

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, June 26, 2009

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

General Social Survey: How social networks help Canadians deal with major change, 2008 2

Despite changing family structures, the geographic dispersion of families and increased dependence on the Internet as a source of information, Canadians identified the family as the most helpful resource in an individual's social network during times of major change.

Canadian Community Health Survey, 2008 4

In 2008, 84% of Canadians aged 12 or older reported that they had a regular medical doctor, down from 86% in 2003. Between 2005 and 2008, the rate of Canadians who reported high blood pressure, diabetes and influenza immunization increased. The reported prevalence of asthma remained stable over this period.

Commercial Software Price Index, May 2009 6

Computer and peripherals price indexes, May 2009 6

Steel pipe and tubing, April 2009 6

Primary iron and steel, April 2009 6

New products 7

Release dates: June 29 to July 3, 2009 9



Statistics
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Releases

General Social Survey: How social networks help Canadians deal with major change 2008

Despite changing family structures, the geographic dispersion of families and increased dependence on the Internet as a source of information, Canadians identified the family as the most helpful resource in an individual's social network during times of major change.

Major change was a relatively common experience for most Canadians in 2008. Most frequently reported types of transitions included changes to finances, employment, health, parenting or childcare, and care of a sick or disabled person.

For young adults and those in the career and family formation life stage, the Internet was a commonly used social network resource, usually in addition to turning to people. Conversely, seniors coping with change turned more frequently to neighbours and religious organizations as a resource than did younger Canadians.

Family is the social network most helpful at any life stage

The majority (57%) of the 4.5 million young adults aged 20 to 29 experienced a major change in the 12 months prior to the survey. Young adults viewed change as a positive experience for the most part, and used many parts of their social networks to deal with it. Most (52%) said their family was the most helpful resource, followed by close friends (12%).

Of the 7.1 million individuals aged 30 to 44, many of whom are in the career and family formation stage of life, one half experienced a major life transition in the last 12 months. For those coping with change, the resource most frequently cited as most helpful was family, followed by close friends and professionals.

Major life change was reported less frequently (40%) for the approximately 9 million individuals in the mid-life stage (aged 45 to 64). While family was viewed as the most helpful social resource for change in general for this group, professional resources (including doctors) were the most commonly cited social network resource accessed for health related changes.

In contrast, 25% of the 4.3 million seniors reported a change that had a major life impact. As a result of

Note to readers

This release is based on an article in the June 2009 issue of Canadian Social Trends that uses data collected by Cycle 22 of the General Social Survey (GSS) conducted from February 1, 2008 to November 30, 2008. The data from the survey are being made available for the first time today. The GSS is an annual survey that monitors changes and emerging trends in Canadian society.

Cycle 22 collected information on social networks, as well as information on major changes in respondents' lives and the resources they used and needed during these major life transitions. This made it possible to assess the contribution of social networks in helping people cope with various types of major change.

Respondents were asked which of the following changes they had experienced during the 12 months prior to the survey: financial, employment, health, parenting or childcare, home care of a sick or disabled person, death of a loved one, education, legal matters, living arrangements, family relationships or personal achievements.

Social network resources included: family, close friends, co-workers, neighbours, local government resources, other government resources, business people, professional people, public institutions, social service or health organizations, law or justice organizations, religious organizations, other community organizations, the Internet, and other information and media resources.

About 20,000 individuals in all 10 provinces were interviewed. This article uses only data from respondents who were aged 20 and older. The sample was composed of over 19,000 respondents representing about 25 million Canadians.

the types of change they experience, such as a change in health or death of a loved one, most seniors viewed change as negative. Reliance on professionals such as doctors within the social network became pronounced at this stage in life but family still continued to play the most prominent role.

Internet more common as a social network resource during early life stages

During periods of transition, one out of every four people (aged 20 or older) accessed the Internet as one component in their social network, usually in addition to turning to people in their social network.

Internet use differed across the life stages. Half of young adults and just under half (47%) of those in the career and family formation stage reported having used the Internet to deal with change. This compared with 31% of those in mid-life and 11% of seniors. This

mirrors the general trend in Internet use, which shows that younger individuals are more likely to be Internet users than older Canadians.

