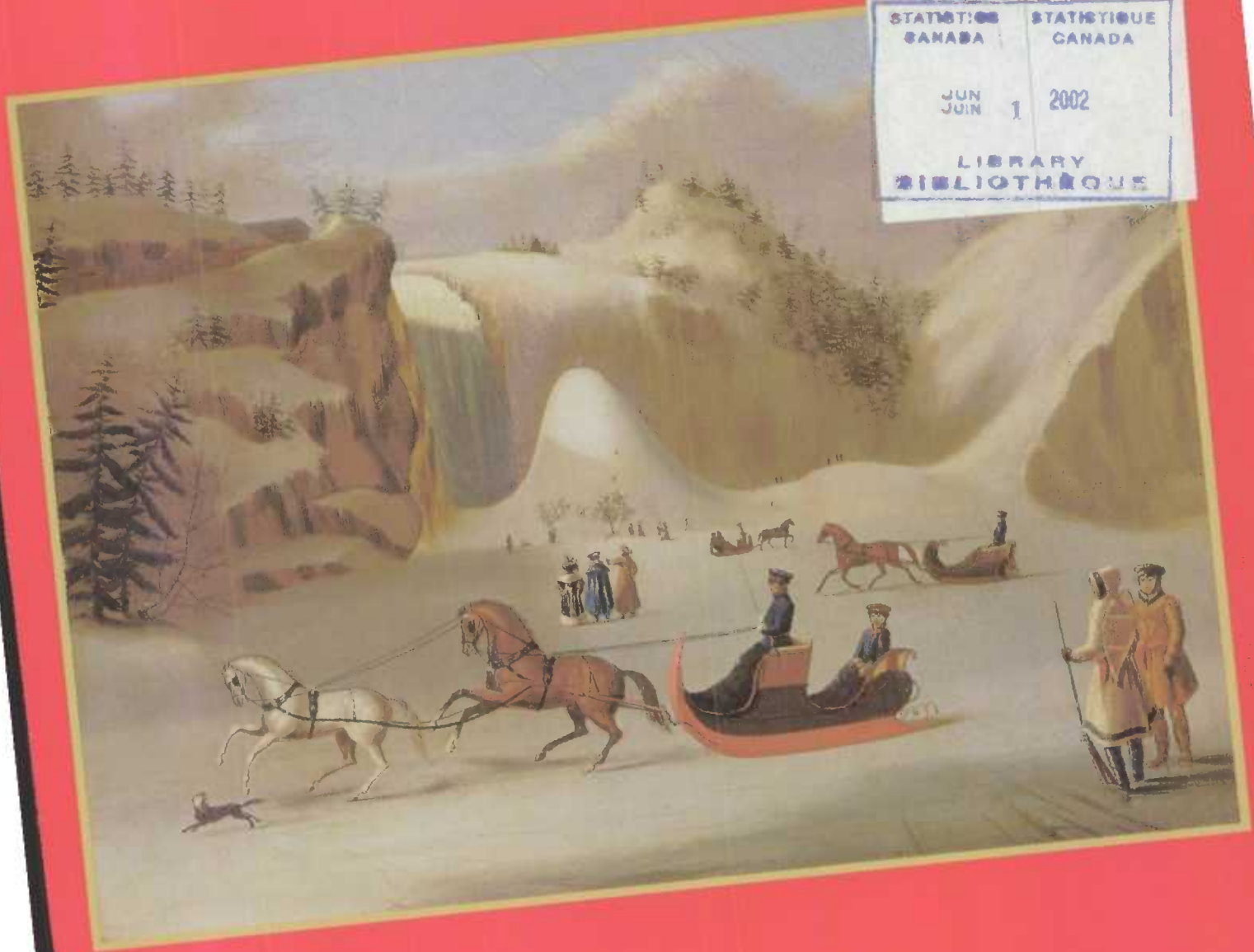
CANADIAN

SOCIAL TRENDS

CATALOGUE 11-008E



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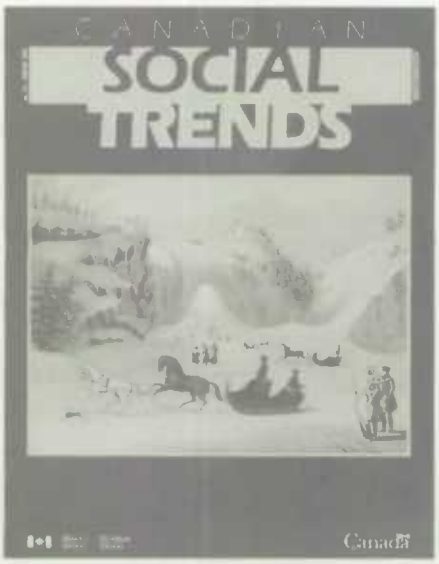

Cover: ***The Ice Cone, Montmorency Falls*** (c1845) oil on canvas, 34.3 x 45.9 cm. Collection: National Gallery of Canada.

