



# The Daily

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University participation rates rose substantially among young people in several Canadian cities after new universities opened up in the localities during the 1980s and 1990s, according to a new study.

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Canada's 28 metropolitan areas have accounted for nearly three-quarters of the growth in employment in the country during the past seven years, according to a study published today in Perspectives on Labour and Income.

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## Releases

### Study: Postsecondary attendance among local youth following the opening of a new university

1981 to 2001

University participation rates rose substantially among young people in seven Canadian cities after new universities opened up in the localities during the 1980s and 1990s, according to a new study.

Between 1981 and 2001, universities opened in Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna, Chilliwack and Nanaimo (British Columbia), and in Corner Brook (Newfoundland and Labrador) and Sydney (Nova Scotia). Afterwards, the proportion of local young people attending university classes increased substantially in all seven.

The study suggests that the new universities may have helped close the "distance gap" for many students wishing to attend classes. Students who grow up far away from a university perform about as well on standardized tests scores as other students, yet they are far less likely to go on to university. This is particular so for youth from lower income families.

One reason for this gap may be the cost of living away from home, which exceeds \$5,000 each academic year on average.

However, the study also found that this increase in the university participation rate was offset by a decline in college participation. This decline in the proportion of students attending college almost fully counterbalanced the gain in university participation.

In addition, some local youth benefited more than others. For example, university participation rates rose more among those from lower income families. Aboriginal youth, on the other hand, saw virtually no increase.

The study used census data from 1981 to 2001, to relate postsecondary participation rates among youth aged 20 to 24, to the presence or absence of a university in the city they lived in five years earlier when they were aged 15 to 19. The data do not distinguish between students who attended university or college in their hometown or elsewhere.

Overall, university participation rates rose from 24% to 31% as the new universities opened, once student and city characteristics were taken into account.

A new university was defined as an institution that began offering a wide range of university degree

programs. In many instances, these consisted of university colleges or colleges that offered university degree programs on behalf of a nearby university.

### Participation rose in all cities in which a university opened

University attendance among local youth in each community increased far more than in other parts of the country, the study showed.

For example, the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) opened its doors in Prince George in 1994. Among 15 to 19 year old youth living in Prince George in 1991, 18% had attended university within the next five years. In 1996, following the creation of UNBC, this figure rose to 27%.

In contrast, the university participation rate among youth who grew up in cities that did not acquire a new university remained relatively stable.

The other six cities in the study saw the creation of university colleges, or their local college began offering a wide range of university degree programs on behalf of a nearby university. Nevertheless, they also saw large increases in university participation.

For example, Cariboo College in Kamloops received university degree-granting status in 1989. In 1986, 21% of youth aged 15 to 19 who lived in Kamloops had attended university within the next five years. Five years later, this proportion had increased to 36%.

### University participation rates among youth aged 15 to 19 in the next five years

City and the year in which the university opened	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996
	University participation rate in the next five years (%)				
Prince George (1994)	10.4	13.5	18.7	18.5	26.8
Kamloops (1989)	16.1	17.3	20.6	36.0	34.6
Kelowna (1989)	13.5	14.6	22.7	31.2	32.7
Chilliwack (1992)	11.5	13.0	15.9	20.1	24.4
Nanaimo (1995)	12.3	17.5	22.7	27.4	33.7
Corner Brook (1992)	20.6	27.4	30.6	43.8	47.7
Sydney (1982)	21.4	27.1	35.5	42.0	48.5
Cities without a local university	15.6	18.7	24.2	27.7	25.7
Cities with a local university	21.6	25.2	30.8	34.6	35.9

### Increase in university participation offset by declines in college participation

The large increase in university participation among local youth following the opening of a new university was

almost fully offset by a decline in college participation. This was the case in most cities with a new university.

On average, university participation rates rose from 24% to 31% as the new universities opened, once student and city characteristics were taken into account.

In contrast, college participation rates went from 31% to 25% as the new universities opened, once student and city characteristics were taken into account.

On balance, the overall postsecondary participation rate remained relatively stable in cities where a new university opened.

