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Releases

Study: Health and development of children of older first-time mothers, 1998 to 2005 3

It is increasingly common for Canadian women to delay childbearing. First-born children of older mothers (aged 35 or over) did not differ significantly from children born to mothers aged 25 to 29 with respect to a number of health, behaviour and cognitive outcomes measured up to the age of 5, with a few exceptions.

Workplace and Employee Survey, 2005 5

The number of workers having access to non-wage benefits such as health-related and retirement benefits, as well as paid vacations, increased between 1999 and 2005. However, fewer workplaces offered performance pay.

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Perspectives on Labour and Income

Autumn 2008 print edition

The Autumn 2008 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, features five articles.

"Fathers' use of paid parental leave" looks into the jump from 3% to 20% of fathers claiming parental benefits between 2000 and 2006.

"Changes in family wealth" divides families into seven cohorts, and compares family assets and debts in 2005 with those in 1999.

"Remittances by recent immigrants" explores the incidence of remitting among new immigrants to Canada, which ranges from less than 10% to over 60%.

"A profile of the Canadian Forces" looks at the personnel of the Canadian Forces as a distinct occupational group.

"Work-life balance of shift workers" examines shift work among full-time workers aged 19 to 64.

This edition also features a yearly update on unionization and highlights recent reports and studies of interest from Statistics Canada and other organizations.

The Autumn 2008 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 20, no. 3 (75-001-XPE, \$20/\$63) is now available. This issue consists of articles published in earlier online editions. See *How to order products*.

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



The Daily, September 24, 2008

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Releases

Study: Health and development of children of older first-time mothers

1998 to 2005

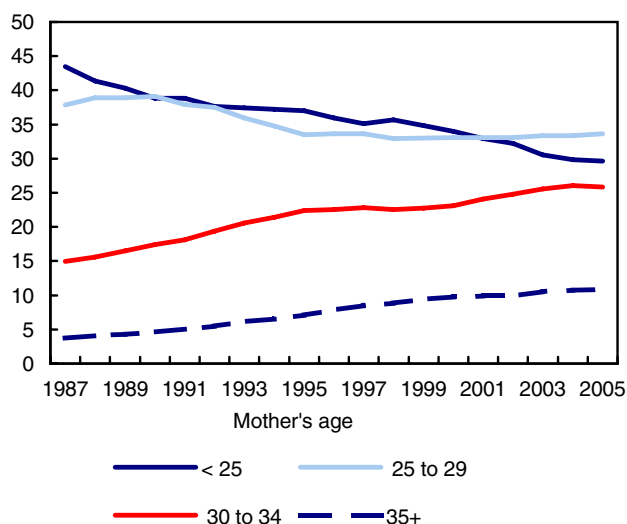
It is increasingly common for Canadian women to delay childbearing. First-born children of older mothers (aged 35 or over) did not differ significantly from children born to mothers aged 25 to 29 with respect to a number of health, behaviour and cognitive outcomes measured up to the age of 5, with a few exceptions.

Trends in women's age at first child's birth

Over the past 20 years in Canada, the proportion of first births occurring among women aged 35 and older has increased. In 1987, only 4% of first births occurred among women aged 35 and up; by 2005, the rate had nearly tripled to 11%. At the same time, the proportion of first births occurring among women in their early 30s increased from 15% to 26%. Medically speaking, older mothers are at increased risk of pre-natal and birth-related complications. Less is known about the relationship between advanced maternal age and the child's development.

Older mothers have increased share of first births in Canada

% of first births



Note to readers

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) is conducted by Statistics Canada and sponsored by Human Resources and Social Development Canada. This study took its sample from the early child development cohorts of the NLSCY that are interviewed at ages 0 to 1 and followed every two years until the ages of 4 and 5. Responses are provided by the Person Most Knowledgeable about the child (known as the PMK), usually the child's mother.

This study pooled the cohorts introduced in Cycles 3 through 6 (1998 through 2005), and retained for the analysis only the first-born children whose biological mother was interviewed at each cycle. This resulted in a final sample of 3,382 0- to 1-year old children who represented about 556,000 children in the Canadian population. Of these children, 2,365 were re-interviewed at ages 2 to 3, and 1,705 were interviewed a third time at ages 4 to 5.

The main comparisons in the study were made between first-born children of older mothers (aged 35 or over), and first-born children of mothers aged 25 to 29 (the reference group).

Child's physical health and development

In the study, first-born children of older mothers were as likely as children of mothers aged 25 to 29 to have received special care at birth, to be in excellent or very good health during early childhood (ages 0 to 5), or to be diagnosed with asthma. They shared similar timing with respect to saying their first word and taking their first step and had similar average scores in physical aggression, emotional disorder and anxiety, and hyperactivity and inattention. Children of older mothers also had similar scores in receptive vocabulary, number knowledge, and copying and symbol use as children of reference mothers.