About the Artist:

Robert C. Todd (1809-1866) was born in England and immigrated to Quebec in 1834. He recorded Quebec winter life in a series of horse-and-sleigh paintings, and was commissioned to paint horse portraits for various officers and sportsmen. Todd is also known for his views of Montmorency Falls and the Quebec docks. From the mid-1850s until his death, Todd lived in Toronto.

CONTENTS

No. 19 - WINTER 1990

What Canadians are Eating 2
by Tullio Caputo and Neil Poutanen

The General Social Survey 7

Perceptions of the Justice System 8
by Holly Johnson and Vincent Sacco

Computer Literacy 13
by Graham S. Lowe

Sleep Patterns 16
by Tamara Knighton

Children with Disabilities 18
by Katherine Nessner

Reading Skills 22
by Gilles Montigny

Performing Arts 25
by Mary Cromie

Commuting Time 29
by Judith Frederick

Social Indicators 31

1990 Annual Index of Articles — Inside Back Cover

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

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WHAT CANADIANS ARE EATING

by Tullio Caputo and Neil Poutanen

The diet of Canadians is different now than it was in the past. In particular, red meat consumption is lower than in the mid-1970s, while the amount of poultry and fish eaten has increased. Low-fat milk, cheese, and yogurt, as well as fresh vegetables, have also gained in popularity. In contrast, both egg and butter consumption have dropped.

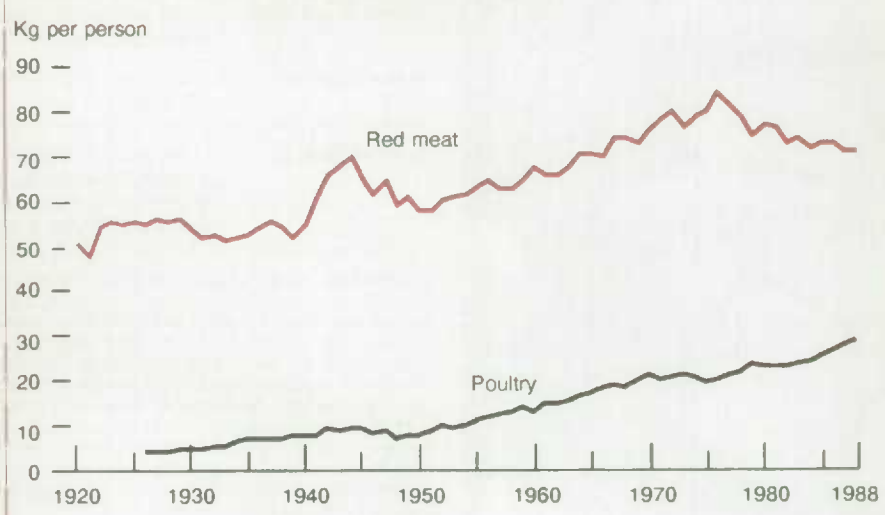
Changes in eating habits have been driven by a variety of factors. In recent years, Canadians have been exposed to an increasing amount of information about nutrition and the benefits of a healthy diet. Scientific evidence has linked certain foods to heart disease, cancer, and other illnesses. The availability and cost of various foods, the development of suitable substitutes for expensive or undesirable products, and marketing strategies also influence consumption patterns. In addition, the changing age and lifestyle profile of the population affects the type and quantity of foods eaten.

Changes in meat consumption

From early in the century until the mid-1970s, both red meat and poultry consumption increased. Between 1920 and 1976, annual red meat (beef, pork, mutton, and veal) consumption rose from 51 kg to 84 kg per person. Over roughly the same

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Average annual consumption of red meat and poultry, 1920-1988



Source: Statistics Canada, Electronic Data Dissemination Division.

period, the average amount of poultry (chicken, turkey, and other fowl) eaten by each person rose from just 3 kg to 20 kg.

Since the mid-1970s, however, consumption trends for these two types of meat have diverged. Average annual red meat consumption dropped to 71 kg in 1988. This drop was driven almost exclusively by a decline in the amount of beef eaten. Between 1976 and 1988, average beef consumption fell from 51 kg to 38 kg per person.

In contrast, poultry consumption continued to increase, such that by 1988, each person ate an average of 29 kg. Chicken consumption accounted for most of this increase, rising from 15 kg per person in 1976 to 23 kg in 1988.