Other social network resources used during major transitions

While family was always considered to be the most helpful resource in dealing with change, Canadians also accessed several other components of their social network as a means to cope with change. For example, about 60% of Canadians used close friends and 45% accessed the services of professionals during major life transitions.

Neighbours and religious organizations were more frequently used as a resource for seniors than for young people. Conversely, younger Canadians were more likely to access government resources when going through a major transition than were those aged 65 or older.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5024.

The article "Social networks help Canadians deal with change," is now available in the online edition of *Canadian Social Trends*, No. 88 (11-008-X, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

An additional product with tabulations at the provincial level examining civic and political participation, sense of belonging and unpaid work is also being released today. The report *2008 General Social Survey: Selected Tables on Social Engagement* (89-640-X, free) is 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 Client Services (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.gc.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Canadian Community Health Survey

2008

In 2008, 84% of Canadians aged 12 or older reported that they had a regular medical doctor, down from 86% in 2003. Between 2005 and 2008, the rate of Canadians who reported high blood pressure, diabetes and influenza immunization increased. The reported prevalence of asthma remained stable over this period.

Access to a regular medical doctor

Women were more likely than men to report that they had a regular doctor. About 88% of women had a doctor, compared with 80% of men in 2008.

The largest difference occurred in the age group 20 to 34. About 34% of men said they did not have a regular doctor, twice the 17% of women. Among those who reported having a regular medical doctor, differences between the sexes decreases with age. There were no significant differences beyond the age of 55.

In 2008, 95% of seniors reported that they had a regular doctor.

Rural residents were slightly more likely than urban residents (86% compared with 84%) to have a regular doctor. Provincially, rates were above the national average for having a regular doctor in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and British Columbia.

Among the 16% of Canadians who did not have a regular doctor, 56% reported that they had not looked for one while 43% reported they could not find a doctor. That is, there were no doctors available in their area, medical doctors in the area were not taking new patients, or their medical doctor had left or retired. The proportion that could not find a doctor has been increasing since 2003.

When they needed medical care, 58% of people without a doctor reported that they went to a walk-in clinic in 2008. Another 15% went to an emergency room, while 9% went to a community health centre or a Centre local de santé communautaire (CLSC).

High blood pressure

Hypertension, commonly known as high blood pressure, affected 16% of Canadians aged 12 or older in 2008, up from 13% in 2001.

Note to readers

This second release presents the 2008 data from the Canadian Community Health Survey featuring over 30 health indicators. The analysis in this release covers selected indicators including access to a regular doctor and a set of chronic conditions.

This survey collects a wide range of information about the health status of Canadians, factors determining their health status and their use of health care services. Information was reported by the respondents themselves.

Residents of Indian reserves, health care institutions, some remote areas, and full-time members of the Canadian Forces were excluded.

As a result of the changes introduced to the arthritis module in 2007, analysis is confined to only 2008.

For both sexes, high blood pressure becomes more prevalent with age. At the age of 65 or older, 50% of women had high blood pressure, compared with 44% of men. By contrast, the percentage of men under 65 with high blood pressure equalled or surpassed that of women.

Overall, women were slightly more likely than men to report that they had been diagnosed with high blood pressure.

Residents of rural areas have typically been more likely to have reported being diagnosed with hypertension than urban Canadians. In 2008, 19% of rural dwellers had been diagnosed with high blood pressure, compared with 16% of those living in urban areas.

Residents of Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut had rates of diagnosed hypertension lower than the national average.

Diabetes

Diabetes affected 6% of Canadians aged 12 or older in 2008, up from just over 4% in 2001. From 2001 to 2008, men were more likely than women to report that they had diabetes.

Few Canadians younger than 35 reported having diabetes. Even between the ages of 35 and 44, the percentage was around 3% for both sexes. By the age of 65 or older, 18% of men and 14% of women had been diagnosed with diabetes.

Since 2001, rural residents have consistently reported higher rates of diabetes than those reported by urban residents. Provincially, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick had rates higher than the national average.

Arthritis

In 2008, 15% of Canadians aged 12 or older reported that they had been diagnosed with arthritis.

The prevalence of arthritis rose with age among both sexes, but at all ages, women were more likely than men to report the condition. Among seniors aged 65 or older, 51% of women and 34% of men had arthritis.

