



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, January 7, 2008**

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### **Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada**

January 2008

This issue of Statistics Canada's free online publication, *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, contains two articles.

The first article, "Literacy profile of off-reserve First Nations and Métis people living in urban Manitoba and Saskatchewan: Results from the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey 2003," presents a broad portrait of the literacy proficiency of two specific segments of Canada's Aboriginal population. These are the First Nations and Métis adult populations living off-reserve in urban parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The article found that overall literacy levels remained low for First Nations adults compared with their Métis and non-Aboriginal counterparts.

The second article, "Taking time off between high school and postsecondary education: Determinants and early labour market outcomes" uses data from the 2004 Youth in Transition Survey to compare employment and earnings of young adults who delayed the start of postsecondary studies with those who went directly to a postsecondary education program following high school graduation. It found that what matters most is completing a postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree, not whether youth had delayed starting their postsecondary studies following high school.

The January 2008 issue of *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 4, no. 5 (81-004-XIE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. From *Free internet publications*, under *Education, training and learning*, choose *Education Matters*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; [educationstats@statcan.ca](mailto:educationstats@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



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## Study: Literacy skills of off-reserve First Nations and Métis in urban Manitoba and Saskatchewan

2003

First Nations who lived off-reserve and Métis adults in urban areas of Manitoba and Saskatchewan performed at much lower levels of proficiency in literacy tests in 2003 than their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

However, a new study confirmed the importance of education for the literacy of off-reserve First Nations and Métis peoples living in urban parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. As was the case among the non-Aboriginal population, higher levels of formal education were consistently associated with higher levels of literacy proficiency.

Furthermore, once education was taken into account, there appeared to be little difference in the literacy proficiency of at least one Aboriginal group, urban Métis, and non-Aboriginal adults living in Manitoba.

The study, published today in *Education Matters*, Statistics Canada's online source of facts and analysis on education, was based on the 2003 International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS).

The IALSS assessed the literacy skills of Canadians aged 16 and over. It collected data from large enough samples of Aboriginal people living in urban areas in Manitoba and Saskatchewan to answer key questions about the literacy proficiency of these populations.

It found that 72% of First Nations in urban Manitoba and 70% in urban Saskatchewan scored below Level 3 on the prose proficiency scale. Level 3 is the benchmark considered to be the minimum for an individual to successfully cope in a complex knowledge-based society.

In contrast, 54% of Métis in urban Manitoba and 56% in urban Saskatchewan scored below Level 3. The proportions were much lower among the non-Aboriginal population: 44% in urban Manitoba and 37% in urban Saskatchewan.

The study suggested that these differences may reflect, in part, lower levels of formal education among First Nations individuals and use of a mother tongue other than the language of literacy assessment.

Higher levels of formal education were consistently associated with higher levels of literacy proficiency for First Nations, Métis and non-Aboriginal individuals. Individuals with postsecondary education were significantly more likely than those with less than

high school education to score at or above the Level 3 benchmark.

For instance, among First Nations in urban Saskatchewan, 59% of the adult population with postsecondary education scored at or above Level 3 on the prose scale. In contrast, only about 14% of those with less than high school education reached this benchmark. The pattern was similar for First Nations in urban Manitoba.

The report also provided evidence of a relationship between literacy proficiency and labour market outcomes.

Among the adult Aboriginal population active in the labour market, employment was significantly higher among those who scored at or above Level 3 than those who scored below. In urban Saskatchewan, about 77% of First Nations at or above Level 3 were employed, compared with 55% of those who scored below. The pattern was similar among First Nations in urban Manitoba.

Among Métis in urban Manitoba, 92% of those at or above Level 3 were employed, compared with 78% of those who scored below. This pattern was similar among Métis in urban Saskatchewan.

The study also suggested that the lower literacy proficiency levels of young off-reserve First Nations and Métis people aged 16 to 35 relative to their non-Aboriginal counterparts warrant attention since this could have a negative impact on their success at school and/or in the labour market, as well as limit their participation in further education and training.

The study "Literacy profile of off-reserve First Nations and Métis people living in urban Manitoba and Saskatchewan: Results from the International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey 2003" is now available online in the January 2008 issue of *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 4, no. 5 (81-004-XIE, free). From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free internet publications*, choose *Education, training and learning*, then *Education Matters*. This issue also presents another feature article entitled "Taking time off between high school and postsecondary education: Determinants and early labour market outcomes."

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; [educationstats@statcan.ca](mailto:educationstats@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

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## Alternative livestock on Canadian farms 1981 to 2006

Canadian farmers appear to have lost some of their enthusiasm for raising non-traditional forms of livestock, according to a new publication based on data from the 2006 Census of Agriculture.

The publication summarizes information on 12 of such species from censuses between 1981 and 2006. It covers the number of animals and farms reporting, average number per holding, and percentage changes from period to period.

During the 1990s, many of these species expanded rapidly, driving up breeding stock values. In the early 2000s, however, some of these populations declined, while some held their own. Species that declined did so because of production problems or in some cases, lack of consumer acceptance for their products.

For example, the number of ostriches, emus and rheas grew substantially in the 1990s, but by 2006, they had declined sharply.

Similarly, the number of goats on Canadian farms more than doubled between 1986 and 2001. However, by 2006, the number had fallen 14% to an estimated 177,700.

During the past five years, the number of wild boars has plunged 37% to just under 21,000.

On the other hand, the most consistent growth has occurred in the number of bison, an indigenous species. Farmers reported an estimated 195,700 bison in 2006, up 35% from 2001. The number of llamas and alpacas rose 23% to around 31,700.

For the past five census periods, the most popular alternative large livestock on farms remained horses and ponies, whether kept for work, breeding or recreation. Between 2001 and 2006, their numbers nationwide edged down 1% to about 454,000, but the shifts varied widely from province to province.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3438.**

The publication *Alternative Livestock on Canadian Farms* (23-502-XIE, free) is now available. From the *Publications* module or our website under *Free internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

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

## Farm product prices

November 2007

Prices received by farmers in November for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, potatoes, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Saskatchewan canola price was \$391.96 per metric tonne in November, up 3% from October and up 26% from November 2006 when the price was \$310.87.

The November slaughter cattle price in Quebec was \$43.86 per hundredweight, down 10% from October and down 25% from the November 2006 price of \$58.13.

Farm commodity prices are now available on CANSIM. Over 35 commodities are available by province, some series going back 20 years.

**Available on CANSIM: table 002-0043.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nickeisha Patterson (613-951-3249; fax: 613-951-3868; [nickeisha.patterson@statcan.ca](mailto:nickeisha.patterson@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## New products

**Alternative Livestock on Canadian Farms, Census**  
years 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006  
**Catalogue number 23-502-XIE**  
(free).

**Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada, Vol. 4, no. 5**  
**Catalogue number 81-004-XIE**  
(free).

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (if article 11-001-XIE) 11-001-XIE



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.



**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 44.9% of Canadians 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 notably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Household Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, value ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

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