



# The Daily

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### Perspectives on Labour and Income

February 2007 online edition

The February 2007 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, features two articles.

"Young pensioners" looks at trends in early pension uptake and post-pension employment during the 1990s and early 2000s. It also examines differences in the labour market attachment of pensioners and non-pensioners, and the potential impact on the labour supply.

"Defining retirement" examines difficulties in the definition and measurement of retirement. The issues are particularly acute in the context of a growing need for data and the looming exodus of baby boomers from their career jobs. The article looks at the measures that have been applied at Statistics Canada and offers recommendations to inform a discussion for arriving at international standards.

The February 2007 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 8, no. 2 (75-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

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## Releases

### Retail trade

December 2006 and annual 2006

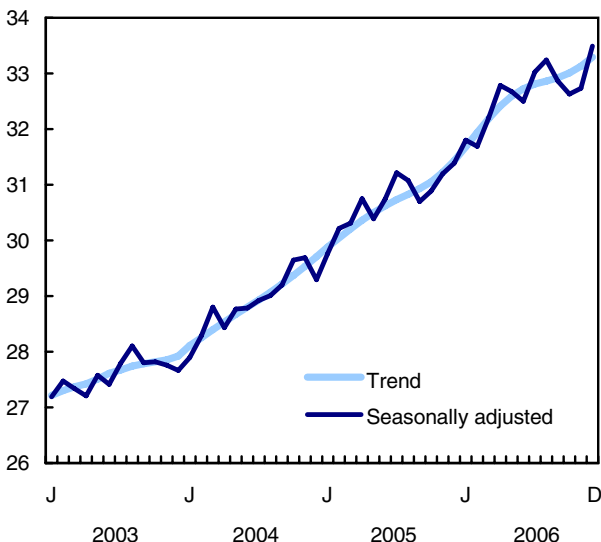
Retailers posted their highest monthly sales gain in nine years in December, with widespread increases in all eight retail sectors. The year-end flourish, combined with hot sales in Alberta, pushed sales for 2006 as a whole to their strongest annual growth rate since 1997.

Total retail sales jumped 2.3% in December to an estimated \$33.5 billion, the fastest monthly growth rate since December 1997. This gain more than offset losses in September and October and a lacklustre 0.3% increase in November.

For 2006 as a whole, retailers sold \$391.4 billion worth of goods and services, up 6.4% from 2005 and the highest rate in nine years.

#### Retail sales end 2006 on a strong note

\$ billions



The automotive sector led the pack in December with a 3.7% increase in sales, which accounted for over half the month's overall gains. Sales at clothing and accessories stores (+4.9%) picked up after two months of declines, as did sales at general merchandise stores (+2.6%). Combined, these two retail sectors accounted for over a quarter of the retail sales increase in December.

Sales at miscellaneous retailers (+2.4%) rebounded from November's decline of 2.7%. These sales have

been relatively flat in 2006 after spiking in January. Building and outdoor home supplies stores enjoyed a 2.3% sales increase in December and only three sales declines in 2006.

Moderate increases were seen in pharmacies and personal care stores (+0.9%), furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores (+0.5%), and food and beverage stores (+0.4%).

Excluding the automotive sector (which includes gasoline station sales), retail sales rose 1.6%.

Price effects were minimal in December as, once price changes were taken into account, total retail sales were still strong, rising by 2.1%. In contrast, price movements did affect the quarterly results. Nominal sales fell by 0.3% in the fourth quarter of 2006, but actually increased by 0.4% in real terms.

#### New car sales, higher pump prices account for big gain in auto sector

Sales at new car dealers surged 3.6% in December. The New Motor Vehicles Sales Survey reported that the total number of vehicles sold in December was up 5.6% from the month before.

Higher prices at the pump also contributed to the increase in the automotive sector as they pushed sales up 4.5% at gasoline stations. Gasoline prices rose 4.1% during the same period, according to the Consumer Price Index.