Asthma

In 2008, 8% of Canadians aged 12 or older reported that they had been diagnosed with asthma. This percentage has been virtually stable since 2001.

In the population aged 12 to 19, about 11% have asthma. From ages 20 to 64, women had higher asthma rates than men, while there was no significant difference between the sexes in the youngest (12 to 19) and oldest (65 or older) age groups.

Influenza immunization

The likelihood of getting a flu shot was highest among seniors. Two-thirds (67%) of people aged 65 or older had had a flu shot in the past year, compared with 26% of those in the age group 12 to 64.

Among those with chronic conditions, 73% of seniors and 38% between ages 12 and 64 had reported having had a flu shot in the previous 12 months.

Overall, 32% of Canadians aged 12 or older reported that they had been vaccinated against

influenza in the 12 months prior to the survey. This represented a 4% increase from 2003.

Only Nova Scotia and Ontario had influenza immunization rates above the national level in 2008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3226.

Visit the new *Health in Canada* module for the most up-to-date statistics on the health of Canadians and the health care system. The new module is also accessible from the Statistics Canada homepage.

Two products featuring results from the Canadian Community Health Survey 2008 were released June 25, 2009, from our website. The latest electronic issue of *Health Indicators*, 2009, no. 1 (82-221-X, free), provides a set of more than 30 health indicators for Canada, the provinces and territories, and the health regions.

In addition, the new *Health Profile* (82-228-X, free) online application, which is also available from the *Publications* module of our website, provides a place name search to find latest health data available for any health region in Canada.

For more information about the Canadian Community Health Survey, 2008, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; hd-ds@statcan.gc.ca), Health Statistics Division.

For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636), Communications and Library Services Division. ■

Commercial Software Price Index

May 2009

The Commercial Software Price Index decreased 1.67% from April to 73.42 (2002=100) in May.

Note: The Commercial Software Price Index is a monthly series measuring the change in the purchase price of pre-packaged software typically bought by businesses and governments.

This index is available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 331-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5068.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lu Li (613-951-1290; lu.li@statcan.gc.ca), Producer Prices Division. ■

Computer and peripherals price indexes

May 2009

The price index for commercial computers decreased 0.49% from April to 36.80 (2002=100) in May. The index for consumer computers declined 0.11% from April to 18.77.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices decreased 2.29% from a month earlier to 50.70 and printer prices increased 0.60% to 42.20.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 331-0004 and 331-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5032.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the

concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lu Li (613-951-1290; lu.li@statcan.gc.ca), Producer Prices Division. ■

Steel pipe and tubing

April 2009

Data on the production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for April.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The April 2009 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire*, Vol. 5, no. 4 (41-019-X, 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 officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

Primary iron and steel

April 2009

Data on primary iron and steel are now available for April.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

The April 2009 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire*, Vol. 5, no. 4 (41-019-X, 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 officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

Canadian Social Trends, no. 88
Catalogue number 11-008-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Environment Accounts and Statistics Analytical and Technical Paper Series: "Agricultural Water Use Survey 2007, Methodology Report", no. 8
Catalogue number 16-001-M2009008 (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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Catalogue number 21-207-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire, April 2009, Vol. 5, no. 4
Catalogue number 41-019-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

2008 General Social Survey: Selected Tables on Social Engagement, 2008
Catalogue number 89-640-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (English) 11-001-XIE-0001-0001-0001

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
Released at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 2

The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.5 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several imported commodities combined with a lower import bill. In the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada showed a significant increase from the negative value of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

Payroll employment, earnings and hours, March 2008 7

Study: The year to review for education trends, 2007 9

Public sector employment, first quarter 2008 10

Consumer and Mortgage Services Price Index, April 2008 11

Placement of tertiary, college and tertiary profiles, April 2008 12

Health Indicators, 2008 12

New products 13

2008 Census profiles

With the release of the census and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profile is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions. To obtain these profiles in electronic format (links vary by different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.




Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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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The Daily, June 26, 2009

Release dates: June 29 to July 3, 2009

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
29	National tourism indicators	First quarter 2009
30	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	May 2009
30	Gross domestic product by industry	April 2009
30	Health Reports	June 2009