



The Daily

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Releases

Study: Marital breakdown and subsequent depression, 1994/1995 to 2004/2005	2
Men and women whose marriage has broken up are at higher risk of being depressed than people who remained with their spouse, according to a new study. However, men appear to take the separation harder.	
Study: Service offshoring and employment, 1987 to 2006	4
A new study found no clear evidence that occupations potentially subject to service offshoring displayed smaller employment growth than other occupations in recent years.	
Railway carloadings, March 2007	6
National Construction Industry Wage Rate Survey, 2006	6
Large urban transit, March 2007	7
Crude oil and natural gas production, March 2007	7
Scheduled air passenger origin and destination: Canada-United States, 2005	7

New products



Releases

Study: Marital breakdown and subsequent depression

1994/1995 to 2004/2005

Men and women whose marriage has broken up have a higher risk of being depressed than people who remained with their spouse, according to a new study. However, men appear to take the separation harder.

The study, based on longitudinal data from the National Population Health Survey (NPHS), examined the association between marital dissolution and subsequent depression.

Both men and women had higher odds of having an episode of depression in the two years following the end of a marriage or common-law relationship, compared with people who stayed with their spouse.

The study determined that men who experienced a break-up were more at risk of depression than were women.

It also found that marital break-up was independently associated with depression. That is, while other factors that often accompany a break-up were associated with an increased risk of depression, they did not completely account for it.

These other factors included a change in household income, in social support, or in the number of children in the household. The association between marital break and depression persisted even when these events were taken into account.

The study found that most people who experienced depression in the post-relationship period were no longer depressed four years after the break-up. But for a sizeable minority, depression remained a problem.

Marital dissolution and depression

The NPHS, which began in 1994/1995, collects information about the health of Canadians every two years.

Since 1994/1995, an average of just over 4% of people aged 20 to 64 who had been married or living with a common-law partner at the time of their first interview were no longer in a relationship when they were re-interviewed two years later.

The survey found that 12% of people whose relationship had ended reported a new episode of depression. This compared with 3% among people who remained in a relationship.

Men aged 20 to 64 who had divorced or separated were six times more likely to report an episode of depression than were men who remained married.

Women who had undergone a marital break-up were 3.5 times more likely to have had a bout of depression than were their counterparts who were still in a relationship.

Life changes disruptive

The end of a relationship brings other disruptive life changes, which, in themselves, might increase the risk of depression.

For example, financial difficulties often follow marital dissolution, particularly for women. In fact, 43% of women who went through a break-up had a substantial drop in their household income, compared with 15% of men.

Men and women who divorced or separated were more likely than those who remained in a relationship to report a decline in social support. Whereas 19% of men and 15% of women who were no longer with their spouse reported a drop in social support, the figures were 6% and 5% respectively for those who remained with a partner.

Research has suggested that for men the loss of custody or a change in parental responsibilities is one of the most stressful aspects of a break-up. According to the analysis of NPHS data, 34% of men, compared with 3% of women, whose relationship ended experienced the departure of children from their household.

Marital breakdown independently associated with depression

However, even when taking these other factors into account, the end of a relationship was independently associated with the risk of depression among both sexes.

The odds of subsequent depression for men whose relationship ended were still 3.3 times higher than those of men who remained with their spouse. Among women, the odds of depression after a break-up were about 2.4 times higher.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3225.

The study "Marital breakdown and subsequent depression," which is part of today's *Health Reports*

online release, is now available (82-003-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information about "Marital breakdown and subsequent depression", contact Michelle Rotermann (613-951-3166; Michelle.Rotermann@statcan.ca), Health Analysis and Measurement Group.

Also released in *Health Reports* today is "Trends in weight change among Canadian adults," based on an earlier report published online November 6, 2006.

The complete version of the latest issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 18, no. 2 (82-003-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module or our website. A printed version is also available (82-003-XPE, \$22/\$63). See *How to order products*. It contains two other articles that appeared previously in the online edition: "Sodium consumption at all ages" and "Canadians' eating habits."

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; Christine.Wright@statcan.ca).

A link to the two articles released today can also be found in the National Population Health Survey Internet publication, *Healthy Today, Healthy Tomorrow? Findings from the National Population Health Survey*, Vol. 2, no. 2 (82-618-MWE2007006, free), available from the *Publications* module of our website.