### College participation rates among youth aged 15 to 19 in the next five years

City and the year in which the university opened	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996
	College participation rate in the next five years (%)				
Prince George (1994)	14.2	18.6	23.1	25.3	22.6
Kamloops (1989)	16.7	20.7	27.6	16.1	14.7
Kelowna (1989)	20.4	23.8	25.8	17.8	16.2
Chilliwack (1992)	15.3	19.7	20.5	21.7	16.1
Nanaimo (1995)	12.1	16.6	19.7	18.8	17.2
Corner Brook (1992)	20.5	21.1	19.2	19.3	22.4
Sydney (1982)	21.2	16.9	16.8	15.9	14.9
Cities without a local university	22.4	26.4	27.9	30.4	33.6
Cities with a local university	21.0	23.2	24.4	25.9	27.2

### Students from lower income families benefited most from new universities

Students from lower income families saw the largest increase in university participation following the creation of a local university.

Students from the lowest income group, those in families whose incomes were below \$25,000, saw their university participation rate rise from 16% prior to the new university to 27% afterwards, once student and city characteristics were taken into account.

In contrast, the university participation rate among students from the highest income group, those in families with incomes of more than \$100,000, rose from 41% prior to creation of a new university to 48% afterwards. Again, this was after other factors were taken into account.

### Aboriginal youth saw almost no gain in university participation

The university participation rate among Aboriginal youth who grew up in cities in which a university opened rose only slightly following the creation of a local university.

Their university participation rate edged up from 8.5% prior to the new university to 9.1% afterwards, once factors such as student and city characteristics were taken into account.

In contrast, the university participation rate among non-aboriginal youth rose from 27% prior to the new university to 34% afterwards, after taking into account the other factors.

The research paper "Do universities benefit local youth? Evidence from university and college participation and graduate earnings following the creation of a new university" is now available online as part of the *Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series* (11F0019MIE2006283, free). From the *Publications* module of our website, choose *Studies*.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Frenette (613-951-4228; [marc.frenette@statcan.ca](mailto:marc.frenette@statcan.ca)), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

## Study: Unemployment in Canada's metropolitan areas

2000 to 2006

Canada's 28 metropolitan areas have accounted for nearly three-quarters of the growth in employment in the country during the past seven years, according to a study published today in *Perspectives on Labour and Income*.

Between 2000 and 2006, employment nationally rose by just over 1.7 million. Of this total, census metropolitan areas accounted for an estimated 1.3 million, or about 73%.

During this seven-year period, employment in these large metropolitan areas increased 12.6%, compared with growth of only 9.6% in the smaller urban and rural areas in the rest of the nation.

Using the Labour Force Survey, the study compares annual average unemployment rates in the 28 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) as well as non-metropolitan areas in the 10 provinces. It also examines the relative labour market performances of these areas based on ranking of unemployment rates and duration of unemployment.

The census metropolitan area of Victoria showed the biggest improvement in unemployment rate during this seven-year period.

In 2000, Victoria had an unemployment rate of 6.7%, and was in 22nd place among the 38 CMAs and provincial non-CMA areas. By 2006, its rate had dropped to 3.7% and it had risen to third place.

The census metropolitan area of Calgary had an annual average unemployment rate of only 3.2% last year, lowest among metropolitan areas. This was half the national average of 6.3% last year, which was down from 6.8% in 2000.

Labour markets in Ontario fared the worst in terms of changes in rankings. Of the 16 areas in which rankings fell over this period, 9 were in Ontario.

The study found that at the national level, the average duration of unemployment dropped by about three weeks during this period. Declines occurred in 33 of the 38 areas examined.

### Nearly all the best performers have been on the Prairies

Some areas emerged as perennial best performers, in terms of having the lowest unemployment rates in five of the seven years. Others were perennial poor performers.

Nearly all the best performers between 2000 and 2006 were on the Prairies — the

#### Note to readers

*This release is based on the report "Canada's unemployment mosaic, 2000 to 2006" in the current online edition of Perspectives on Labour and Income.*

*Data came from the monthly Labour Force Survey, which samples about 54,000 households.*

*A census metropolitan area (CMA) has an urban core with a population of at least 100,000 and adjacent urban or rural areas that have a high level of economic and social integration with the core. A non-CMA is a smaller urban or rural area that is not adjacent to a CMA.*

exception was Victoria. These included the census metropolitan area of Calgary as well as the regions of both Alberta and Manitoba that were outside metropolitan areas.

Alberta maintained its enviable position largely as a result of the prosperity brought on by the oil and gas industry and the increased activity in construction.

The regions with the poorest performance were non-metropolitan areas of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, non-metro areas of both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the CMA of Windsor.

Windsor has been especially hard hit by setbacks in manufacturing in general and the auto industry in particular. In 2000, Windsor's average annual unemployment rate was 5.4%; by last year, it had climbed to 9.0%, well above the national average.