Clothing stores (+4.9%), shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores (+4.9%), sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores (+4.0%), and general merchandise stores (+2.6%) all experienced significant gains in December, partially offsetting the losses in October and November. However, sales were still below the record levels set in September 2006 after retail spending spiked in each of these types of stores.

Within the building and outdoor home supplies stores sector, sales at home centres and hardware stores rose 1.7% in December. Sales in these stores have been posting double-digit annual increases since 2002.

In the food and beverage stores sector, supermarket sales rose by 1.0% in December, marking the strongest sales gain since February 2006. Sales in this type of store have generally slowed since the fall of 2005. Partially offsetting these gains were declines in beer, wine and liquor stores (-1.3%) and convenience and speciality food stores (-0.7%).

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## Widespread gains in most provinces and territories in December

Almost all provinces and territories experienced sales gains in December with the exception of Nunavut (-5.0%). Sales in Ontario (+2.9%) and Quebec (+1.8%) climbed for a second month in a row after a weak start to the quarter.

Retail sales picked up in British Columbia (+2.4%) and Alberta (+2.0%) in December. However, retailers in both provinces have been experiencing a slowdown in sales in recent months, resulting in negative fourth quarter growth rates for both provinces, after exceptionally strong quarters earlier in 2006. Severe storms at the end of November are thought to have played a role in dampening sales in British Columbia.

Sales continued to be strong for a second straight month in December in each of the Atlantic provinces, mainly as a result of gasoline station sales. Increases occurred in New Brunswick (+4.1%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+3.0%), Prince Edward Island (+1.8%), and Nova Scotia (+1.5%).

### Alberta leads the way in 2006

Retail sales in Alberta grew at their fastest pace ever in 2006, pushing Canadian retail trade to its strongest growth rate since 1997.

Although all provinces and territories reported increased retail trade in 2006, Alberta led the way with a stellar 16.2% increase, up from an already impressive growth rate of 12.1% in 2005. This was the third year in a row that Alberta's growth rate led the nation. The province was also alone in 2006, again for a third year, in reporting double-digit sales growth.

Excluding Alberta, retail trade in the rest of Canada rose by 4.9% in 2006.

### Double-digit growth reported in four retail trade groups

Double-digit growth rates were reported in 4 of 18 trade groups in 2006. Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers led the pack in 2006, with sales rising 15.9% to \$17.8 billion. Driven by strong sales of recreational vehicles, this increase was up significantly from 5.3% in 2005 and represented the group's strongest growth rate since the series began in 1991.

With a growth rate of 13.3%, home furnishing stores sales of \$5.4 billion represented the second fastest growing trade group of 2006.

Retail sales growth of 12.3% at home centres and hardware stores followed, representing \$20.4 billion. Growth in this trade group has out-paced total retail trade growth every year since 2001.

Pharmacies and personal care stores sales grew 10.9% to \$26.6 billion in 2006, more than double the increase of 5.2% in 2005 and the fastest growth rate since the series began.

While not reaching double-digit growth, sales at clothing stores hit \$17.3 billion, up 7.3%, the largest gain since 1994.

### Retail growth varies among largest trade groups

New car dealer sales totalled \$74.8 billion in 2006, up 4.0% after the 5.6% growth rate reported in 2005. It trailed Canada's overall retail growth for a fourth consecutive year. According to the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey, the number of units sold totalled 1,666,327, up 2.2% over 2005.

Supermarket sales edged up 0.6% to \$63.1 billion. This rate of growth was considerably lower than the 5.1% average increase this trade group had enjoyed annually since 2002 and represents the lowest growth rate since 1996.

Sales at general merchandise stores (which includes department stores, warehouse clubs, superstores and home and auto supplies stores) rose 7.0% to \$46.7 billion in 2006, the trade group's highest growth rate since 1997.

Despite monthly volatility, gasoline station sales of \$42.0 billion in 2006 represented an annual growth of 9.4%, down from recent double-digit increases of 11.4% in 2004 and 15.1% in 2005.

A more detailed look at retail trade in 2006 will be released in the spring.

