The Daily Statistics Canada

Monday, November 24, 2008 Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

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Perspectives on Labour and Income

November 2008 online edition

The November 2008 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, features two articles.

"Bridge employment" examines the notion of retirement as a process rather than a discrete event. Many older workers who cease paid work return to the labour market, especially in the first year after leaving their career job, while many who start receiving a pension stay in the labour market in some capacity for roughly two to three years before they completely cease employment. For many, bridge employment appears to be a choice rather than a necessity.

About 80% of commuting occurs between municipalities within larger urban centres, but rural commuting is more complex than commonly believed, and becoming increasingly so. For persons residing in rural and small-town areas, rural-to-rural commuting is as large as rural-to-urban commuting. Moreover, rural jobs are more than twice as reliant on in-commuters from other rural areas as they are on in-commuters from urban areas. "Rural commuting" explores these patterns.

The November 2008 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 9, no. 11 (75-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Ted Wannell (613-951-3546; *ted.wannell@statcan.gc.ca*), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.





Releases

National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth: School achievement of nine-year-olds 2006

The academic achievement of nine-year-olds has been strongly linked to the knowledge that children have of numbers, as well as to their ability to copy and use symbols, as they enter school at the age of 5.

Longitudinal data show that children who had significantly higher scores on these two measures of school readiness at the age of 5 also had high mathematics test scores at the age of 9.

In contrast, children who had lower scores on the two school readiness measures at the outset of school had lower mathematics test scores four years later.

The high achievers in mathematics at age 9 had also outscored the lower achievers at age 5 on a third measure of school readiness—the level of receptive, or understood, vocabulary.

This supports previous academic research that shows that the academic knowledge and skill that children bring to their first days of school contributes to their subsequent learning in early grades.

The federal government and most provincial and territorial governments in Canada collaborate in monitoring early childhood development in their jurisdictions. Where data are available, they report on indicators of child well-being, including school readiness, every two years.

Mathematics achievement at the age of 9

Nine-year-old children can be found in both grades 3 and 4 in Canada, depending on the school entry cut-off date of their province of residence. Their mathematics achievement at the age of 9 was

Note to readers

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) is a long-term study of children that follows their development from birth to early adulthood.

This article examines the school achievement of a sample of students at the age of 9 to determine whether their academic success was linked to three school readiness measures assessed four years earlier when they were 5 years old. These readiness measures were examined in a release in The Daily on November 27, 2006.

The sample in this study included 3,379 children who were born in 1997, and who were 9 years old during the 2006/2007 data collection phase, which was Cycle 7 of the survey. These children represented around 370,000 nine-year-old children in the population.

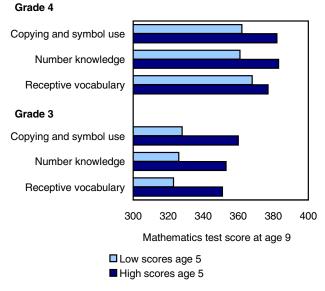
School readiness at age 5 included receptive (or understood) vocabulary, number knowledge, and the ability to copy and use symbols. These abilities were assessed using direct measures, and scores were standardized to take into account the child's age in months.

Mathematics achievement at age 9 was assessed using a shortened version of the Mathematics Computation Test of the standardized Canadian Achievement Tests, Second Edition. The test was designed to measure knowledge normally acquired in school. Because they had one year less instruction, the mathematics test scores of students in grade 3 were lower than those in grade 4.

Household income level was measured as the ratio of household income to the relevant low income cut-off level (LICO) for each family. Income levels in this article included very low income (below LICO) and higher income (at or above LICO).

assessed using a mathematics computation test that was appropriate for the school grade of the child.

Students in both grades who had high number knowledge scores and high copying and symbol use scores at the age of 5 had high mathematics test scores at the age of 9. These scores were significantly higher than children who had low readiness scores at the age of 5. Children with high scores on school readiness measures at age 5 had higher mathematics scores at age 9 than those who had low scores at age 5



Note: Low scores at age 5 were below the median; high scores at age 5 were above the median. Grade 3 and grade 4 mathematics test scores are not comparable because the tests differed to allow for the different number of years of instruction for students in the two grades.

Similarly, those in grade 3 with high receptive vocabulary scores at age 5 had higher mathematics achievement at age 9 than children with low receptive vocabulary scores.

The trend for receptive vocabulary was similar for those in grade 4, but the difference did not reach statistical significance.

