

# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

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### Perspectives on Labour and Income

June 2008 online edition

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

"Fathers' use of paid parental leave" looks at the impact of changes in federal and Quebec parental benefits programs on the participation of fathers.

"Changes in family wealth" examines changes between 1999 and 2005 in the assets and debts of Canadian families. The study uses "similar" families, defined by the age of the major income recipient, and takes a life-cycle approach.

The June 2008 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 9, no. 6 (75-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; [henry.pold@statcan.ca](mailto:henry.pold@statcan.ca)), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



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## Releases

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### Waste management industry: Business and government sectors 2006 (correction)

Between 2004 and 2006, the amount of waste received by public and private waste disposal facilities rose 8%, according to the biennial report on Canada's waste management industry.

In 2006, the waste management industry handled an estimated 35 million metric tonnes of waste.

Of this total, the amount of waste sent to public and private disposal facilities reached just over 27 million tonnes, up 8% from the level in 2004. The remainder, almost 8 million tonnes, was sent for recycling or composting. The proportion of waste sent for recycling or composting remained unchanged from 2004 at 22%.

#### One-third of waste for disposal comes from residential sources

About one-third of waste sent for disposal came from residential sources, while the other two-thirds came from non-residential sources.

Waste from residential sources increased 3% to 9.2 million tonnes in 2006, while the amount of non-residential waste rose 11% to 18.0 million tonnes.

#### Waste sent for disposal up in all provinces except Prince Edward Island

The amount of waste sent for disposal rose in all provinces between 2004 and 2006 except in Prince Edward Island, where the amount declined by almost 13%. This was the only decrease in disposal in any province during the 2002 to 2006 period. The province's comprehensive Waste Watch program is the likely explanation for this decrease.

Among the provinces, the amount of waste disposed in Alberta increased 24% between 2004 and 2006; three times the national average and the largest increase in the country. Manitoba was second with a gain of 10%.

On a per capita basis, Alberta sent the most waste for disposal in 2006 — the equivalent of one tonne per person. In contrast, Nova Scotia sent only 430 kilograms per person for disposal.

The high per capita disposal rates in Alberta were largely the result of non-residential waste disposal. In terms of residential waste, per capita disposal in Alberta was close to the national average.

#### Note to readers

*This analysis, based on data from the Waste Management Industry Survey, assesses the quantities of waste disposed in landfills and incinerators managed by governments and waste management businesses, and the amount of waste diverted from disposal.*

*It also includes information on the preparation of materials destined for recycling or composting and statistics on the financial and employment characteristics of local governments and businesses that provided waste management services.*

#### Waste diversion: Largest increase in organic wastes

Nationally, the amount of materials diverted from disposal for recycling or composting increased 9% in 2006.

Organic materials destined for composting, such as food wastes and leaf and yard wastes, showed the largest gain, 32%. This was largely the result of expanded organic waste composting initiatives in Ontario and the increase in composting of organic materials from industrial, commercial and institutional sources in Quebec. The amount of plastic materials prepared for recycling rose 21%, the second largest gain.

About 22% of wastes were diverted from disposal in 2006, unchanged from 2004. Nova Scotia had the highest diversion rate at 41%, followed by Prince Edward Island at 38%.

#### Local governments spending more on waste management

Local governments spent an estimated \$2.1 billion on waste management in 2006, up from \$1.8 billion two years earlier.

Provinces with municipalities that spent more money per capita on waste management reported diverting greater amounts of waste per person.

Quebec, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Alberta and Ontario all spent over \$55 per person in total on waste management. All except Ontario and Alberta diverted more than the national average amount of waste from disposal.

Business sector operating revenues rose 17% to \$5.1 billion between 2004 and 2006. Operating expenditures incurred by waste management firms increased 12% to \$4.3 billion.

Just over 31,000 people were employed in the waste management industry in both government and business sectors in 2006.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 153-0041 to 153-0045.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1736 and 2009.**

The report *Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government*

*Sectors, 2006* (16F0023XWE, 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 Information Officer (613-951-0297; fax: 613-951-0634; [environ@statcan.ca](mailto:environ@statcan.ca)), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division.