### Related indicators for January

Employment increased by an estimated 89,000 in January, continuing the upward trend that began in September 2006. The unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage points in January to 6.2%, the result of more people entering the labour force in search of work.

Preliminary sales data from the automotive industry indicate that sales declined about 4% in January, due entirely to lower demand for passenger cars.

The seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts was 249,300 units in January, up from 212,600 units in December, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.**

At the end of each calendar year, seasonally adjusted monthly figures are revised to equal the sum of

the unadjusted estimates. Revised seasonally adjusted figures are presented this month for September to November 2006. The complete revision of seasonally adjusted data for the 2006 calendar year will be released in April. All annual comparisons in this release use the sum of unadjusted monthly estimates.

All data referring to December are seasonally adjusted.

The December 2006 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for January will be released on March 21.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lucy Chung (613-951-1903), Distributive Trades Division.

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**Retail sales**

	December 2005	September 2006 <sup>r</sup>	October 2006 <sup>r</sup>	November 2006 <sup>r</sup>	December 2006 <sup>p</sup>	November to December 2006	December 2005 to December 2006
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>10,766</b>	<b>11,080</b>	<b>10,975</b>	<b>11,214</b>	<b>11,631</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>
New car dealers	6,085	6,331	6,317	6,365	6,593	3.6	8.4
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,336	1,510	1,464	1,474	1,510	2.5	13.1
Gasoline stations	3,345	3,239	3,195	3,375	3,527	4.5	5.4
<b>Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores</b>	<b>2,203</b>	<b>2,340</b>	<b>2,332</b>	<b>2,340</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Furniture stores	769	801	805	803	803	0.0	4.4
Home furnishings stores	429	455	449	462	470	1.6	9.4
Computer and software stores	138	129	126	125	129	2.9	-6.4
Home electronics and appliance stores	867	954	952	950	951	0.1	9.7
<b>Building and outdoor home supplies stores</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>2,178</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>10.1</b>
Home centres and hardware stores	1,608	1,732	1,713	1,734	1,764	1.7	9.7
Specialized building materials and garden stores	369	388	394	394	413	5.0	11.9
<b>Food and beverage stores</b>	<b>7,281</b>	<b>7,368</b>	<b>7,391</b>	<b>7,385</b>	<b>7,415</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Supermarkets	5,326	5,270	5,284	5,282	5,334	1.0	0.1
Convenience and specialty food stores	759	811	814	816	811	-0.7	6.8
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,195	1,287	1,293	1,287	1,271	-1.3	6.3
<b>Pharmacies and personal care stores</b>	<b>2,057</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>2,287</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>Clothing and accessories stores</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>1,876</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>10.0</b>
Clothing stores	1,359	1,533	1,467	1,427	1,497	4.9	10.2
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	431	472	462	449	471	4.9	9.4
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>3,987</b>	<b>3,934</b>	<b>3,871</b>	<b>3,971</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Miscellaneous retailers</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>1,688</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>1,648</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	809	875	863	830	863	4.0	6.7
Miscellaneous store retailers	793	813	832	818	824	0.7	4.0
<b>Total retail sales</b>	<b>31,391</b>	<b>32,864</b>	<b>32,628</b>	<b>32,729</b>	<b>33,488</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>6.7</b>
<b>Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers</b>	<b>23,970</b>	<b>25,023</b>	<b>24,847</b>	<b>24,890</b>	<b>25,384</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	501	504	505	519	535	3.0	6.6
Prince Edward Island	122	123	122	125	127	1.8	4.4
Nova Scotia	918	945	929	941	955	1.5	4.0
New Brunswick	715	737	726	746	777	4.1	8.6
Quebec	6,975	7,320	7,216	7,271	7,403	1.8	6.1
Ontario	11,551	11,734	11,673	11,762	12,098	2.9	4.7
Manitoba	1,041	1,120	1,097	1,118	1,122	0.4	7.8
Saskatchewan	922	993	974	977	994	1.7	7.9
Alberta	4,301	4,805	4,804	4,780	4,877	2.0	13.4
British Columbia	4,240	4,470	4,471	4,380	4,486	2.4	5.8
Yukon	37	39	39	37	40	7.8	9.1
Northwest Territories	48	50	50	51	52	2.1	8.9
Nunavut	21	22	22	22	21	-5.0	3.1