The highest rates among the areas considered in this study were recorded in non-metropolitan areas of Newfoundland and Labrador, where the average unemployment rate fell marginally during this seven-year period from 21.3% to 19.3%.

### Unemployment rate rose in 8 of 28 metropolitan areas

The unemployment rate last year was lower than in 2000 in a substantial majority of CMAs and non-CMA areas. It was the opposite case in 8 of the 28 census metropolitan areas.

Ontario accounted for seven of these eight metro areas: Oshawa, Toronto, Hamilton, St. Catharines–Niagara, London, Windsor and Thunder Bay. The eighth was the CMA of Montréal. Unemployment rates rose in all of them between 2000 and 2006.

Ontario has been hit hard by reduced activity in manufacturing, high energy costs and reduced exports, due in part to the appreciating Canadian dollar.

The situation was similar for manufacturing industries in Montréal, where the unemployment rate rose from 7.8% in 2000 to 8.4% last year. Particularly

hard-hit were its aerospace industry as well as the clothing and textile industry. Unemployment rose 19% in Montréal during this period.

Of the five census metropolitan areas that recorded the largest drops in ranking between 2000 and 2006, four were in Ontario's so-called Golden Horseshoe: Oshawa, Hamilton, Toronto and Windsor. The fifth was Regina.

In contrast, four of the five areas with the best improvement in rankings were in British Columbia. The province's labour market has benefited from gains in resource-based industries, construction and transportation, and in increased exports to the Far East, mainly China.

### **Average unemployment duration falls in most CMAs**

The average duration of unemployment, that is, the number of weeks of continuous job searching, is one measure of the degree of difficulty faced by people looking for work.

Unlike trends in the unemployment rate, a positive picture emerges from the duration of average unemployment.

The study found that at the national level, the average duration of unemployment fell by about three weeks between 2000 and 2006, from 19.8 weeks to 16.7. Declines occurred in 33 of the 38 areas examined.

Eight areas registered a higher unemployment rate in 2006. But only five had a higher average duration of unemployment: Prince Edward Island, Saguenay, Oshawa, non-metropolitan Alberta and Victoria.

Except for Oshawa, all areas in Ontario had shorter durations in 2006. The rise in duration in Victoria is intriguing since this CMA was among those registering the best improvement in unemployment rate.

In addition, the degree of dispersion tightened. For example, in 2000, the average duration of unemployment ranged from just over 12 weeks in Edmonton to 33 weeks in Trois-Rivières.

By last year, it ranged from around 8 weeks in Edmonton to about 22 weeks in Saguenay, Trois-Rivières and Montréal.

### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.**

The article "Canada's unemployment mosaic, 2000 to 2006" is now available in the January 2007 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 8, no. 1 (75-001-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ted Wannell (613-951-3546; [ted.wannell@statcan.ca](mailto:ted.wannell@statcan.ca)), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

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## Study: The Aboriginal labour force in Western Canada

2001 to 2005

Aboriginal people in Western Canada are starting to benefit from increasingly tighter labour market conditions, particularly in Alberta and British Columbia, according to a new study.

The study, published today in *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, uses the Labour Force Survey to compare employment characteristics of the off-reserve Aboriginal and the non-Aboriginal populations in Western Canada's labour force.

It found that current trends signal an improvement in the labour market performance of Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal employment increased 23% between 2001 and 2005, twice the rate of growth of only 11% for non-Aboriginals, the study found.

During the same period, the Aboriginal unemployment rate fell from 15.5% to 12.1%, while their participation rate rose, particularly among women.

Nevertheless, significant disparities remain between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations. In 2005, the unemployment rate of the Aboriginal population was 2.5 times that of non-Aboriginal population.

Also, the employment gap was high in cities such as Regina and Saskatoon, where a large portion of the Aboriginal population lives.

Alberta led job growth in the West, with a 43% increase in its gross domestic product between 2002 and 2005 and an unemployment rate of 3.9% in 2005. Not surprisingly, among the Western provinces, Aboriginal people in Alberta had the highest labour force participation rate, 70% of the working-age population, as well as highest employment rate (64%) and the lowest unemployment rate (8.5%).

Aboriginal people in Manitoba and British Columbia saw the highest growth in employment between 2001 and 2005. In Manitoba, their employment increased 30%, five times the rate of growth among non-Aboriginals.

The participation rate of British Columbia's Aboriginal population was 66%, lower than Alberta's. However, it was up from 2001. In contrast, Saskatchewan continued to have the lowest Aboriginal employment rate (52%), despite a small increase since 2001.