These trends appeared for both boys and girls and for children from very low income and higher income households.

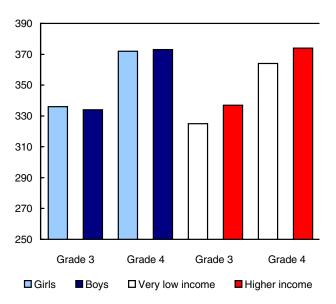
Achievement in mathematics not associated with gender or income

Earlier research showed that girls and boys differed in important ways in their readiness to learn as they entered school at the age of 5. Girls outperformed boys in several areas.

However, new analysis shows that boys and girls did not differ in mathematics achievement by the time they were aged 9 in either grades 3 or 4.

There were no significant differences in mathematics test scores between boys and girls and between very low income and higher income

Mathematics test score at age 9



Note: Grade 3 and grade 4 mathematics test scores are not comparable because the tests differed to allow for the different number of years of instruction for students in the two grades.

Children from very low income households scored somewhat lower than those in higher income households in mathematics achievement in both grades. However, the differences did not reach statistical significance.

Repeating a grade, special education and tutoring were linked to school readiness

One indicator of how well a child is doing in school is whether the child has repeated a grade. By the age of 9, 4% of children had repeated a grade.

Nine-year-old children who had repeated a grade had lower scores than non-repeaters on the three school readiness measures four years earlier.

Additional indicators of school achievement at the age of 9 included whether the child was in a special education program, and whether he or she was receiving additional help or tutoring.

About 4% of 9-year-old students were enrolled in a special education program, while 21% were receiving extra help or tutoring.

Students who were enrolled in special education programs at the age of 9, and those who were receiving additional help or tutoring, had lower scores than other children at the age of 5 in all three school readiness measures.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4450.

The data for the seventh cycle of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY), conducted in 2006/2007, are now available. A more

detailed report on these themes will be available next year.

For more information about the data collected during the first seven cycles of the NLSCY, 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; *ssd@statcan.gc.ca*), Special Surveys Division.

Farm income

2007 (revised)

Realized net farm income (the difference between a farmer's cash receipts and operating expenses minus depreciation, plus income in kind) amounted to \$2.2 billion in 2007, up \$1.2 billion from 2006. The rebound in 2007 followed sharp declines in 2005 and 2006.

Higher grain and oilseed prices more than offset increases in operating costs. Meanwhile, many livestock producers were adversely affected by reduced prices, resulting from the appreciation of the Canadian dollar and higher feed costs.

Realized net farm income declined in several provinces as producers faced large increases in operating costs and declines in potato, hog and calf receipts.

Market cash receipts

Market cash receipts (revenues from the sale of crops and livestock) increased 12.9% in 2007. Crop receipts increased 25.3%, while livestock receipts rose 2.7%.

Grains and oilseed prices started to gain strength in 2006 with the expansion of the bio-fuel sector. As well, weather related production issues in many of the major grain exporting countries and increased international consumption resulted in tight worldwide supplies in 2007. Grains and oilseed producers benefited from marked improvement in prices in 2007, which rose to levels not seen in several years.

Cattle and hog prices fell 2.4% and 4.2% respectively, resulting in a 0.6% drop in farm cash receipts for cattle and a 2.4% drop for hogs. Helping to offset the decline in livestock receipts were gains in the supply-managed sector. Much of the growth for these commodities was driven by price increases, as production costs, including feed, continued to rise.

Overall, producers saw their operating costs rise, as feed and fertilizer expenses climbed 20.1% and 21.8 respectively, while machinery fuel costs rose 5.6%.

Total net income

Total net income adjusts realized net income for changes in the value of farmer-owned inventories of crops and livestock. It represents the return to owner's equity, unpaid labour, management and risk.

Total net income amounted to \$1.2 billion in 2007, up \$1.1 billion from 2006, despite declines in six provinces. Net income improved in Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Note to readers

This release contains revised data on farm income for estimates first released in The Daily on May 26, 2008.

Realized net income can vary widely from farm to farm because of several factors, including commodities, prices, weather and economies of scale. This and other aggregate measures of farm income are calculated on a provincial basis employing the same concepts used in measuring the performance of the overall Canadian economy. They are a measure of farm business income, not farm household income. For details on farm cash receipts for the first three quarters of 2008, see today's "Farm cash receipts" release.

Financial data collected at the individual farm business level using surveys and other administrative sources, will soon be tabulated and made available for 2007. These data will help explain differences in performance of various types and sizes of farms.