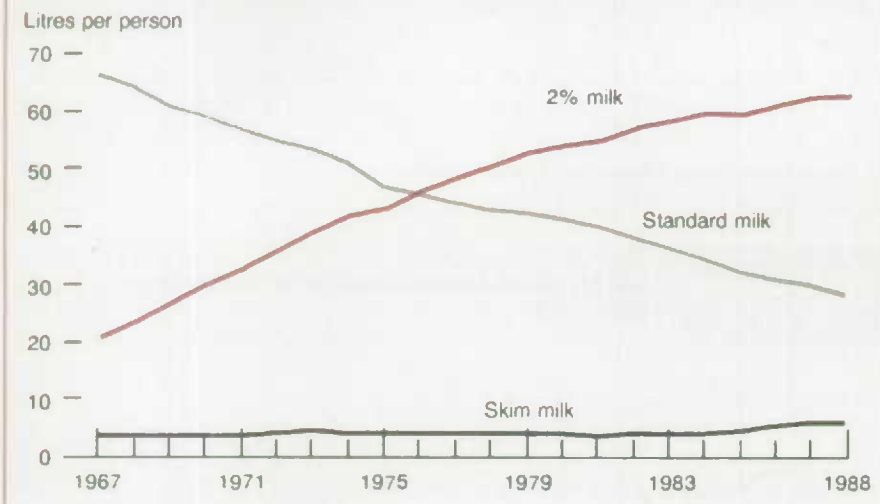
Fish

Although Canadians eat much less fish than meat, they are eating more fish now than they did during the late 1960s. In 1988, average fish and shellfish (fresh and frozen) consumption amounted to 4.9 kg per person, up from 2.5 kg in 1967.

Most of the increase, however, took place before the mid-1970s. In 1976, each Canadian ate an average of 4.7 kg of fish and shellfish. Since then, the annual amount has fluctuated between 4 kg and 5 kg per person.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Average annual consumption of milk, 1967-1988



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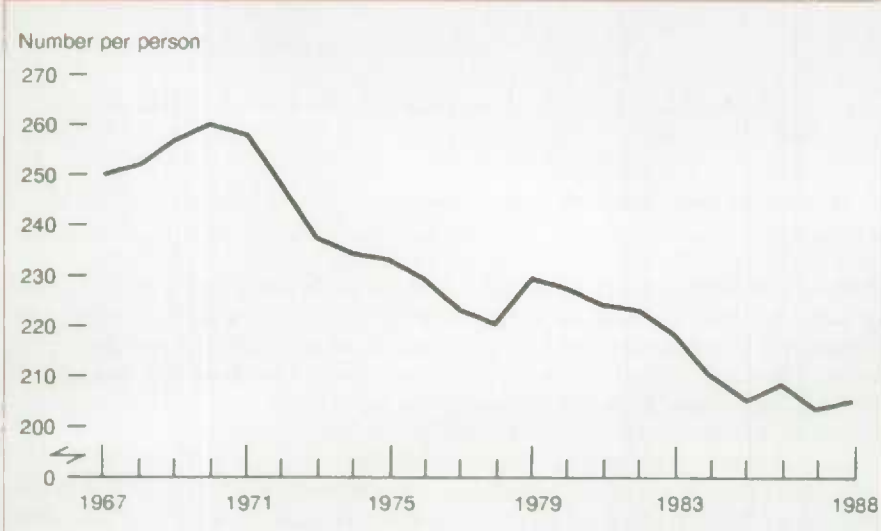
Average annual consumption of eggs, 1967-1988



Source: Statistics Canada, Electronic Data Dissemination Division.

Milk and milk products

Canadians are switching to low-fat milk. In 1988, each person drank an average of 65 litres of 2% milk, triple the 21 litres consumed in 1967. Skim milk consumption has also risen from 3.3 litres per person in 1967 to 5.6 litres in 1988.

In contrast, average consumption of standard 3.25% milk dropped to 28 litres per person in 1988 from 66 litres in 1967.

Cheese, a major source of protein, has gained in popularity over the past two decades. In fact, cheese consumption more than doubled from 2.8 kg per person in 1967 to 6.2 kg in 1988.

Although still low, yogurt consumption has also grown substantially since the late 1960s. In 1988, Canadians ate an average of 0.4 kg of yogurt per person, up from just 0.02 kg in 1967.

Eggs

Each Canadian now consumes four dozen fewer eggs annually than in the late 1960s. Moreover, the decline has been relatively consistent throughout the two decades.

During 1988, each person ate an average of 205 eggs, down from 224 in 1977 and 250 in 1967.

