



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

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### Study: Obesity and the eating habits of the Aboriginal population

2004

Off-reserve Aboriginal people aged 19 to 50 living in Ontario and the Western provinces in 2004 were two and a half times more likely to be obese or overweight, compared with their non-Aboriginal contemporaries, according to a new study.

The study, published today in *Health Reports*, found that this difference primarily reflected higher rates of obesity and overweight among Aboriginal women, particularly those aged 19 to 30.

Previous research has shown that off-reserve Aboriginal people are more likely than other Canadians to report chronic health problems, notably conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and arthritis, which have been linked to obesity.

Aboriginal people also face disparities in housing, education, employment and food security. In fact, besides eating habits, the study found that differences in obesity and overweight may also reflect differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in income, education and leisure-time physical activity.

Research into differences in eating habits helps to understand underlying causes of obesity and to target efforts to improve health outcomes.

#### Socio-economic factors and leisure-time activity

Levels of income, education and leisure-time physical activity have been shown to be related to excess weight. However, in this study, the relationships between these factors and obesity among off-reserve Aboriginal people were not necessarily the same as those reported for the total population.

Living in a low-income household was associated with a higher rate of obesity for off-reserve Aboriginal people, but household income was not related to obesity among non-Aboriginal people. When other factors were taken into consideration, this relationship was no longer significant.

The association between education and excess weight also differed. Among the non-Aboriginal population, excess weight was more common in low-education households, that is, households in which no member had graduated from high school. By contrast, off-reserve Aboriginal people in low-education households were less likely than those living in higher-education households to be overweight or obese.

Inactive leisure time was associated with excess weight for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. While both groups were equally likely to be inactive, the consequences seemed somewhat greater for Aboriginal people. Among those who were inactive, 50% of off-reserve Aboriginal people were obese, compared with 23% of non-Aboriginal people.

#### Snacking, "other food" consumption linked to higher obesity in Aboriginal women

Rates of overweight/obesity among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men were statistically similar. However, Aboriginal women were more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be overweight/obese.

The higher overweight/obesity rates among Aboriginal women were associated, in part, with higher calorie intake by those aged 19 to 30. In this age range, Aboriginal women's average daily intake exceeded that of non-Aboriginal women by 359 calories.

There were no statistically significant differences between the average calorie intake of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men, nor between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women aged 31 to 50.

As was the case for Canadians overall, many off-reserve Aboriginal people did not follow the recommendations of *Canada's Food Guide*. For example, a substantial percentage did not consume the suggested number of servings of vegetables and fruit, grain products, and milk products.

Aboriginal men consumed significantly less milk products than did non-Aboriginal men — about half a serving less per day. Aboriginal women had almost one serving less per day of vegetables and fruit and of grain products than did non-Aboriginal women.

The impact of these differences was evident in the share of daily calories coming from the various food groups and from "other foods," which include items such as candy, oil, soft drinks and condiments. "Other foods" made up more than 35% of the average daily calories of off-reserve Aboriginal women aged 19 to 30, compared with 24% for non-Aboriginal women. This difference alone explains 90% of the higher daily caloric intake of Aboriginal women aged 19 to 30.

A closer examination of women's eating habits shows a significant difference in between-meal food consumption. At ages 19 to 30, Aboriginal women got 36% of their daily calories between meals, compared with 28% of calories for non-Aboriginal women.

As well, "other foods" accounted for 63% of the calories consumed between meals by Aboriginal women

aged 19 to 30, compared with 43% of the calories of their non-Aboriginal contemporaries.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5049.**

The article, "Obesity and the eating habits of the Aboriginal population," which is part of today's *Health Reports*, Vol. 19, no. 1, online release, is now available (82-003-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Didier Garriguet (613-951-7187; [didier.garriguet@statcan.ca](mailto:didier.garriguet@statcan.ca)), Health Information and Research Division. ■

## Leading indicators

December 2007

The composite leading index dipped 0.1% in December after two months of no growth. This was the most protracted period of weakness in the composite index since early 2001, when it fell marginally in five out of six months. The Canadian economy subsequently slowed in 2001, but avoided the recession that gripped the United States.

### Composite leading indicator

Smoothed % change



There are several reasons to believe that the current slump in the index is not as unsettling as in 2001. Much

of the weakness was concentrated in the housing index, where unusually heavy snow storms severely curtailed construction in December. Excluding the drop in housing, the composite index would have been flat in December.

Besides the impact on housing, a snow storm in Eastern Canada during the reference week for the Labour Force Survey also reduced hours worked. This contributed to the sudden downturn in services employment, after 21 straight monthly gains. Consumer spending remained mixed, with increases for furniture and appliances offset by declines for other durable goods. Auto sales were particularly weak, although preliminary data point to a sharp recovery in December.

But there was less ambiguity about the outlook for the US economy. The US leading indicator fell 0.2% for the second consecutive month, led by weakness in housing and consumer confidence. The slowdown in US household demand was reflected in another sharp drop in new orders for goods manufactured in Canada. The ratio of shipments to inventories levelled off, after three straight declines.

**Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.**

This release will be reprinted in the February 2008 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*. For more information on the economy in December, consult the January 2008 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 21, no. 1 (11-010-XWB, free).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; [ceo@statcan.ca](mailto:ceo@statcan.ca)), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

## Leading indicators

	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007	October 2007	November 2007	December 2007	Last month of data available % change
<b>Composite leading indicator (1992=100)</b>	<b>227.9</b>	<b>228.4</b>	<b>229.2</b>	<b>229.3</b>	<b>229.3</b>	<b>229.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Housing index (1992=100) <sup>1</sup>	148.4	149.6	152.5	150.5	149.7	146.0	-2.5
Business and personal services employment (thousands)	2,850	2,852	2,863	2,868	2,873	2,871	-0.1
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	13,683	13,782	13,918	14,032	13,988	13,981	-0.1
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>2</sup>	164,458	165,655	166,937	168,201	168,995	169,513	0.3
US Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) <sup>3</sup>	126.7	127.0	126.9	126.9	126.7	126.5	-0.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Average workweek (hours)	38.5	38.5	38.4	38.4	38.4	38.4	0.0
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	27,144	26,956	27,125	26,662	26,258	25,987	-1.0
Shipments/inventories of finished goods <sup>4</sup>	1.84	1.84	1.83	1.82	1.81	1.81	0.00 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Retail trade</b>							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	2,673	2,679	2,701	2,715	2,728	2,745	0.6
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	9,150	9,191	9,244	9,290	9,283	9,219	-0.7
<b>Unsmoothed composite leading indicator</b>	<b>229.3</b>	<b>228.4</b>	<b>230.7</b>	<b>229.2</b>	<b>228.9</b>	<b>228.5</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

1. Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).
2. Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.
3. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.
4. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.
5. Difference from previous month.

## Farm Product Price Index

November 2007

Prices farmers received for their commodities increased in November 2007 from the same month a year earlier, as soaring crop prices continued to offset falling livestock prices.

Prices for crops were up 15.9% in November compared with November 2006, according to the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI), as only fruits and potatoes recorded decreases. Prices for grains, oilseeds and specialty crops continued their double-digit increase, a trend which began in November 2006.

Overall, prices for livestock and animal products were 6.9% below their November 2006 level as cattle, calf and hog prices continued to slide. This was the sixth consecutive year-to-year decline for these major commodities. Meanwhile, prices for supply-managed commodities continued their upward trend, moderating the decrease. Higher feed grain costs were a factor in the increases, ranging from 4.9% for eggs to 14.0% for poultry.

Prices farmers received for their commodities fell 2.6% in November from October, as declines were recorded in both the crops index and the livestock and animal products index.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 103.2 in November, down from a revised October index of 106.0.

The overall index for livestock and animal products decreased in November from the revised October

index, as all prices except poultry (+0.1%) and eggs (unchanged) were lower. The cattle and calf index (87.0) fell for the seventh consecutive month to its lowest level since the fall of 2004. Falling prices pushed the hog index to its lowest level since December 1998.

Cattle and hog prices continued to be pressured by high feed grain prices and the rising value of the Canadian dollar. The value of the Canadian dollar in relation to its US counterpart rose 0.8% from October to November. Compared with November 2006, the value of the Canadian dollar increased 17.5%. Cattle and hog exports to the United States have increased rapidly as the economics of finishing these animals supported this movement.

The crop index slipped 0.3% as higher oilseeds, specialty crops and fruit prices moderated the losses in the other commodities.

Overall grain prices edged down in November, while oilseed and special crop prices were up. Continued supply concerns in many of the world's exporting countries have maintained prices at this higher level. Supply concerns have also initiated export restrictions on grain this crop year by some countries. In November, Russia imposed an export tax on wheat. The market focus now turns to the southern hemisphere harvest and its impact on total world supplies.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.**

The November 2007 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 7, no. 11 (21-007-XWE, free) is now available online from the *Publications* module on our website. Under *Free internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, call Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-7543; [gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca](mailto:gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division.

**Farm Product Price Index (1997=100)**

	November 2006 <sup>r</sup>	October 2007 <sup>r</sup>	November 2007 <sup>p</sup>	November 2006 to November 2007	October to November 2007
	% change				
<b>Farm Product Price Index</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>106.0</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
<b>Crops</b>	<b>99.0</b>	<b>115.0</b>	<b>114.7</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Grains	96.6	125.8	121.3	25.6	-3.6
Oilseeds	79.5	101.3	105.3	32.5	3.9
Specialty crops	93.9	121.1	138.2	47.2	14.1
Fruit	128.1	113.8	122.0	-4.8	7.2
Vegetables	119.9	120.6	120.3	0.3	-0.2
Potatoes	134.6	139.6	125.4	-6.8	-10.2
<b>Livestock and animal products</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>95.8</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>-3.5</b>
Cattle and calves	98.6	91.3	87.0	-11.8	-4.7
Hogs	69.5	56.9	49.1	-29.4	-13.7
Poultry	91.3	104.0	104.1	14.0	0.1
Eggs	98.0	102.8	102.8	4.9	0.0
Dairy	133.8	142.1	141.9	6.1	-0.1

<sup>r</sup> revised  
<sup>p</sup> preliminary

**Study: Life expectancy in the Inuit-inhabited areas of Canada 1989 to 2003**

For many years, researchers have been unable to properly estimate basic health indicators such as life expectancy at birth for Canada's Inuit population, because of a lack of Aboriginal identifiers on death registrations.