NPHS micro data are available at Statistics Canada's Research Data Centres. For more information, visit *The Research Data Centres Program* page of our website.

To order custom tabulations, contact Data Access and Information Services (613-951-1746; hd-ds@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

For further information on the Household Component of the NPHS, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this survey, contact Mario Bédard (613-951-8933; mario.bedard@statcan.ca) or France Bilocq (613-951-6956; france.bilocq@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

Study: Service offshoring and employment

1987 to 2006

A new study found no clear evidence that occupations potentially subject to service offshoring displayed smaller employment growth than other occupations in recent years.

The study identified industries with a large share of occupations subject to foreign outsourcing of services, or service offshoring, in 1994 and 1995. Then it compared employment trends in these industries to those observed in other industries between two periods: 1987 to 1995 and 1996 to 2006.

The study found no evidence that industries with a relatively large share of occupations subject to service offshoring in the mid-1990s had recently undergone a deceleration in employment growth relative to other industries.

Furthermore, there was little evidence that employment in these occupations had grown at a slower rate in industries that experienced substantial increases in service offshoring to non-Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries than in similar occupations located in other industries.

Overall, the findings suggest that if foreign outsourcing of services has indeed had an impact on Canadian employment, this impact is likely to have been modest so far. Thus, it is unlikely to be detected with either industry-level data or occupation-level data.

Some Canadian firms recently implemented service offshoring. That is, they have started to contract out abroad activities for certain services such as architecture, engineering, informatics, data entry and payroll administration.

Countries such as India, China and other non-OECD countries have often provided the work force required for these jobs, some of which pay relatively high wages in Canada.

These new forms of foreign outsourcing have led to an increase in Canada's imports of computer, information and other business services from non-OECD countries. One concern is that they may reduce employment in Canada.

Roughly half of the jobs potentially subject to service offshoring are in clerical occupations such as telephone operators, payroll clerks and data entry clerks. The other half are in professional occupations such as engineers, computer programmers and architects.

It should be emphasized that employment in specific firms in certain industries might well have been affected positively or negatively by service offshoring in recent years. However, the data currently available in Canada

Note to readers

This release is based on a research paper "Offshoring and employment in Canada: Some basic facts," available today.

The study uses a wide variety of data sets to produce a first set of stylized facts about service offshoring and the evolution of Canadian employment in recent years.

In this release, the terms "service offshoring" and "foreign outsourcing of services" are used interchangeably. They are measured using Canada's imports of computer, information and other business services. These imports include transactions between non-affiliated firms as well as those conducted between affiliated parties. Data are from the Balance of Payments Division.

In 2004, Canada's imports of computer, information and other business services totalled \$18 billion. In contrast, Canada's imports of goods amounted to \$364 billion that year.

Occupations potentially subject to service offshoring are defined based on four criteria: they make intensive use of information and communication technologies (ICTs); they produce an output that can be traded or transmitted by ICTs; they have a knowledge content that is highly codifiable; and they require no face-to-face contacts.

High-skill service industries include: information and cultural industries, finance and insurance, real estate and rental leasing, professional, scientific and technical services, management of companies and enterprises and administrative support, waste management and remediation services.

are not detailed enough to allow thorough analysis of the impact of service offshoring at the firm level.

No clear link between service offshoring and slower employment growth

Concerns that international competition is driving jobs offshore are not recent. In the early 1980s, it was argued that many manufacturing jobs in advanced economies were being lost to developing countries.

Recently, some observers have argued that employers now use foreign outsourcing not only for manufactured goods, but also for labour services such as engineering, informatics and payroll administration.

Concerns have been expressed that employment growth in these occupations might decline or even stop. The study found little evidence consistent with that view.

Between 2000 and 2006, employment in occupations potentially affected by service offshoring grew 1.8% per year, on average. Employment in other occupations grew at the same rate.

While employment grew a solid 2.8% per year in professional occupations potentially subject to service offshoring, it was almost stagnant among clerical occupations potentially subject to service offshoring. This suggests that service offshoring might have restricted employment growth in these clerical occupations in recent years.

The study offers several pieces of evidence that do not support this conjecture.

