

The Daily

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Releases

Study: Wages and full-time employment rates of young high school graduates and bachelor's degree holders, 1997 to 2012

The oil boom of the 2000s, increases in real minimum wages and strong growth in the relative number of those earning bachelor's degrees contributed to a narrowing of wage differences between young high school graduates and bachelor's degree holders over the last decade.

The findings, contained in a new study, focused on graduates between the 2000-to-2002 and the 2010-to-2012 period. Over that time, average real hourly wages of male high school graduates aged 20 to 34 employed full-time increased by 9%, while women in the same demographic had an 11% rise.

In contrast, the average real hourly wages of young male bachelor's degree holders was unchanged, while those of young female bachelor's degree holders increased by 5%. As a result, wage differentials between young high school graduates and bachelor's degree holders narrowed.

For every dollar earned by young male bachelor's degree holders from 2010-to-2012, young male high school graduates received 75 cents, up from 68 cents in 2000-to-2002. Female high school graduates, in turn, saw their share rise from 64 cents (2000-to-2002) to 68 cents (2010-to-2012).

Increases in economic activity fuelled by the oil boom of the 2000s—which raised demand for less-educated workers to a greater extent than it did for more-educated ones—accounted for roughly one-fifth of the narrowing wage differentials among young men and young women.

Gains in real minimum wages accounted for about one-third of the narrowing of the wage differential among young women, but had no discernible impact on the wage differential among young men. This was because young female high school graduates were more likely than their male counterparts to have hourly wages at or near the minimum wage rate.

During the period, the number of young female bachelor's degree holders increased by 42%, while the number of young women with a high school diploma rose by 5%. The corresponding numbers for young men were 30% more degree holders and a 16% increase in the high school graduate numbers.

The sharp gain in the number of young female bachelor's degree holders accounted for about 40% of the narrowing wage differential among young women. In contrast, the increase in the number of male bachelor's degree holders had no discernible impact on hourly wage differentials among young men.

While wage differences between young high school graduates and bachelor's degree holders narrowed over the study period, differences in full-time employment rates widened.

For instance, while the full-time employment rate of young women with a bachelor's degree remained around 63%, the rate for young women with a high school diploma declined from 49% to 44%. Likewise, the full-time employment rate of young men with a high school diploma fell from 68% to 61% over the decade, while their counterparts with a bachelor's degree saw their employment rate drop from 72% to 68%.

Note to readers

This release is based on the research paper "Wages and Full-time Employment Rates of Young High School Graduates and Bachelor's Degree Holders, 1997 to 2012", available today.

The study uses data from the Labour Force Survey and examines how wages in full-time jobs and full-time employment rates of young men and women aged 20 to 34 evolved from 1997 to 2012 across two education levels: high school diploma and bachelor's degree.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

The research paper "Wages and Full-time Employment Rates of Young High School Graduates and Bachelor's Degree Holders, 1997 to 2012" part of the *Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series* (11F0019M), is now available from our website.

Similar studies are available in the [Update on Social Analysis Research](#) module of our website.

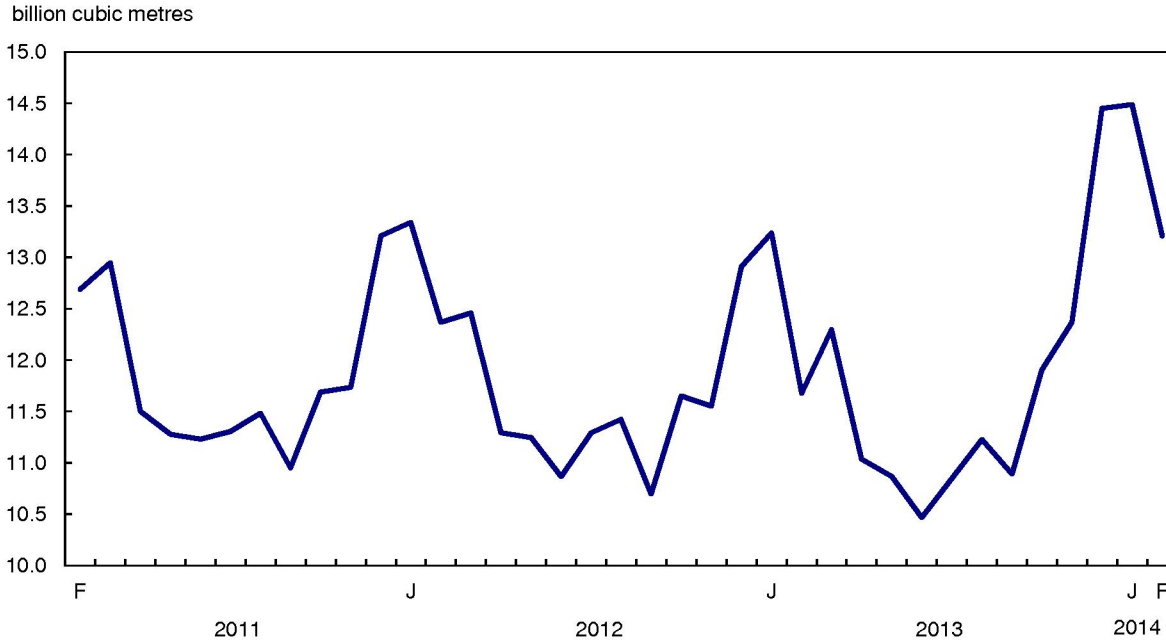
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Natural gas transportation and distribution, February 2014

Canada extracted 13.2 billion cubic metres of natural gas in February, up 13.1% from the same month last year. The ongoing cold temperatures during the 2013/2014 winter season once again led to higher natural gas production. Alberta, the largest producer of natural gas in the country, continued to lead the way, extracting 10.2 billion cubic metres in February, up 16.5% from February 2013.