A new study, published today in *Health Reports*, partially fills this data gap by using a geographic-based approach to estimate life expectancy for the entire population of Inuit-inhabited areas of Canada.

The study analysed death records and census data in the four areas of Canada, where 80% of their combined populations are Inuit. These "Inuit-inhabited areas" are: the Inuvialuit region (of Northwest Territories), Nunavut, Nunatsiavut (Labrador) and Nunavik (northern Quebec). The study found that life expectancy in these areas in 2001 was over 12 years less than for Canada as a whole, a gap that had widened during the previous decade.

In 1991, life expectancy in the Inuit-inhabited areas was about 68 years, 10 years less than for Canada as a whole. From 1991 to 2001, life expectancy in the Inuit-inhabited areas did not increase, although life expectancy rose by about two years for Canada overall.

Among the four areas, life expectancy was generally highest in the Inuvialuit region and Nunavut, followed by Nunatsiavut and Nunavik.

The findings for the Inuit-inhabited areas do not distinguish life expectancy for Inuit from that of non-Inuit people. However, if the life expectancy of the non-Inuit population (who make up about 20% of the population in the four areas combined) is assumed to be the same as in the rest of Canada, then, taking into account the relative population sizes of each group, the life expectancy of Inuit residents would have been 64.2 years, or 15 years less than for Canada as a whole.

Analysis of the 2001 Census data revealed lower levels of education and income and poorer housing conditions for the Inuit-inhabited areas compared with Canada as a whole. Any or all of these, in addition

to lifestyle risk factors and environmental conditions, could be at least partly responsible for the lower life expectancy in those areas.

In the three five-year periods studied, from 1989 through 2003, the infant mortality rate was approximately four times higher in the Inuit-inhabited areas, compared with all of Canada. However, the absolute difference in those rates fell by 30% from 1989 to 1993 to 1999 to 2003.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3233 and 3901.**

The study "Life expectancy in the Inuit-inhabited areas of Canada, 1989 to 2003," which is part of today's *Health Reports*, Vol. 19, no. 1, online release, is now available (82-003-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Russell Wilkins (613-951-5305, [russell.wilkins@statcan.ca](mailto:russell.wilkins@statcan.ca)) or Philippe Finès (613-951-3896, [philippe.fines@statcan.ca](mailto:philippe.fines@statcan.ca)), Health Information and Research Division, or Éric Guimond (819-956-9344, [guimonde@ainc-inac.gc.ca](mailto:guimonde@ainc-inac.gc.ca)), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. ■

**Natural gas sales**

November 2007 (preliminary)

With warmer than normal temperatures in all western provinces, natural gas sales showed small decreases in the residential and commercial sectors in November.

Sales to the commercial (-3.8%) and residential (-3.6%) sectors were down while sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) increased by 2.3%.

Natural gas sales totalled 6 823 million cubic metres, down 0.5% from November 2006.

On a year-to-date basis, sales at the end of November were up 2.5% from the same 11-month period in 2006 in the wake of across-the-board increases in all sectors.

The residential (+5.3%) and commercial (+3.6%) sectors have posted a higher volume of sales over the first 11 months of 2007 compared with the same period a year earlier, as have sales of natural gas to the industrial (including direct sales) sector (+1.2%).

**Natural gas sales**

	November 2007 <sup>P</sup>	November 2006	November 2006 to November 2007 % change
thousands of cubic metres			
<b>Total sales</b>	<b>6 822 866</b>	<b>6 854 762</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Residential	1 787 834	1 854 343	-3.6
Commercial	1 266 066	1 316 195	-3.8
Industrial and direct	3 768 965	3 684 224	2.3
Year-to-date			
	2007 <sup>P</sup>	2006	2006 to 2007 % change
thousands of cubic metres			
<b>Total sales</b>	<b>63 517 021</b>	<b>61 957 529</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Residential	14 861 087	14 110 371	5.3
Commercial	10 829 965	10 456 938	3.6
Industrial and direct	37 825 968	37 390 220	1.2

<sup>P</sup> preliminary

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.**

For more information, to order data, 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; [energ@statcan.ca](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## New products

**Farm Product Price Index**, November 2007, Vol. 7, no. 11  
**Catalogue number 21-007-XWE**  
 (free).

**Retail Trade**, November 2007, Vol. 79, no. 11  
**Catalogue number 63-005-XWE**  
 (free).

**Health Reports**, Vol. 19, no. 1  
**Catalogue number 82-003-XWE**  
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**The Daily**  
 Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
 For release at 8:30 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Discusses the dependence on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 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 has steadily increased in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **High-wind index, May 1997** 3
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