More vegetables

Overall, Canadians eat more vegetables now than they did two decades ago. In 1988, each person consumed an average of 57 kg of fresh vegetables, up from 47 kg in 1976 and 34 kg in 1967. Specific vegetables, however, show different trends. Consumption of fresh cauliflower,

Measurement of consumption

To calculate quantities of food available for human use, imports and beginning stocks are added to production estimates. Data are derived mainly from farm surveys and reports by food industry firms engaged in production and marketing. The net food figure represents the supply of food at the wholesale level destined for retail distribution, where some portion is eventually wasted. Thus, consumption figures include a component that is discarded.

broccoli, and mushrooms, for example, rose quite sharply over the past two decades. In 1988, each Canadian ate an average of 3.0 kg of cauliflower, more than double the 1.3 kg in 1976; consumption in 1967 had been just 0.8 kg per person.

Broccoli's popularity also increased quite rapidly in recent years. In 1988, broccoli consumption was triple what it had been in 1976: 2.1 kg per person, compared with 0.7 kg. The 1967 figure was just 0.2 kg.

The quantity of mushrooms eaten also rose steadily over the past two decades to 1.6 kg per person in 1988. This was up from 0.6 kg in 1976 and just 0.2 kg in 1967.

Over the same period, carrot consumption increased, although much more slowly. In 1988, each person ate an average of 8.8 kg of carrots, a rise from 7.4 kg in 1976 and 6.6 kg in 1967.

Canadians have been inconsistent in the amount of potatoes they have eaten each year. In 1988, white potato consumption was 68 kg per person. Over the past two decades, the average annual amount of potatoes eaten fluctuated between 60 kg and 80 kg per person.

Fruit and juices

Fresh fruit consumption dropped sharply in 1988, after just over a decade of relative stability. In 1988, each Canadian ate an average of 54 kg of fresh fruit, down from 62 kg in 1987. This decline was likely precipitated, in part, by a sharp drop in fresh fruit imports, a downturn in production, and an increase in exports.

Between 1974 and 1987, annual consumption figures had generally fluctuated just above 60 kg per person. Before this period, however, the amount of fruit eaten had been increasing. In 1967, fresh fruit consumption averaged 54 kg per person.

After rising sharply between the late 1960s and mid-1980s, juice consumption dropped off in 1985 and has remained relatively stable since then. In 1988, each Canadian consumed the equivalent of 41 kg of fruit in juice. This figure was lower than the peak of 50 kg per person in 1985, but still more than double the 20 kg consumed in 1967.

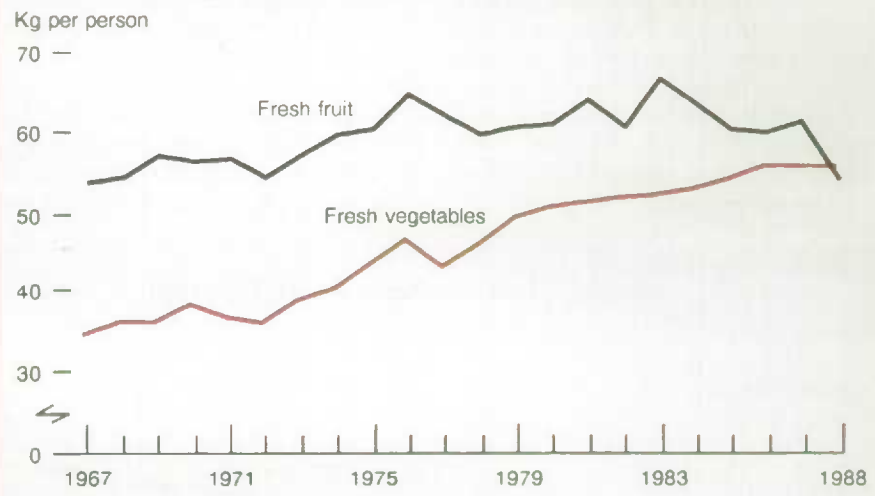
Fats and oils

Total consumption of fats and oils has increased slightly since the late 1960s. In 1988, each Canadian consumed an average of 20 kg of fats and oils, up from 18 kg in 1967.