Coherence with the Census of Agriculture

Every five years, following the Census of Agriculture, the methods and concepts used to estimate the farm income series are reviewed. Estimates for farm income integrate a wide variety of administrative and survey data from many diverse sources. Consequently, this review is used to improve our data sources, coverage and estimation methods.

As a result of this review, revisions back to 1997 are now available and are reflected in the data in this release. Estimates of receipts, income in kind, expenses, depreciation and value of inventory change have been revised, where necessary, resulting in changes to net cash, realized and total net income and value added for the sector.

The value of livestock inventories fell in all provinces, except Nova Scotia and Quebec, as livestock numbers declined with more animals shipped to the United States for cheaper feeding.

Crop inventories also decreased as lower yields reduced crop production in the Prairie provinces, and producers drew down farm stocks to meet demand and capitalize on stronger prices. The only major grain showing an increase in the value of farm inventory in 2007 was corn, as Quebec and Ontario harvested a record crop.

Agriculture's net value added

Agriculture's net value added rose 19.4% to \$9.7 billion in 2007. The main contributors to the increase were higher grain and oilseed prices and stronger receipts in the supply-managed sectors of dairy, poultry and eggs.

Net value added measures agriculture's contribution to the national economy's production of goods and services. It is derived by calculating the total value of the agricultural sector's production, including program payments, and subtracting the related costs of production (expenses on inputs, business taxes and depreciation). Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0001, 002-0003 to 002-0005, 002-0007 to 002-0009, 002-0012 and 003-0025.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3436, 3437, 3439, 3471, 3472, 3473, 3474 and 5030.

Data tables are available from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

The publications Farm Operating Expenses and Depreciation Charges: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 7, no. 2 (21-012-XWE, free), Value of Farm Capital: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 7, no. 2 (21-013-XWE, free), Farm Debt Outstanding: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 7, no. 2 (21-014-XWE, free) and Agriculture Value Added Account: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 7, no. 2 (21-017-XWE, free) are now available online. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Agriculture*.

The following publications Farm Cash Receipts: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 7, no. 2 (21-011-XWE, free), Net Farm Income: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 7, no. 2 (21-010-XWE, free), Direct Payments to Agriculture Producers: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 7, no. 1 (21-015-XWE, free) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernie Rosien (613-951-1875; *bernie.rosien@statcan.gc.ca*), or Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; *gail-ann.breese@statcan.gc.ca*), Agriculture Division.

Net farm income

	2006 ^r	2007 ^r	2006 to 2007
	\$ millions		% change
+ Total farm cash receipts including payments	36,950	40,691	10.1
- Total operating expenses after rebates	31,189	33,567	7.6
= Net cash income	5,760	7,124	23.7
+ Income-in-kind	46	41	-9.6
- Depreciation	4,849	5,008	3.3
= Realized net income	957	2,157	125.4
+ Value of inventory change	-828	-958	
= Total net income	129	1,199	

r revised

... not applicable

Net farm income

	Canada	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
						\$ millions					
2006 ^r											
+ Total farm cash receipts including payments	36,950	96	380	473	459	6,274	8,853	3,687	6,627	7,811	2,289
 Total operating expenses after rebates 	31,189	86	323	382	375	5,078	7,593	3,213	5,274	6,786	2,080
= Net cash income	5,760	10	57	92	84	1,196	1,260	474	1,352	1,026	209
+ Income-in-kind	46	0	0	1	1	11	9	3	6	11	3
- Depreciation	4,849	7	41	54	52	638	1,126	467	966	1,199	298
= Realized net income	957	3	16	39	33	568	144	10	392	-163	-86
+ Value of inventory change	-828	1	27	-2	23	-99	-144	292	-589	-301	-36
= Total net income	129	4	43	37	57	469	0	302	-197	-464	-122
2007 ^r											
+ Total farm cash receipts including payments	40.691	106	387	459	450	6.863	9,316	4.314	7.632	8.748	2.416
- Total operating expenses after rebates	33,567	96	335	405	388	5,549	7,951	3,520	5,780	7,334	2,209
= Net cash income	7.124	10	52	54	62	1.315	1,365	794	1.852	1,413	207
+ Income-in-kind	41	0	1	1	1	[′] 11	9	3	4	´ 8	3
- Depreciation	5.008	8	41	55	55	665	1.155	460	1.009	1.245	317
= Realized net income	2,157	3	12	0	8	660	219	337	847	176	-107
+ Value of inventory change	-958	Ō	-26	1	-13	84	-321	-62	-312	-296	-13
= Total net income	1,199	3	-14	1	-5	744	-102	276	535	-119	-120

revised

Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

Farm cash receipts

January to September 2008

Market receipts of Canadian farmers from the sale of crops and livestock totalled \$30.5 billion between January and September, up 13.6% from the first nine months of 2007.