## Diversion of waste by province and territory

	2004 <sup>r</sup>	2006	2004 to 2006	2004	2006	2004 to 2006	2004	2006
	total materials diverted		change		diverted materials per capita		diversion rate	
	tonnes		%		kilograms		%	
Newfoundland and Labrador	35,308	30,385	-13.9	68	60	-12.7	8.1	6.9
Prince Edward Island	x	x	3.2	x	x	3.1	34.0	37.8
Nova Scotia	239,845	275,983	15.1	256	295	15.4	37.5	40.7
New Brunswick	139,262	252,174	81.1	185	337	81.8	24.0	35.9
Quebec <sup>1</sup>	2,130,100	2,456,300	15.3	282	321	13.8	24.8	26.5
Ontario	2,414,552	2,396,856	-0.7	194	189	-3.0	19.8	18.7
Manitoba	157,490	152,799	-3.0	135	130	-3.6	14.5	13.0
Saskatchewan	114,182	106,868	-6.4	115	108	-5.7	12.6	11.4
Alberta	620,080	652,637	5.3	193	194	0.2	16.8	14.6
British Columbia	1,209,216	1,366,191	13.0	288	316	9.9	30.4	31.9
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	x	x	51.0	x	x	50.0	11.9	15.9
<b>Canada</b>	<b>7,112,735</b>	<b>7,749,030</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>22.0</b>

<sup>r</sup> revised

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

1. Waste diversion data are derived from a survey administered by RECYC-QUÉBEC.

**Note:** Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. This information covers only those companies and local waste management organizations that reported non-hazardous recyclable material preparation activities and refers only to that material entering the waste stream and does not cover any waste that may be managed on-site by a company or household. Additionally, these data do not include those materials transported by the generator directly to secondary processors such as pulp and paper mills while bypassing entirely any firm or local government involved in waste management activities.

**Disposal of waste by province and territory (correction in waste disposed per capita for the Territories and Canada)**

	2004 <sup>r</sup>	2006	2004 to 2006	2004 <sup>r</sup>	2006	2004 to 2006
	total waste disposed			waste disposed per capita		
	tonnes		% change	kilograms		% change
Newfoundland and Labrador	400,048	407,728	1.9	773	800	3.4
Prince Edward Island	x	x	-12.6	x	x	-12.7
Nova Scotia	399,967	401,670	0.4	426	430	0.7
New Brunswick	442,173	450,238	1.8	588	601	2.2
Quebec <sup>1</sup>	6,454,000	6,808,440	5.5	855	890	4.1
Ontario	9,809,264	10,437,780	6.4	790	822	4.0
Manitoba	928,117	1,024,272	10.4	793	869	9.6
Saskatchewan	794,933	833,753	4.9	799	844	5.7
Alberta	3,077,311	3,819,872	24.1	959	1,133	18.1
British Columbia	2,767,657	2,917,080	5.4	658	675	2.6
Yukon	20,800	25,245	21.4	674	809	20.1
Northwest Territories	41,978	42,884	2.2	980	1,011	3.2
Nunavut	x	x	5.0	x	x	2.3
<b>Canada</b>	<b>25,226,765</b>	<b>27,249,178</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>6.0</b>

<sup>r</sup> revised

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

1. The 2004 waste disposal data are derived from a survey administered by RECYC-QUÉBEC. In 2006, disposal data were derived from Statistics Canada's 2006 Waste Management Industry Survey.

**Note:** Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Total waste disposed is the amount of non-hazardous waste disposed of in public and private waste disposal facilities. This includes waste that is exported out of the source province or out of the country for disposal. This does not include wastes disposed in hazardous waste disposal facilities or wastes managed by the waste generator on site.