In Western Canada overall, the gap in employment rates between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginals narrowed between 2001 and 2005. The rate increased by one percentage point among non-Aboriginals, while rising strongly among Aboriginal people.

Saskatchewan also had the largest employment rate gap in 2005 (14 percentage points compared with 7 for all of Western Canada).

The study showed that postsecondary education helps eliminate the employment gap. Aboriginal people who held a university degree had an employment rate of 84% in 2005, surpassing the rate of 77% among the non-Aboriginal population.

In contrast, among the least educated, that is, those with no high school diploma, employment rates were low for both populations. In 2005, the employment rate for the Aboriginal population was 36%, compared with 41% for the non-Aboriginal population.

The impact of postsecondary education on employment is particularly strong for Aboriginal women. Those with a university education had an employment rate of 85% compared with 74% for non-Aboriginal women.

Between 2001 and 2005, Western Canada added over 283,000 jobs requiring a college diploma or certificate, or apprenticeship training, accounting for just over 60% of job growth.

Aboriginal people accounted for about 15,000 of these positions, 46% of their total job growth during these years. This suggests that Aboriginal workers are starting to fill the need for high-demand skills.

### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3701 and 3901.

The article "The Aboriginal labour force in Western Canada" is now available in the January 2007 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 8, no. 1 (75-001-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information or to inquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jacqueline Luffman (613-951-1563, [jacqueline.luffman@statcan.ca](mailto:jacqueline.luffman@statcan.ca)), Dissemination Division, or Deborah Sussman (613-951-4226; [deborah.sussman@statcan.ca](mailto:deborah.sussman@statcan.ca)), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

## Stocks of frozen and chilled meats

January 1, 2007

Stocks of red meat in storage as of the first business day of January amounted to 89 842 metric tonnes, down 7% from a year ago, but up 14% from October 2006. Stocks of frozen poultry meat amounted to 45 986 tonnes, down 19% from the same period last year and down 31% from October 2006.

This release contains details for various cuts of pork, beef, veal, poultry, mutton and lamb as well as fancy meats at the Canadian level. At the regional level it contains totals for the red meats. This release also contains the holdings of imported meat at the national level for the same periods.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0081 and 003-0082.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3423.**

The January 2007 issue of *Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats* (23-009-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website under *Free Internet Publications*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information, call (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; [barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca](mailto:barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

### **Aircraft movement statistics**

2006 (preliminary)

The 42 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers reported 4.5 million aircraft take-offs and landings in 2006, up 2.9% compared to 2005 (4.4 million). This marks the first increase in total aircraft movements recorded at the towered airports in six years; movements have shown a declining trend since the last peak in 1999 (5.3 million).

Aircraft movements were up at 25 airports in 2006 compared with 2005. Winnipeg/St. Andrews (+42.5%) and Moncton/Greater Moncton International (+20.7%) showed the largest year-over-year gains in aircraft movements, each posting increases of more than 10,000 movements. Sudbury (-15.4%) and Windsor (-14.3%) showed the largest year-over-year declines.

Overall, itinerant movements were up by 63,267 movements (+2.0%) in 2006, the third consecutive year. The year-over-year variations ranged from an increase of 35.2% for Winnipeg/St. Andrews to a decline of 10.0% for Edmonton/Villeneuve. Itinerant movements increased at 23 airports in 2006.

Local movements also increased (+5.1%) following four years of declines. The year-over-year comparisons

ranged from an increase of 78.4% for Edmonton City Centre to a decline of 87.1% for Vancouver Harbour. Overall, 21 airports recorded increases compared to 2005.

**Available on CANSIM: table 401-0006.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.**

The 2006 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics: Annual* (51F0010PWE, free) is now available from *Publications* module of our website.

Preliminary statistics for the 56 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA flight service stations are also available for 2006.

More detailed statistics for airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations will be released in the *Aircraft Movement Statistics Annual Report* (TP577, free). Upon release, the report will be available online (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp577/tp577.htm>).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; [aviationstatistics@statcan.ca](mailto:aviationstatistics@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

### **Natural gas liquids and liquefied petroleum gases**

June to September 2006

Data on the supply and demand for natural gas liquids and liquefied petroleum gases are now available up to September.

**Available on CANSIM: table 132-0001.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 7524.**

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

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## New products

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**Catalogue number 11F0019MIE2006283**  
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**Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats**, January 2007  
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**Catalogue number 41-019-XWE**  
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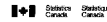

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **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 relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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