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

**Retail sales**

	December 2005	November 2006 <sup>r</sup>	December 2006 <sup>p</sup>	December 2005 to December 2006
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,387</b>	<b>10,474</b>	<b>9,885</b>	<b>5.3</b>
New car dealers	5,181	5,968	5,466	5.5
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,023	1,326	1,118	9.3
Gasoline stations	3,183	3,179	3,302	3.7
<b>Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>2,516</b>	<b>3,541</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Furniture stores	899	847	935	3.9
Home furnishings stores	572	540	620	8.4
Computer and software stores	174	126	158	-9.3
Home electronics and appliance stores	1,695	1,003	1,829	7.9
<b>Building and outdoor home supplies stores</b>	<b>1,617</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Home centres and hardware stores	1,328	1,736	1,432	7.8
Specialized building materials and garden stores	288	375	319	10.6
<b>Food and beverage stores</b>	<b>8,767</b>	<b>7,156</b>	<b>8,810</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Supermarkets	6,068	5,151	5,997	-1.2
Convenience and specialty food stores	842	764	889	5.5
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,857	1,241	1,925	3.7
<b>Pharmacies and personal care stores</b>	<b>2,457</b>	<b>2,288</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>9.3</b>
<b>Clothing and accessories stores</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>2,079</b>	<b>3,348</b>	<b>8.7</b>
Clothing stores	2,262	1,604	2,447	8.2
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	817	475	901	10.2
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>5,728</b>	<b>4,346</b>	<b>6,046</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Miscellaneous retailers</b>	<b>2,439</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>2,538</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	1,448	894	1,521	5.0
Miscellaneous store retailers	991	812	1,017	2.7
<b>Total retail sales</b>	<b>36,814</b>	<b>32,676</b>	<b>38,605</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers</b>	<b>30,610</b>	<b>25,382</b>	<b>32,021</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	602	548	633	5.1
Prince Edward Island	141	121	147	3.6
Nova Scotia	1,108	952	1,135	2.5
New Brunswick	831	755	885	6.5
Quebec	7,680	7,148	8,060	4.9
Ontario	13,907	11,958	14,346	3.2
Manitoba	1,226	1,117	1,279	4.3
Saskatchewan	1,073	959	1,129	5.2
Alberta	5,023	4,743	5,561	10.7
British Columbia	5,102	4,271	5,303	3.9
Yukon	41	34	43	5.9
Northwest Territories	54	48	59	8.4
Nunavut	24	21	25	2.8

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary



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## Study: Going to the doctor

2005

More than three-quarters of Canadian adults aged 18 to 64 reported that they had consulted a medical doctor at least once in 2004, and one-quarter had seen a specialist. A new study sheds light on the factors that play a role in determining whether Canadians see a physician or specialist.

The study, published today in *Health Reports*, shows that individual health needs, as measured by chronic conditions and self-perceived general and mental health, still have a strong impact on determining whether Canadians consult a doctor.

However, when these health needs were taken into account, a number of other factors – one of which was household income – had an independent effect on whether adults saw a doctor.

These other factors included the age and sex of individuals, as well as their race, language and place of residence, whether it was rural or urban.

The study, based on data from the 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), found that adults aged 18 to 64 and seniors in higher household income groups were more likely than those in the middle income group to have consulted a general practitioner in the year before the survey. Those in the lowest income group were less likely to have done so.

As well, 18- to 64-year-olds and seniors in the higher income groups were more likely to have seen a specialist.

Earlier research has documented associations between the use of health care services in Canada and socio-economic factors, even after the introduction of universal health insurance. Data from the 2005 CCHS support these findings, at least with regard to consulting a doctor.