Over the last twenty years, however, Canadians' taste for specific fats and oils has changed considerably. Butter consumption has been dropping since the late 1960s.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Average annual consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables, 1967-1988



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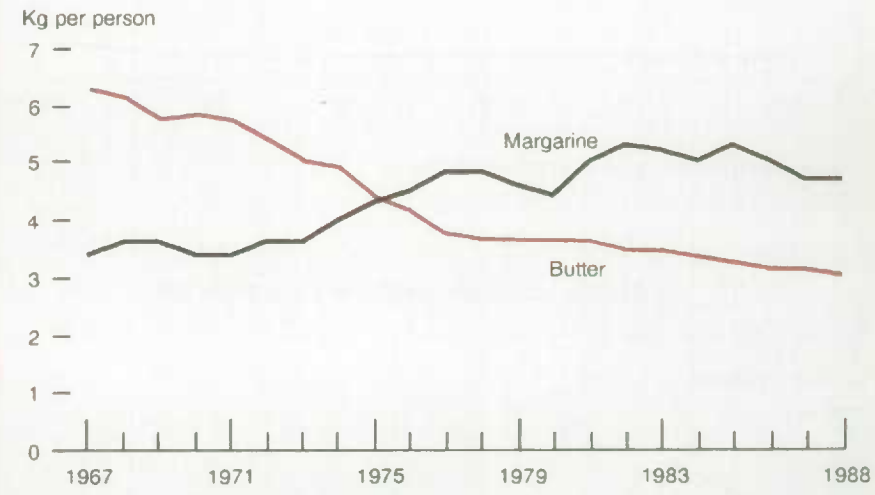
CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Average annual consumption of butter and margarine, 1967-1988



Source: Statistics Canada, Electronic Data Dissemination Division.

In 1988, each person ate an average of 3.1 kg of butter, down from 6.1 kg in 1967.

Margarine consumption rose between the late 1960s and the mid-1980s, but has declined slightly since then. In 1988, each Canadian ate an average of 4.7 kg of margarine, down from a peak of 5.3 kg in 1985. However, this was still considerably above the 1967 amount of 3.4 kg.

Consumption of shortening and oils, although higher in 1988 than in 1967, has been relatively stable throughout the 1980s (between 8 and 9 kg per person annually). For example, in 1988, consumption of these foods averaged 8.5 kg per person. This, however, was up from 6.3 kg in 1967.

Cereals

Canadians eat more cereal now than they did in the past. Between 1967 and 1988, overall annual consumption of breakfast cereals rose from 3.0 kg to 4.4 kg per person.

Since the early 1970s, oatmeal and rolled oats have been slowly gaining in popularity, after a fairly sharp drop during the preceding years. By 1988, each person was eating an average of 1.8 kg of these cereals, up from 1.2 kg in 1973. Before 1973, however, oatmeal and rolled oats consumption had fallen from an average of 2.1 kg per person in 1967.

Refined sugar

Canadians generally eat less refined sugar now than they did in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1988, each person ate an average of 40 kg of refined sugar, down from a peak of 47 kg in 1973. Since 1974, annual consumption has fluctuated between 38 kg and 44 kg. (These amounts do not include the sugar content of processed foods.)

Beverages

Coffee consumption has been relatively stable throughout the last two decades. In 1988, each Canadian went through an average of 4.3 kg of coffee beans. Since 1967, average annual consumption figures have been between 4.1 and 4.8 kg.

On the other hand, tea consumption has declined since the mid-1970s. The latest data indicate that Canadians used an average of 0.3 kg of tea in 1987. This was down from a peak of 1.3 kg in 1974. Before then, annual tea consumption had been relatively stable since the late 1960s, at around 1.1 kg per person.

Canadians now drink considerably more soft drinks than they did in the mid-1970s. By 1988, consumption averaged 90 litres per person, up from 62 litres in 1974.

Both authors are with the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University; **Tullio Caputo** *is an Associate Professor and* **Neil Poutanen** *is a research assistant.*

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THE GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY

In order to increase Canadians' awareness of the statistics available to them, Canadian Social Trends *will, from time to time, provide descriptions of some of the major data sources at Statistics Canada. The following description highlights the General Social Survey, which is the source of four articles in this issue: "Perceptions of the Justice System," "Computer Literacy," "Sleep Patterns," and "Commuting Time." — Ed.*

Statistics Canada established the General Social Survey (GSS) in 1985 to broaden the range of social statistics available to Canadians. The survey was designed to fill some of the gaps in the social statistics program in areas such as health, education, justice, and culture. These gaps cannot be filled directly by existing survey or administrative data sources, either because of the level of detail required or because of the special characteristics of the population in question.

The GSS has two primary objectives: to monitor changes in the living conditions and well-being of Canadians, and to provide information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest.

For instance, the GSS has provided data on informal support and friendship networks, which are of particular importance to Canada's growing number of elderly people. As well, GSS time use data show how much time different population groups devote to activities such as paid employment, entertainment, housework, shopping, and travel. The extent to which Canadians can and do use computers is another example of information gathered by the GSS, which is not available from other sources.