First, employment in clerical occupations potentially subject to service offshoring was stagnant well before 2000. In fact, it fell almost continuously between 1987 and 2000, a period during which service offshoring was likely negligible.

Second, industries that had a relatively high percentage of jobs in clerical occupations potentially affected by service offshoring in the mid-1990s did not see their employment growth decelerate (relative to other industries) between the period from 1994 to 2000 and the period from 2000 to 2006. A similar conclusion was held for the two following periods: 1987 to 1995 and 1996 to 2006.

Third, clerical occupations potentially subject to service offshoring did not display smaller employment growth in industries that experienced substantial increases in service offshoring to non-OECD countries, as compared to similar occupations located in other industries.

Taken together, these findings suggest that the poor employment record of clerical occupations potentially subject to service offshoring between 2000 and 2006 might result from other factors such as technological changes that led to the automation of tasks previously performed by clerical employees.

Canadian firms increasingly involved in foreign "insourcing" of services, as well as outsourcing

The study measured service offshoring using Canada's imports of computer, information and other business services.

In 2004 — the year for which the most recent data are available — Canadian firms imported roughly \$18 billion of computer, information and other business services. Of these, roughly \$1 billion came from non-OECD countries.

While some Canadian firms purchased these services abroad, others sold these services outside Canada. In 2004, exports of computer, information and other business services totalled roughly \$20 billion. Of this, \$3.5 billion went to non-OECD countries.

In fact, Canada's exports of these services to non-OECD countries exceeded its imports between 1996 and 2004, a period during which consistent data on these services are available.

This indicates that while some Canadian firms were increasingly involved in the foreign outsourcing of services, others were also benefiting from foreign insourcing.

Occupations included in analyses of service offshoring have specific characteristics

Occupations that may have been subject to service offshoring were included in the study. These occupations have particular characteristics.

They make intensive use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), produce an output that can be traded or transmitted by ICTs, have a knowledge content that is highly codifiable, and require no face-to-face contacts.

Using these four criteria, the study identified a set of occupations that could be included in any analysis of service offshoring.

About one-half of these occupations were found in high skill service industries such as professional, scientific and technical services, finance and insurance, real estate as well as information and cultural industries. About one-third paid \$25 or more per hour (in 2006 dollars).

Clerical occupations and professional occupations each represented roughly one half of the jobs included.

Since women are overrepresented in clerical occupations, they hold a large share of these jobs. In 2006, almost two-thirds of the jobs included in the study were held by women.

In contrast, since men are overrepresented in professional occupations, they hold most of the high-paying jobs that should be included in any analysis of service offshoring. In 2006, 61% of the jobs included that paid \$25 or more per hour were held by male workers.

The research paper "Offshoring and employment in Canada: Some basic facts" is now available as part of the *Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series* (11F0019MIE2007300, free) from the *Analytical Studies* module of our website.

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

For further information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact René Morissette (613-951-3608), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

Railway carloadings

March 2007

Railways reported an increase in loaded tonnage in March after recovering from a work disruption that affected rail traffic for about two weeks in February.

Total tonnage increased to 23.4 million metric tonnes, up 16.1% from February.

Of this total, 2.5 million metric tonnes consisted of intermodal freight, an 18.6% increase from February.

About 21.0 million tonnes consisted of non-intermodal freight, up 15.8%.

While February was influenced by a labour dispute that affected rail traffic across the country, traffic in March was affected by several train derailments.

Railway business in March was also hit by a strike in the iron ore sector. Iron ore loadings fell by just over one million metric tonnes, from 2.7 million metric tonnes in March last year to 1.7 million metric tonnes this March. This was equivalent to a 39.5% decline.

Aside from the derailments and the strike, most non-intermodal commodities showed an increase between February and March. This was in part the result of a rebound effect from the interruptions in February.

Freight coming from the United States, either destined for or passing through Canada, jumped 21.6% between February and March to nearly 2.8 million metric tonnes, the highest volume since 1999.

Traffic received from Canadian connections, an indicator of the interaction between railways in Canada showed a 17.5% increase in tonnage from February.

On a year-over-year-basis, non-intermodal tonnage dropped 7.3% from March 2006. Intermodal loadings remained about the same, edging up 0.5%. Traffic received from the United States rose 13.3%.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The March 2007 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 84, no. 3 (52-001-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

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. ■

National Construction Industry Wage Rate Survey

2006

Data from the 2006 National Construction Industry Wage Rate Survey (Atlantic provinces) are now available.