### More than three-quarters of adults had seen a doctor at least once

According to the CCHS data, 77% of adults aged 18 to 64, an estimated 15.8 million, reported having consulted a general practitioner (GP) at least once in the year before the survey.

About one-quarter had seen a GP four or more times, and about the same proportion had seen a specialist.

Contacts with a doctor were even more common among seniors. Nearly 9 out of 10 (3.4 million) reported having consulted a GP, and 44% had had four or more contacts. More than one-third of seniors had seen a specialist.

### Aboriginal people and Blacks less likely to see specialists

At ages 18 to 64, the odds of consulting a GP on multiple occasions were higher for Aboriginal people than for Whites.

However, at all ages, Aboriginal people were less likely than Whites to have seen a specialist in the year before the survey.

The odds that Black seniors would have seen a GP in the previous year were about three times those for Whites. But whether they were aged 18 to 64 or seniors, Blacks' odds of having visited a specialist were about half those of Whites.

### Women had higher odds of consulting a doctor

Women have consistently been found to use medical services more often than men.

CCHS data showed that women aged 18 to 64 had higher odds than men of reporting a consultation with a GP, visiting a doctor on multiple occasions and of consulting a specialist, even allowing for the effects of chronic conditions and self-perceived health.

These findings held when women who were pregnant or who had given birth in the previous year were excluded.

Among seniors, the odds that a woman would visit a doctor were statistically similar to those for men. However, senior women were significantly less likely than senior men to visit a specialist.

### Rural residents less likely than urban dwellers to consult a specialist

Health care providers, especially medical specialists, tend to be concentrated in urban areas. For people in rural areas, access to specialists is often inconvenient.

CCHS data showed that rural residents were just as likely as urban dwellers to consult a doctor.

As well, rural residents (both seniors and those aged 18 to 64) had significantly higher odds than their urban counterparts of consulting a physician on several occasions.

On the other hand, the use of specialist services was lower among people in rural areas. Rural residents had significantly low odds of consulting a specialist compared with their urban counterparts.

### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3226.

A complete version of the article "Going to the doctor" appears in the latest issue of *Health Reports*,

Vol. 18, No. 1 (82-003-XWE, free), now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Wayne J. Millar (613-225-4908; [w.j.millar@sympatico.ca](mailto:w.j.millar@sympatico.ca)), Health Statistics Division.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; [christine.wright@statcan.ca](mailto:christine.wright@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division. ■



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## Study: Second or subsequent births to teenagers

2003

Teenage girls were far less likely to have two or more children in 2003 than they were a decade earlier, according to an article based on vital statistics data in the latest edition of *Health Reports*.

Even so, between 1993 and 2003, an estimated 25,000 teenage moms gave birth to their second or subsequent child.

The study showed that during this decade, the rate of teen moms who had two or more children fell by one-half.

In 1993, of every 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19 who had already had a child in 1993, 4.8 girls had a second or subsequent birth. By 2003, this rate was down to 2.4.

Looking at it another way, 18.5% of all births among teenagers were second or subsequent in 1993. By 2003, this proportion had declined to 15.2%.

(Data cover all provinces, except Ontario. In 1996, Ontario introduced birth registration fees, and since then, an estimated 3% of all births in that province may not have been registered. This is particularly likely for children born to teenage mothers.)

Fertility rates have been declining among teenage girls almost steadily since the mid-1970s. By 2003, the rate of live births to girls aged 15 to 19 was only about one-seventh the rate for women aged 25 to 34.

Early childbearing can have serious consequences for both the babies and the mothers.

The study found that teens who had two or more children were highly concentrated in low-income neighbourhoods.

It also found that the proportion of second or subsequent births that were low-birthweight, less than 2,500 grams, was significantly higher for teen moms than for mothers aged 25 to 34.

A newborn's chances of survival are closely associated with birthweight. Those who weigh less than 2,500 grams at birth have higher mortality and more physical health problems than babies whose weight at birth was normal.

The rate of second or subsequent births among teenagers varied across the country.

Between 2001 and 2003, the rate in Nunavut was 12 times the national average. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the rate was nearly three times the national average.