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## Study: Fathers' use of paid parental leave 2006

Canada's policies on paid parental leave have changed considerably in recent years. In 2001, for example, the federal Parental Benefits Program increased the length of shareable paid parental leave benefits from 10 weeks to 35 weeks, and eliminated a second two week unpaid waiting period for co-sharing parents.

Studies revealed that shortly after these changes were made, mothers increased the time they stayed at home and fathers increased their overall participation rate from 3% in 2000 to 10% in 2001.

However, in 2006, Quebec introduced its own Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP), which included higher benefit rates, no unpaid waiting period, coverage of the self-employed and a five-week non-transferable leave for fathers.

The study, "Fathers' use of paid parental leave," published today in *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, uses data from the 2006 Employment Insurance Coverage Survey to examine the use by fathers of paid parental leave inside and outside Quebec in the wake of these changes.

It found that the provisions of the QPIP had a profound impact on the use by fathers of paid leave in Quebec.

Of those men eligible for the program, 56% claimed benefits in 2006, up from 32% in 2005. The participation rate for fathers outside Quebec remained steady over the three years examined, at around 11%.

However, even though the parental leave benefit program was the same across Canada prior to 2006, Quebec had a consistently higher proportion of fathers claiming benefits.

In terms of time taken, fathers in Quebec claimed an average of 13 benefit weeks in 2005 and 7 in 2006. Outside Quebec, fathers increased their time from 11 to 17 weeks between the two years.

This finding is clearly linked to the large increase in the number of fathers participating in only the five week paternity program in Quebec. The reason for the increase in the weeks of leave for fathers outside Quebec is less obvious.

Many factors can influence an eligible father's decision to use some of the available parental leave. Among them are the financial impact, expected roles for men and women, the flexibility of the program, the labour market and the educational level of the parents.

Some families take the potential income loss of the higher-earning spouse into account before deciding who takes the benefits.

Fathers were 2.5 times more likely to claim benefits if they had a co-claiming spouse who earned the same or

more than if they had a co-claiming spouse who earned less.

Also, fathers outside Quebec were 3.4 times more likely to claim if their spouse did not claim. This suggests that when a family is at risk of not receiving any benefits (which is more often the case outside Quebec), fathers significantly increase their participation rate.

The most common reason for eligible fathers not claiming benefits was family choice (40%), followed by difficulty taking time off work (22%) and financial issues (17%).

Internationally, 13 of 20 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries have paid parental leave programs with at least two weeks available to the father. Of these, 9 have features to encourage fathers' participation.

## Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4428.

The article "Fathers' use of paid parental leave" is now available in the June 2008 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 9, no. 6 (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 Katherine Marshall (613-951-6890; [katherine.marshall@statcan.ca](mailto:katherine.marshall@statcan.ca)), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

## Farm Product Price Index

April 2008

Prices farmers received for their commodities rose 12.7% in April 2008 from the same month a year earlier, as significant gains in crop prices offset declines in livestock prices.

Prices that producers received for crops continued their double-digit increases in April 2008 compared with April 2007. According to the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI), farmers received higher prices for all crops except fruit and vegetables.

However, prices for livestock and animal products were 8.1% below their April 2007 level, the eighth consecutive year-over-year decline as cattle and hog prices continued to decrease. Hog, cattle and calf prices have posted 11 consecutive months of year-over-year decreases. For the last 8 months, those declines have been double-digit for hog prices.

On a monthly basis, prices farmers received for their commodities were up 1.9% in April 2008 from March 2008, as the increase in the livestock index outpaced the decrease in the crops index.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 118.7 in April 2008, up from the revised March 2008 index of 116.5.

The overall livestock and animal products index rose 3.5% in April compared with the revised March index as all prices, except those for dairy and eggs, recorded increases. The cattle and calf index increased 5.1% in April, only the third month-to-month increase since early 2007.

Rising feed grain prices and a strong Canadian dollar have pressured hog prices in recent months. Hog producers exported a record number of hogs in the first quarter of 2008. The hog index increased in April, as sign-up began for the Cull Breeding Swine Program announced by the Government of Canada and aimed at reducing the size of the breeding herd.