Receipts for crop producers rose 28.9% to \$16.8 billion. The increase was due to higher prices resulting from tight world grain supplies and strong demand. Average price increases ranged from 20% for oats and almost 200% for durum wheat. While prices received by grain and oilseed producers rose substantially, the price of their inputs also increased. For example, the Industrial Product Price Index indicated that Canadian fertilizer prices rose 53% while diesel fuel increased 47% during the first nine months of 2008.

At the same time, livestock receipts fell 0.8% to \$13.7 billion. Lower prices drove down revenues for hogs sold for domestic slaughter and for export. Overall, hog receipts fell 11.5%. Revenues for cattle and calf producers declined 3.8%, as a result of falling receipts from animals sent both for domestic slaughter and for feeding. More cattle were exported. Prices fell in all markets.

Both the hog and cattle sectors have been affected by several factors: rising input costs, a strong Canadian dollar, and the anticipation of the US Country of Origin Labelling Legislation with its uncertain effect on the market place. A combination of these factors has exerted downward pressure on prices.

A 6.3% increase in receipts from the supply-managed sector moderated the decline in the livestock receipts. Supply-managed commodities account for more than 45% of total livestock receipts. Poultry and egg receipts increased as a result of higher prices.

Farmers' revenue, which includes program payments, amounted to \$33.6 billion between January and September 2008.

Note: Farm cash receipts measure gross revenue for farm businesses only. They do not represent their bottom line, as farmers have to pay their expenses and loans and cover depreciation. The net farm income for 2007 is available today and the preliminary information on net farm income for 2008 will be available in May 2009. Farm cash receipts include sales of crops and livestock products (except sales between farms

within the same province), and program payments. They are recorded when the money is paid to farmers.

Every five years, following the Census of Agriculture, the methods and concepts used to estimate the farm income series are reviewed. Estimates for farm income integrate a wide variety of administrative and survey data from many diverse sources. Consequently, this review is used to improve our data sources, coverage and estimation methods.

As a result of this review, revisions back to 1997 are now available and are reflected in the data in this release. Estimates of receipts, income in kind, expenses, depreciation and value of inventory change have been revised, where necessary, resulting in changes to net cash, realized and total net income and value added for the sector.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0001 and 002-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3437 and 3473.

Data tables are available from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

The publications Farm Operating Expenses and Depreciation Charges: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 7, no. 2 (21-012-XWE, free), Value of Farm Capital: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 7, no. 2 (21-013-XWE, free), Farm Debt Outstanding: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 7, no. 2 (21-014-XWE, free) and Agriculture Value Added Account: Agriculture Economic Statistics, Vol. 7, no. 2 (21-017-XWE, free) are now available online. From the Publications module of our website, under Free Internet publications, choose Agriculture.

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For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Estelle Perrault (613-951-2448; *estelle.perrault@statcan.gc.ca*), or Heather Miller (613-951-0309; *heather.miller@statcan.gc.ca*), Agriculture Division.