The GSS collects data annually from a sample of approximately 10,000 households. The target population includes all persons aged 15 and over, except full-time residents of institutions and residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Each year, information is gathered on a range of basic socio-economic variables and population subgroups. Every survey also has what are referred to as core and focus components. Core content is chosen on a rotating basis from five general areas: health, time use, personal risk, work and education, and family. Focus content provides non-recurring information on a specific policy issue or social problem.

The first GSS concentrated on health and related lifestyles of the adult population. Core information included short- and long-term disability, health problems, smoking, alcohol consumption, physical activity, sleep, and use of health care services. The focus questions examined social support available to the elderly.

The second GSS, conducted in the last quarter of 1986, collected information on time use, social mobility, and language. The time use questions identified how various population groups, such as students, the unemployed, working mothers, and the elderly, allocate their time. A secondary series of questions about the respondents' education and occupation, as well as those of their parents, dealt with social mobility. The focus component pertained to language knowledge and use.

Core content in the third GSS concerned accidents and criminal victimization. The purpose was to gather information on the prevalence of crime and accidents, including incidents not captured by existing hospital and police records. Focus questions looked at services to victims of crime. Interviews for this survey took place in January and February of 1988.

The fourth GSS, collected in January and February of 1989, targeted education and work. The core content contained three main themes: education and work in the service economy; new technologies and human resources; and emerging trends in education and work. The survey also included questions on attitudes toward science and technology.

The fifth GSS, which completed the first round of core topics, concentrated on the interactions and relationships with family and friends. The core drew heavily from Statistics Canada's 1984 Family History Survey questions on birth, marriage, and cohabitation, as well as the social support questions from the first GSS. Data collection for the fifth GSS was undertaken from January to March in 1990.

The sixth GSS, scheduled for 1991, will return to the core areas of health and lifestyle. This survey will provide both a snapshot of current conditions, as well as an indication of changes since 1985.

Results from the General Social Survey are available in a number of sources. So far, three major GSS publications have been released: *Health and Social Support, 1985* (Catalogue 11-612E, No. 1), *Patterns of Criminal Victimization in Canada* (Catalogue 11-612E, No. 2), and *Accidents in Canada* (Catalogue 11-612E, No. 3). Several other publications are being prepared on such topics as social mobility, time use, employment, and technology.

As well, several articles based on GSS data have been published. For example, in addition to the four articles in this issue of Canadian Social Trends, the following GSS stories have appeared in earlier issues:

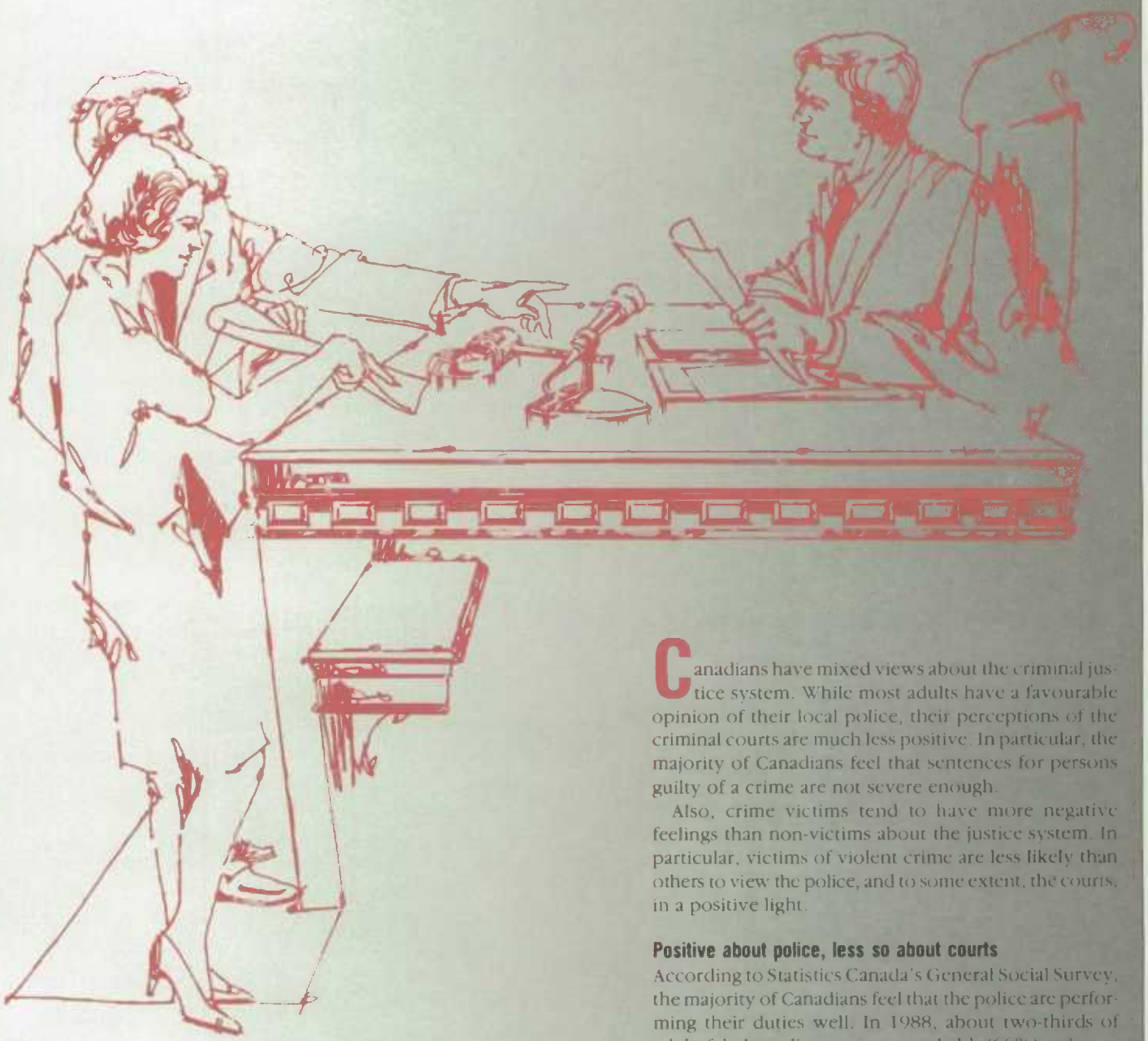
"Lifestyle Risks: Smoking and Drinking in Canada" (Spring 1987)
"Help Around the House: Support for Older Canadians" (Autumn 1989)
"How Canadians Spend Their Day" (Winter 1989)
"Household Property Crime" (Spring 1990)
"Household Chores" (Spring 1990)
"Violent Victimization" (Summer 1990)
"Accidents" (Summer 1990)
"Time Use of the Elderly" (Summer 1990)