The most highly-paid construction occupation for which data are available from the survey was steamfitters and pipefitters. Since the survey was conducted in 2002, the average wage paid to steamfitters and pipefitters in Newfoundland and Labrador increased 37% to \$25.34 per hour. Ironworkers, who were the highest-paid group in the province in 2002, saw their average wages decrease by 3.2% to \$19.06 in 2006.

In Nova Scotia, steamfitters and pipefitters were the highest paid group in 2002 as well as 2006. Their average wage increased 14% over the four-year period to \$26.61 per hour. In New Brunswick, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics, who were the highest paid group in 2002, were paid 2.7% less on average in 2006, at \$20.48. Steamfitters and pipefitters moved up from third to first place with a wage of \$29.81 — an increase of 44% over the period.

Data are not available for steamfitters and pipefitters in Prince Edward Island. Among the occupations covered, plumbers were the highest paid in 2002 (\$17.23 per hour) as well as 2006 (\$20.30 per hour).

The lowest paid occupation in all four provinces, unchanged from 2002, was traffic accommodation person. In 2006, employees in this occupation were paid an average hourly wage ranging from \$8.64 in Prince Edward Island to \$10.36 in Nova Scotia.

The average increase in wages paid for all occupations surveyed in Newfoundland and Labrador was 14% over the four-year period. In Prince Edward Island, the overall average increase was 15.2%, in Nova Scotia it was 13.7% and in New Brunswick it was 14.6%.

The survey covered establishments in the construction industry with six or more employees. The establishments were asked to provide wage rates for employees working full-time in selected occupations and to indicate whether the workers were unionized. Data were collected for work on institutional or commercial construction sites only.

Note: This survey is conducted on behalf of the Labour Branch of Human Resources and Social Development Canada to help establish wage schedules for workers on federal construction projects. The survey is conducted region by region moving sequentially across the country.

Quebec, Manitoba and Yukon, where wage rates are established by the provincial or territorial government, are excluded. The next round of the survey will be conducted in 2007 and will cover Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2935.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-679-2746, sbss-info@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.

For information or requests concerning the wage schedules developed from this survey data for workers on federal construction projects, contact Claude Saint-Jean (819-953-3183; claud.stjean@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca), Human Resources and Social Development Canada. ■

Large urban transit

March 2007 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 2.7% higher in March than it was for the same month in 2006.

Approximately 129.6 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in March. These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated \$202.3 million in revenue in March (excluding subsidies), a 5.3% increase over March 2006.

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. ■

Crude oil and natural gas production

March 2007 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for March.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

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

Scheduled air passenger origin and destination: Canada-United States

2005 (preliminary)

Just under 16.5 million passengers travelled on scheduled services between Canada and the United States in 2005, up 6.0% compared to 2004 (15.5 million passengers). This was the second consecutive year that traffic volumes for scheduled services hit record levels.

The publication *Air Passenger Origin and Destination, Canada-United States Report 2005* (51-205-XIE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. Quarterly data will be released in the next issue of *Aviation: Service Bulletin* (51-004-XIB, free).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2703.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Aviation Statistics Centre (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

New products

Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series: "Offshoring and unemployment in Canada: Some basic facts", no. 300
Catalogue number 11F0019MIE2007300
(free).

Monthly Railway Carloadings, March 2007, Vol. 84, no. 3
Catalogue number 52-001-XWE
(free).

Air Passenger Origin and Destination, Canada-United States Report, 2005
Catalogue number 51-205-XIE
(free).

Retail Trade, March 2007, Vol. 79, no. 3
Catalogue number 63-005-XWE
(free).

Health Reports, Vol. 18, no. 2
Catalogue number 82-003-XWE
(free).

Health Reports, Vol. 18, no. 2
Catalogue number 82-003-XPE (\$22/\$63).

Healthy Today, Healthy Tomorrow? Findings from the National Population Health Survey: "Marital breakdown and subsequent depression", Vol. 2, no. 2
Catalogue number 82-618-MWE2007006
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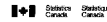

MAJOR RELEASES

- **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.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, Apr. 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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