2004.

The amount of cash available for investment or withdrawal increased slightly to reach \$10.0 billion in 2005. However, it remained 3.8% below the previous five-year average which was weighted down by difficult years in 2002 and 2003.

Cash available to producers was expanded through borrowing, resulting in a \$1.8 billion net change in loans outstanding in 2005.

All provinces recorded increases in cash income, except Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. For these four provinces, the decrease of the sales of primary agricultural products and/or program payments explained the drop recorded between 2004 and 2005.

Available on CANSIM: table 002-0023.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5031.

Please note that this series does not include data on depreciation, which are available in the publication *Farm Operating Expenses and Depreciation Charges: Agriculture Economic Statistics* (21-012-XWE, free).

The publication *Farm Business Cash Flows: Agriculture Economic Statistics*, January 2007, Vol. 5, no. 2 (21-018-XWE, free) is now available online. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marco Morin (613-951-2074; marco.morin@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

December 2006

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in December compared to the revised

November level of 138.0 (1992=100). The composite index increased 1.9% compared with the December 2005 index (135.4).

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The fourth quarter 2006 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XIE, free) will be available in March.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Client Services Unit (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539, prices-prix@statcan.ca), or Louise Chainé (613-951-3393), Prices Division ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

November 2006

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The November 2006 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XIE, free) will soon be available.

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. ■

New products

Balance Sheet of the Agricultural Sector: Agriculture Economic Statistics, January 2007, Vol. 5, no. 2
Catalogue number 21-016-XWE
(free).

Agriculture Value Added Account: Agriculture Economic Statistics, January 2007, Vol. 5, no. 2
Catalogue number 21-017-XWE
(free).

Farm Business Cash Flows: Agriculture Economic Statistics, January 2007, Vol. 5, no. 2
Catalogue number 21-018-XWE
(free).

Analytical Paper Series: Service Industries Division: "Revenue fluctuations for newspaper publishers", no. 51
Catalogue number 63F0002XWE2007051
(free).

Service Industries Newsletter, Vol. 2007, no. 1
Catalogue number 63-018-XWE
(free).

Imports by Commodity, November 2006, Vol. 63, no. 11
Catalogue number 65-007-XCB (\$40/\$387).

Imports by Commodity, November 2006, Vol. 63, no. 11
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB (\$84/\$828).

Marriages, 2003
Catalogue number 84F0212XWE
(free).

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
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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 modestly 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
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