Data from the GSS are also available in public use microdata files. Anyone interested in receiving more information or in purchasing microdata tapes is asked to contact:

Dr. Douglas A. Norris, Assistant Director
Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division
Statistics Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6
(613) 951-2572

PERCEPTIONS OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

by Holly Johnson and Vincent Sacco



Canadians have mixed views about the criminal justice system. While most adults have a favourable opinion of their local police, their perceptions of the criminal courts are much less positive. In particular, the majority of Canadians feel that sentences for persons guilty of a crime are not severe enough.

Also, crime victims tend to have more negative feelings than non-victims about the justice system. In particular, victims of violent crime are less likely than others to view the police, and to some extent, the courts, in a positive light.

Positive about police, less so about courts

According to Statistics Canada's General Social Survey, the majority of Canadians feel that the police are performing their duties well. In 1988, about two-thirds of adults felt the police were approachable (66%) and were doing a good job enforcing the law (60%).

At the same time, about half the population viewed the police as doing a good job both in supplying information about the prevention of crime (56%) and in responding to calls (50%).

Much smaller proportions of adult Canadians perceive the criminal courts as doing a good job. In 1988, only 14% of adults felt the courts provided justice quickly. As well, just 16% felt the courts did a good job helping victims of crime, while 25% were pleased with the job the courts were doing determining whether accused persons were guilty or innocent.

Canadians are most likely to see the courts as doing a good job protecting the rights of the accused. In 1988, 44% of adults considered that the courts did a good job in this area.

The majority of Canadians also believe that sentences handed down by the courts are too lenient. In 1988, two-thirds (65%) of adults felt that sentences for crimes were not severe enough. About one-quarter of the population felt that sentences were about right, while very few Canadians judged sentences to be too severe.

Victims less positive

Generally, victims of crime are less likely than people who have not been victimized to have a positive view of the overall criminal justice system. This is particularly true for police performance.

For example, in 1988, 53% of those who had been victims of a crime during the previous year, compared with 62% of non-victims, thought the police were doing a good job enforcing laws.

Also, fewer victims than non-victims thought the police responded well to calls. In 1988, 46% of crime victims, compared with 51% of non-victims, saw the police as doing a good job responding to calls.

Victims and non-victims had fairly similar opinions about the police with respect to the provision of information about crime prevention and approachability. In 1988, 54% of victims thought the police did a good job providing crime prevention information, compared with 57% of non-victims. Also, while 63% of victims thought the police were approachable, this was the case for 67% of non-victims.

Victims' perceptions of the police also depend on the type of victimization they experienced. For example, victims of violence are less likely than victims of other crimes to have positive opinions of the police.[1]

In 1988, 44% of victims of violent crime had a favourable view of how the police enforced the law, while 56% of victims of non-violent incidents felt this way.