Rates were below the national average in Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia.

A complete version of the article, "Second or subsequent births to teenagers", appears in the latest issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 18, No. 1 (82-003-XWE, free), now available from the *Publications* module of the website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Michelle Rotermann (613-951-3166; [michelle.rotermann@statcan.ca](mailto:michelle.rotermann@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; [christine.wright@statcan.ca](mailto:christine.wright@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division. ■

## Study: Young pensioners

1989 to 2004

About one out of every five workers begin to collect employer-sponsored pension benefits before they reach the age of 60, according to a new study that assesses the potential loss of these early retirees on the labour supply.

Since these relatively young pensioners are not yet eligible for public pensions, and can expect a relatively long life span, it could be argued that they should be more likely than older retirees to return to work.

Although the study did show that the majority of the youngest pensioners continue to do some work for pay, the attachment to the labour market is relatively weak and loosens with age.

The study, published today in *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, found that at least half of people in their 50s who recently retired had at least some employment income the year after they began receiving their pension.

However, if this threshold of employment income were raised to a mere \$5,000, the proportion fell to less than one-third.

The study used tax data from the Longitudinal Administrative Databank to assess trends in early pension uptake and post-pension employment during the 1990s and early 2000s.

Data definitely showed a recovery in "re-employment" among early pensioners since the mid-1990s. However, during the 2000s, the rates have remained essentially flat.

Thus, the study suggests that it is unlikely that these early pensioners will represent a growing source of labour supply in the years to come.

Because most pension plans feature substantial benefit penalties before the age of 55, retirement before that age is rare.

On average, less than 1% of workers aged 50 to 54 begin receiving pension benefits in any year. As the penalties drop in many large plans at age 55, the uptake rate jumps to about 4.5% and does not surpass that level until age 60.

Also, the loss of potential labour supply is highlighted by a significant gap in labour market attachment between

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pensioners and non-pensioners. This gap is clear at the age of 50, and widens for older age groups.

Among those who started receiving pensions at 50 in 2003, 71% earned some employment income the following year, compared with 87% for non-pensioners the same age. At the age of 59, only 46% of pensioners earned employment income, compared with 76% of their working counterparts.

The study found a sizeable gap between rates of post-pension employment for men and women. In 2004, for example, one in three young male pensioners earned at least \$5,000 from employment the year after retirement; only one-quarter of their female counterparts did so.

Other studies have shown that women still contribute more time to housework and elder care, which may account for lower re-employment rates.

Early pensioners replace almost two-thirds of pre-retirement income, near the upper end of recommended replacement rates. Over 60% of their income comes from pension benefits, followed by employment earnings (24%) and other market income, mainly RRSP withdrawals and other investments (10%).

The study also found that early pensioners retired from relatively high-paying jobs. The median pre-pension salary for men was over \$60,000, compared with just over \$40,000 for those not collecting a pension the following year.

Women earned less than men in both pensioned and non-pensioned groups, but female pensioners had an even greater pre-retirement salary advantage than was the case for men. In each period, women who went on to collect pensions earned about two-thirds more than the median salary of their working counterparts.

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

The article "Young pensioners" is now available in the February 2007 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 8, no. 2 (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. ■

## Large urban transit

December 2006 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 3.1% higher in December 2006 than it was for the same month in 2005.

Approximately 120.3 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in December. These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated \$198.2 million in revenue in December 2006 (excluding subsidies), an 8.2% increase over December 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: 1-613-951-0009; [transportationstatistics@statcan.ca](mailto:transportationstatistics@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## Canadian Food Inspection Agency Employee Survey

2006

The data for the 2006 Canadian Food Inspection Agency Employee Survey are now available.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5086.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527; [ssd@statcan.ca](mailto:ssd@statcan.ca)), Special Surveys Division. ■

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Statistics Canada

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For release at 9:30 a.m.

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- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Discusses the attitudes on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 4.5 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**

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expenditures Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, wash ending May 31, 1997** 12
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