However, there were a few outcomes for which children of older mothers differed significantly from children of mothers aged 25 to 29. Even after controlling for a number of factors, children of older mothers were more likely to be late to first sit up by themselves, to score lower on the Motor and Social Development scale at ages 2 to 3, and to have lower positive behaviour scores at ages 4 to 5 than children of mothers aged 25 to 29.

Advanced maternal age and birth-related risks

During the study period, a greater proportion of first-born children of older mothers (aged 35 or over) were exposed to several birth-related risks compared with first-born children of mothers aged 25 to 29.

About 23% of children of older mothers had a mother who suffered from hypertension during

pregnancy compared with 13% of children of mothers aged 25 to 29.

About 40% of children of older mothers were delivered by caesarean section, almost twice the proportion of children of mothers in the younger group (23%). And 17% of children of older mothers were born pre-term, compared with 11% in the younger group.

At the same time, children of older mothers were significantly more likely to have been breastfed and breastfed longer compared with children of mothers in the younger group. About 43% of children of older mothers were breastfed for more than six months compared with 26% of children of mothers aged 25 to 29.

Socio-demographic profile

Children of older mothers shared a similar socio-demographic profile with children of mothers aged 25 to 29. About 13% of both groups had a mother with a high school diploma or less, and 6% had a mother who was a single parent.

About 12% of children of older mothers lived in a low-income household, virtually the same proportion as children of mothers aged 25 to 29.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4450.

The article "The Children of Older First-time Mothers in Canada: Their Health and Development" is now available as part of the *Children and Youth Research Paper Series* (89-599-MWE2008005, free). From the *Publications* module of our website, choose *Free Internet publications*, then *Children and Youth*.

For more information, 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; fax: 613-951-4527; ssd@statcan.gc.ca), Special Surveys Division. ■

Workplace and Employee Survey 2005

The number of workers having access to non-wage benefits such as health-related and retirement benefits, as well as paid vacations, increased between 1999 and 2005. However, fewer workplaces offered performance pay.

Generally, access to non-wage benefits was widespread in 2005. Almost three-quarters (74.0%) of workers had access to at least one non-wage benefit, up from 67.8% in 1999.

This increased access was associated with a growth in the proportion of workplaces which provided non-wage benefits, from 41.8% in 1999 to 48.0% in 2005.

The most popular non-wage benefits were health-related benefits: life and disability insurance plans, available to 59.0% of employees; dental plans, available to 56.1%; and supplemental medical insurance plans, available to 51.3%.

Women, young workers and those with less than high school education were less likely to have access.

Among occupations, 4 in 10 workers in marketing and sales received non-wage benefits, compared with 9 in 10 professional workers, the group with the highest rate of coverage.

Workers in retail trade and consumer services least likely to have access to non-wage benefits

Workers in a unionized job, or in one covered by collective bargaining, were more likely to receive non-wage benefits, as were full-time workers. Generally, as earnings increased so did the likelihood of receiving non-wage benefits.

The least likely to have access to non-wage benefits were workers in the retail trade and consumer services industry, where 54.6% had access. More than 90% of finance and insurance industry workers had access to these types of benefits, the most of all industries.

Another widely available non-wage benefit was paid vacations. In 2005, 85.7% of workers were entitled to paid vacations, of which 87.4% actually used their paid vacation entitlement. Workers who were either unionized or covered by a collective bargaining agreement took more days of paid vacation than their counterparts who were not unionized or covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

Personal and family support programs in the form of childcare, eldercare, employee assistance, fitness and recreation services, were not as widespread as the other

Note to readers

This release is based on a new compendium summarizing results from the Workplace and Employee Survey (WES) conducted by Statistics Canada from 1999 to 2005.

The WES is an innovative survey that collects information on a broad range of topics from both workplaces and their employees. In addition to this linked aspect, the survey is longitudinal for both employers and employees, enabling the survey to shed light on issues that would otherwise be difficult to analyze.

This third issue, the final in the Workplace and Employee Survey Compendium series, is divided into four sections: labour market dynamics; market environments; workplace performance; and compensation practices.

The data provide a dynamic view of evolving workplaces and their employees through examples showing the use of the data in cross-sectional, longitudinal and linked analyses.

The analyses presented in today's release are descriptive in nature. The main objective of the compendium series is to showcase the richness of the WES data and its potential for further use in more complex data analysis.

types of non-wage benefits. Between 2001 and 2005, only one-third of the workers had access to these programs.

Nearly 4 in 10 workplaces offers performance-related pay

Many workplaces use performance-related pay as part of their compensation mix. This takes the form of individual, group or organisational incentives.

In 2005, 36.9% of workplaces offered some type of performance-related pay to their employees, down from 40.1% in 1999.

