

The Daily

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Releases

Study: Leave practices of parents after the birth or adoption of young children, July 2012

In 2010/2011, the vast majority (90%) of Canadian children aged 1 to 3 living outside Quebec had working mothers who took some type of leave following the birth of their child. On average, the leave lasted 44 weeks.

About 26% of these children had working fathers who took leave; their average leave was 2.4 weeks.

For some parents, this was a combination of paid and unpaid leave.

About 83% of children had mothers who reported that they took paid leave, and 21% had mothers who reported unpaid leave. The average length of paid leave was 40 weeks, while the average for unpaid leave was 4.5 weeks.

The situation was different in Quebec. Among children living in Quebec who had working mothers, almost all (99%) had a mother who took some form of leave. On average, this leave lasted 48 weeks. Quebec has its own parental benefits program—the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan—which differs from the Canada Employment Insurance Program available in other provinces and territories.

About 97% of children living in Quebec had mothers who reported that they took paid leave, while 21% reported unpaid leave. Among all children, a slightly higher proportion of those in Quebec (72%) had mothers who worked after the birth or adoption than those in the rest of Canada (67%).

Fathers took leave in the case of about three-quarters (76%) of children in Quebec. Mothers of children living in Quebec took about 5 weeks more leave than their counterparts elsewhere in Canada, and fathers took about 3 weeks more than their counterparts.

A number of factors, including socio-economic and child and maternal health characteristics, were associated with whether mothers and fathers took leave and with the length of leave.

Self-employment was particularly relevant. Both mothers and fathers who were self-employed took shorter leaves, even after considering factors such as whether the child was first-born, the sex of the child, the mother's age, and parental education and income.

With respect to health characteristics, mothers who reported postpartum depression had higher odds of taking leave. They took significantly longer leave than mothers who did not report postpartum depression.

Note to readers

This article provides a snapshot of leave patterns using data from the Survey of Young Canadians, conducted in 2010 and 2011. The article focuses on children aged 1 to 3 whose parent(s) were working prior to their birth or adoption. The survey provides information on children and on their parents' employment at the time of the survey, as well as retrospective reports on the leave taken during the birth and postpartum periods. It includes a sample of 10,810 Canadian children aged 1 to 9 residing in the 10 provinces. Children living in Yukon, the Northwest Territories or Nunavut were excluded, as were those residing on Indian reserves. Information on leave was collected only for children aged 1 to 3 whose parents were working prior to the child's birth or adoption. Parents provided the information.

This is the final online edition of Canadian Social Trends. In future, analytical articles on changes in Canada's social and demographic fabric, and related studies, will appear on Statistics Canada's website in a new publication on social statistics. It will be available free of charge beginning in fall 2012.

The article "Leave practices of parents after the birth or adoption of young children" is now available in the July 2012 online issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 94 (11-008-X, free), from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Leanne Findlay (613-951-4648), Health Analysis Division.

Sawmills, May 2012

In May, lumber production by sawmills increased 1.5% to 4 777.2 thousand cubic metres. Compared with May 2011, lumber production increased 5.7%.

In May, sawmills shipped 4 666.7 thousand cubic metres of lumber, a 1.7% increase from April.

Note to readers

In January 2012, a number of changes were made to the sampling and estimation methods for the Monthly Sawmills Survey. CANSIM table 303-0009 has been terminated. Starting with January 2012, data are now available in CANSIM tables 303-0064 and 303-0065. Historically revised data based on the new methodology are also available in CANSIM table 303-0064 from January 2003 to December 2011.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 303-0064 and 303-0065.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2134.

The May 2012 issue of *Sawmills*, Vol. 66, no. 5 (35-003-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Motor vehicle fuel sales, 2011

Gross sales of gasoline rose 1.5% from 2010 to 42.1 billion litres in 2011, the third consecutive annual increase.

The increase in gross gasoline sales coincided with a 19.2% increase in average retail gasoline prices, which rose from \$1.04 per litre in 2010 to \$1.24 per litre in 2011.

Gross sales were up in all provinces and territories except Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories. The province with the largest gain in volume was Alberta (+354.7 million litres), followed by Quebec (+185.4 million litres).

Ontario drivers consumed the highest amount, at 16.0 billion litres, or 37.9% of the total, while those in Quebec purchased 8.7 billion litres, or 20.8%. Combined, Ontario and Quebec accounted for 58.7% of Canada's gross gasoline consumption in 2011. Drivers in Alberta accounted for 14.2% of total gasoline sales.

Nationally, gasoline sales peaked during July (3.8 billion litres) and August (3.9 billion litres), the result of increased demand for fuel stemming from the busy summer driving season.

Note to readers

Motor vehicle fuel sales data for 2010 have been revised.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 405-0002 and 405-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2746.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New products and studies

New products

Canadian Social Trends, Winter 2012, No. 94
Catalogue number 11-008-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Sawmills, May 2012, Vol. 66, no. 5
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New studies

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