Farm cash receipts

	January	January	January-September	July	July	July-September	
	to	to	2007	to	to	200	
	September September		to	September	September	to	
	2007	2008 ^p	January-September	2007	2008 ^p	July-September	
			2008			2008	
	\$ milli	ons	% change	\$ milli	ons	% change	
Canada							
Total farm cash receipts	29,820	33,562	12.5	9,885	11,040	11.7	
Total market receipts ¹	26,865	30,522	13.6	9,179	10,191	11.0	
All wheat ²	2,936	4,477	52.5	1,046	1,509	44.3	
Wheat excluding durum ²	2,383	3,396	42.5	868	1,304	50.2	
Durum wheat ²	553	1,082	95.7	178	204	14.6	
Barley ²	476	628	31.9	203	170	-16.3	
Deferments	-372	-850	128.5	-203	-436	114.8	
Liquidations of deferments	547	927	69.5	14	18	28.6	
Canola	2,452	3,613	47.3	944	1,279	35.5	
Soybeans	611	535	-12.4	180	126	-30.0	
Corn	659	1,007	52.8	167	268	60.5	
Other cereals and oilseeds	478	691	44.6	234	273	16.7	
Special crops	771	1,157	50.1	366	563	53.8	
Potatoes	630	672	6.7	224	231	3.1	
Floriculture and Nursery	1,316	1,387	5.4	303	320	5.6	
Other crops	2,546	2,576	1.2	1,154	1,140	-1.2	
Total crops	13,051	16,820	28.9	4,630	5,459	17.9	
Cattle and calves	4,789	4,607	-3.8	1,540	1,579	2.5	
Hogs	2,633	2,329	-11.5	833	869	4.3	
Dairy products	3,858	3,963	2.7	1,315	1,314	-0.1	
Poultry and eggs	1,979	2,245	13.4	684	793	15.9	
Other livestock	555	558	0.5	176	178	1.1	
Total livestock	13,814	13,702	-0.8	4,549	4,732	4.0	
Net Income Stabilisation Account	269	236	-12.3	3	3	0	
Crop insurance	327	434	32.7	186	202	8.6	
Provincial stabilization	608	467	-23.2	126	286	127.0	
Other programs	1,751	1,901	8.6	391	358	-8.4	
Total payments	2,955	3,039	2.8	706	849	20.3	

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1. Total market receipts are the sum of crop and livestock receipts.

2. Includes Canadian Wheat Board payments. Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

Provincial farm cash receipts

	January	January	January-September	July	July	July-September
	to	to	2007	to	to	2007
	September	September	to	September	September	to
	2007	. 2008 ^p	January-September	2007	2008 ^p	July-September
			2008			2008
	\$ milli	ons	% change	\$ milli	ons	% change
Canada	29,820	33,562	12.5	9,885	11,040	11.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	78	87	11.5	26	28	7.7
Prince Edward Island	292	274	-6.2	102	87	-14.7
Nova Scotia	338	363	7.4	115	127	10.4
New Brunswick	333	343	3.0	111	115	3.6
Quebec	5,072	5,445	7.4	1,735	2,027	16.8
Ontario	6,802	7,118	4.6	2,334	2,392	2.5
Manitoba	3,229	3,617	12.0	1,097	1,168	6.5
Saskatchewan	5,380	6,733	25.1	1,678	1,999	19.1
Alberta	6,549	7,756	18.4	2,102	2,489	18.4
British Columbia	1,747	1,827	4.6	582	609	4.6

р preliminary

Note: Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

Community Employment Innovation Project

2004 to 2007

Data from the second longitudinal follow-up survey of the Community Employment Innovation Project (CEIP) are now available.

The CEIP is a long-term research and demonstration project managed by the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC) with data collection conducted jointly with Statistics Canada. The project is testing an alternative form of government support for the unemployed in areas of chronic high unemployment, which aims to improve employability while supporting community development. CEIP offered up to three years of employment on community-based projects, which provided a significant period of stable earned income and an opportunity for participants to gain varied work experience, acquire new skills, and expand their networks of contacts.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4445.

To obtain information on the findings from this project contact David Gyarmati, CEIP Project Director (613-237-5298; *dgyarmati@SRDC.ORG*), Social Research and Demonstration Corporation.

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.gc.ca*), Special Surveys Division.

New products

Farm Operating Expenses and Depreciation Charges: Agriculture Economic Statistics, November 2008, Vol. 7, no. 2 Catalogue number 21-012-XWE (free).

Value of Farm Capital: Agriculture Economic Statistics, November 2008, Vol. 7, no. 2 Catalogue number 21-013-XWE (free).

Farm Debt Outstanding: Agriculture Economic Statistics, November 2008, Vol. 7, no. 2 Catalogue number 21-014-XWE (free).

Agriculture Value Added Account: Agriculture Economic Statistics, November 2008, Vol. 7, no. 2 Catalogue number 21-017-XWE (free). Perspectives on Labour and Income, November 2008, Vol. 9, no. 11 Catalogue number 75-001-XWE (free).

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Releases	
Canada's balance of international payments, first The current account writes with the real of the world (on- increased sharply to \$5.5 billion in the first guarter of 2008 exponed controlless controlled with a tower based defici- dity of investment fixes into Canada dised investment about previous guarter, while Canadad dised investment about	a seasonally adjusted basis) led by higher prices for several in the financial account, loveign the acquisitions-driver pace of the
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Published each working day by the Communications and library Services Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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