The total crops index stood at 144.2 in April, down 1.2% compared with the record March level.

Continued demand and uncertainty over new crop supplies helped maintain grain and oilseed prices at record levels. As Canadian producers start planting this year's crop, markets begin to react to weather reports in all major producing areas and their effects on the upcoming growing season and production.

**Note:** The month-to-month growth rate of the total FPPI is not a weighted average of the monthly growth rates of its crop and livestock components. The growth rate of the total FPPI is derived from a weighted average of the component indices using a different set of weights in consecutive months. Given this, the growth rate of the composite FPPI can lie outside the growth rate of the components.

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

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

The April 2008 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 8, no. 4 (21-007-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module on our website under *Free Internet publications*, then *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)

	April 2007 <sup>r</sup>	March 2008 <sup>r</sup>	April 2008 <sup>p</sup>	April 2007 to April 2008 % change	March to April 2008
<b>Farm Product Price Index</b>	<b>105.3</b>	<b>116.5</b>	<b>118.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Crops</b>	<b>102.3</b>	<b>145.9</b>	<b>144.2</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Grains	104.6	170.0	172.7	65.1	1.6
Oilseeds	90.9	139.6	142.1	56.3	1.8
Specialty crops	114.6	185.5	189.6	65.4	2.2
Fruit	125.3	115.9	121.1	-3.4	4.5
Vegetables	114.1	113.7	113.1	-0.9	-0.5
Potatoes	122.7	130.2	139.2	13.4	6.9
<b>Livestock and animal products</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>-8.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Cattle and calves	114.7	94.1	98.9	-13.8	5.1
Hogs	75.0	53.6	58.7	-21.7	9.5
Poultry	100.0	106.5	111.3	11.3	4.5
Eggs	99.6	103.5	103.5	3.9	0.0
Dairy	134.7	137.1	134.9	0.1	-1.6

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary



## Natural gas sales

April 2008 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales volumes totalled 6 419 million cubic metres in April, down 6.4% from April 2007.

Sales volumes decreased for the residential and commercial sectors as a result of warmer temperatures in most provinces, but increased in the industrial sector (including direct sales).

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

For more information, or 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 and Energy Division.

## Natural gas sales

	April 2008 <sup>p</sup>	April 2007	April 2007 to April 2008
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Total natural gas sales</b>	<b>6 419 386</b>	<b>6 858 684</b>	<b>-6.4</b>
Residential <sup>1</sup>	1 601 520	2 075 223	-22.8
Commercial <sup>2</sup>	1 161 033	1 259 278	-7.8
Industrial <sup>3</sup> and direct sales <sup>4</sup>	3 656 833	3 524 183	3.8

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Gas sold for domestic purposes, including space heating, water heating, cooking, to a residential dwelling unit.

2. Gas sold to customers engaged in wholesale or retail trade, governments, institutions, office buildings, etc.

3. Gas sold to customers engaged in a process that creates or changes raw or unfinished materials into another form or product. Includes mining and manufacturing establishments. Includes firm, interruptible and buy/sell agreements.

4. Represents direct, non-utility, sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

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## Investment in new housing construction

April 2008

Data on the investment in new housing construction (including single dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing, apartments and condominiums) are now available for April.

These series are not offered on CANSIM.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5155.**

To order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nicole Charron (613-951-0087; [bdp\\_information@statcan.ca](mailto:bdp_information@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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## New products

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**Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors, 2006**  
**Catalogue number 16F0023XWE**  
(free).

**Farm Product Price Index, April 2008, Vol. 8, no. 4**  
**Catalogue number 21-007-XWE**  
(free).

**Retail Trade, April 2008, Vol. 80, no. 4**  
**Catalogue number 63-005-XWE**  
(free).

**Perspectives on Labour and Income, June 2008, Vol. 9, no. 6**  
**Catalogue number 75-001-XWE**  
(free).

**Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: A Survey Overview, 2008**  
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