Almost one-quarter (24.4%) of workplaces offered incentives that rewarded individuals based on their own output or performance in 2005, down from 31.0% in 1999. Group incentives were offered by 9.3% of workplaces, up 1.3 percentage points from 1999.

In 1999, 9.7% of workers employed by profit-oriented workplaces participated in a stock purchase plan. By 2005, this had declined to 7.1%. Over the same period, the proportion offering a profit-sharing plan increased from 8.1% in 1999 to 9.1% in 2005.

As was the case with non-wage benefits, larger workplaces were more likely to offer performance pay than smaller ones.

Workplaces in the finance and insurance industry had the highest incidence of all types of performance-related pay.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2615.

The publication *The Workplace and Employee Survey Compendium*, 2005 (71-585-XIE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yves Decady (613-951-4282), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Farm Product Price Index

July 2008

Prices farmers received for their commodities edged up 0.1% from June to July 2008, as a slight increase in the livestock and animal products index was offset by a 2.6% decline in the crops index. This was the second monthly decrease in the crops index since October 2007.

On an annual basis, prices received by producers for crops were up 39.5% in July compared with July 2007, maintaining double-digit increases which had begun in November 2006. Crop prices have found support from continued demand and uncertainty over new crop production.

The overall July prices for livestock and animal products increased 3.9% over their July 2007 level. This was the first year-to-year increase in the livestock index since August 2007 as all livestock commodities posted increases except hogs, which have been influenced by the North American supply, higher feed costs and the stronger Canadian dollar. During this 12-month period, the Canadian dollar rose 3.6% against the US dollar.

Note: The growth rate of the total Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) is not a weighted average of the 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 to 002-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The July 2008 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 8, no. 7 (21-007-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. Under *Free Internet publications* choose *Agriculture*.

For more 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.gc.ca), Agriculture Division.

Farm Product Price Index

	July 2007 ^r	June 2008 ^r	July 2008 ^p	July 2007 to July 2008	June to July 2008
	(1997=100)			% change	
Farm Product Price Index	104.6	125.7	125.8	20.3	0.1
Crops	104.6	149.8	145.9	39.5	-2.6
Grains	105.6	181.7	175.0	65.7	-3.7
Oilseeds	97.0	155.9	155.8	60.6	-0.1
Specialty crops	110.8	195.6	189.6	71.1	-3.1
Fruit	116.0	116.8	117.7	1.5	0.8
Vegetables	114.0	116.7	117.2	2.8	0.4
Potatoes	142.5	145.9	174.3	22.3	19.5
Livestock and animal products	104.3	106.6	108.4	3.9	1.7
Cattle and calves	104.1	104.7	111.6	7.2	6.6
Hogs	74.5	73.3	72.2	-3.1	-1.5
Poultry	103.0	114.7	116.0	12.6	1.1
Eggs	101.2	106.9	108.7	7.4	1.7
Dairy	132.9	138.0	135.9	2.3	-1.5

^r revised

^p preliminary

Railway carloadings

July 2008

The Canadian railway industry loaded 23.0 million metric tonnes in July, down 6.4% from July 2007.

The drop in loadings was primarily attributable to a decline in non-intermodal loadings of wheat, coal, iron ore and concentrates, and forestry related products, such as lumber and newsprint.

Combined, these commodities helped push non-intermodal loadings down to 20.5 million tonnes, a decrease of 7.3% from last year's level.

Intermodal loadings, by contrast, rose 1.3% from July last year, to 2.5 million tonnes. Both containerized shipments and trailers loaded on flat cars saw increases.

Rail freight traffic coming from the United States increased 9.5% from July 2007 to 2.9 million tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The July 2008 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 85, no. 7 (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.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports

August 2008

Aircraft take-offs and landings at Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations remained relatively unchanged in August compared with August 2007. These 95 airports reported 584,870 movements in August compared with 584,891 movements in August 2007

Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0007 to 401-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

The August 2008 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics: NAVCANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations (TP 141)* (51-007-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. This report is a joint publication of Statistics Canada and Transport Canada.

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

New products

Farm Product Price Index, July 2008, Vol. 8, no. 7
Catalogue number 21-007-XWE
(free).

Aircraft Movement Statistics: NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations (TP 141), August 2008
Catalogue number 51-007-XWE
(free).

Monthly Railway Carloadings, July 2008, Vol. 85, no. 7
Catalogue number 52-001-XWE
(free).

Workplace and Employee Survey Compendium, 2005
Catalogue number 71-585-XIE
(free).

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Autumn 2008, Vol. 20, no. 3
Catalogue number 75-001-XPE (\$20/\$63).

Children and Youth Research Paper Series: "The children of older first-time mothers in Canada: Their health and development", 1998/1999 to 2004/2005, no. 5
Catalogue number 89-599-MWE2008005
(free).

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