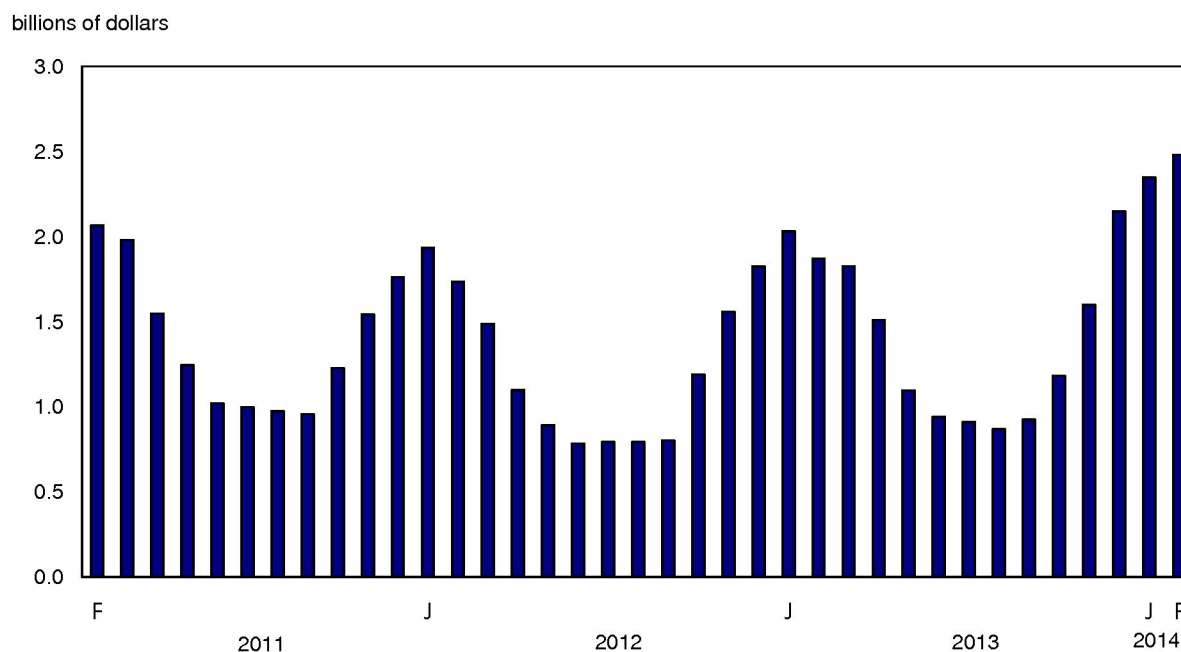
Chart 1
Natural gas production



Cold temperatures throughout Canada once again led to higher total demand by gas utilities (+6.1% from the same month a year earlier to 19.9 billion cubic metres in February). Exports to the United States rose 5.1% to 7.0 billion cubic metres. Provincially, Saskatchewan was the largest contributor to the export gain, with deliveries of 2.8 billion cubic metres. However, by volume, this was down 2.7% from the same month a year earlier.

Following a decline in January, Canada's imports of natural gas from the United States edged up 0.7% from February 2013 to 2.5 billion cubic metres. Ontario, which is the largest customer, imported 2.4 billion cubic metres, up 11.6% from February 2013. Meanwhile, Manitoba (-79.5%) and New Brunswick (-57.7%) both received less imports in February.

Chart 2
Natural gas revenue



Canada's sale of natural gas generated \$2.5 billion in revenue, up 32.7% from February 2013. Factors contributing to higher sales included colder temperatures during the winter of 2013/2014, which led to higher demand and increased volumes (+11.1% to 10.1 billion cubic metres) as well as higher prices (+19.5%) in February. Ontario (+4.1%) produced the largest amount of revenue and the volume of sales of natural gas rose 5.7% to 3.8 billion cubic metres.

Note to readers

Data for December 2013 and January 2014 have been revised.

Available in CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New products and studies

New products

Juristat, Vol. 34, no. 1
Catalogue number 85-002-X (HTML | PDF)

New studies

Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series: "Wages and Full-time Employment Rates of Young High School Graduates and Bachelor's Degree Holders, 1997 to 2012", No. 360
Catalogue number 11F0019M2014360 (HTML | PDF)

Family law cases in the civil courts 2012/2013
Juristat



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-X.

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