Similarly, 46% of violently victimized people, compared with 56% of other victims, rated the police as doing a good job providing crime prevention information.

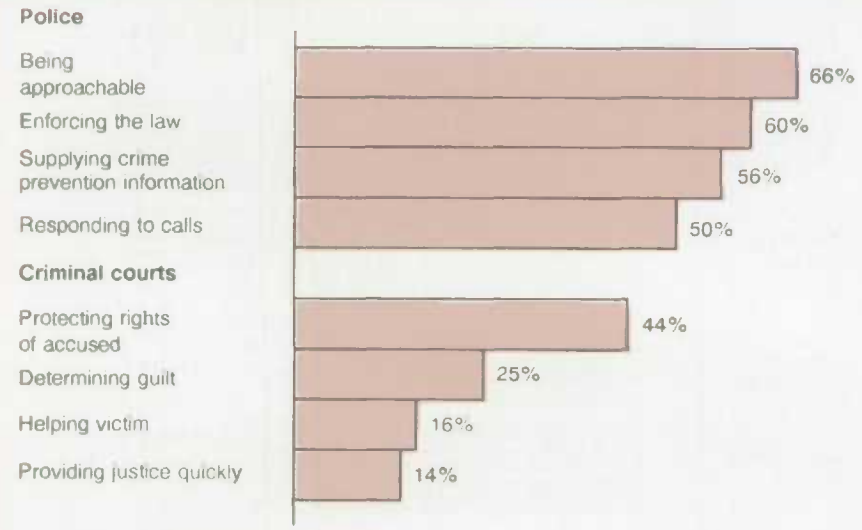
In addition, those who had been violently victimized had a less positive opinion of police response to calls. Forty percent of victims of violent crime felt the police did a good job in this area, compared with 48% of victims of non-violent crime.

Victims of violent crime are less likely to view the police as approachable. In 1988, 57% of people who had been victims of violent crime rated the police

[1] Violent crimes include sexual and non-sexual assault and robbery. Non-violent crimes include break and enter, theft of motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, theft of personal or household property, and vandalism. Both categories include attempted as well as completed crimes.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

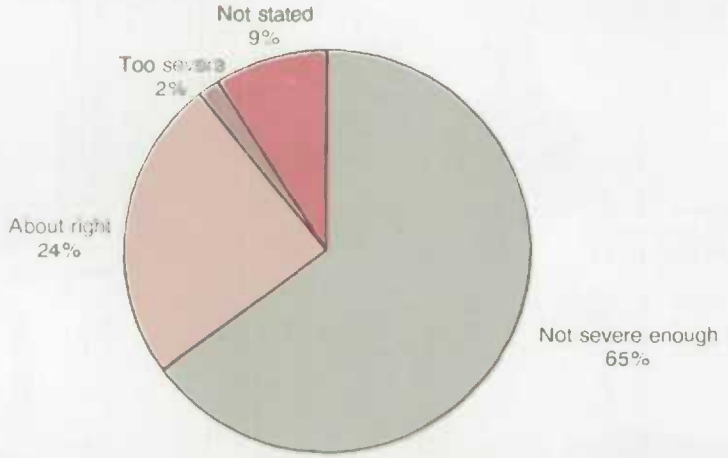
Percentage of adults who perceive the justice system as doing a good job, 1988



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No. 2.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Perception of criminal court sentences, 1988



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No. 2.

as doing a good job in this area, compared with 65% of other victims.

Victims of crime are also less likely than non-victims to perceive the criminal courts as doing a good job providing justice and helping victims. In 1988, 11% of crime victims stated the courts did a good job providing justice, while the figure for non-victims was 15%. In terms of helping victims, 13% of crime victims said the courts were doing a good job, compared with 17% of non-victims.

On the other hand, victims had a slightly more positive view than non-victims of how the courts protect the rights of the accused (47% and 44%). Perceptions of the ability of the courts to determine guilt were almost the same for both groups. Only about one-quarter of each group felt the courts were doing a good job determining the guilt of accused persons.

Regional differences

Perceptions of the justice system vary somewhat in different regions. For example, in 1988, while almost three-quarters of people in Atlantic Canada (73%) and British Columbia (71%) felt local police were approachable, this proportion dropped below 70% in both Ontario (67%) and the Prairies (66%), and to just 60% in Quebec.

At the same time, the proportion of the population who had a favourable opinion of how police enforce the law ranged from close to 65% in Quebec and the Atlantic region to just over 55% in the Prairies.

People living in the Prairies were also most negative about police response to calls. In 1988, 43% of the population felt the police did a good job in this area, whereas the proportion was about 50% in all other regions.

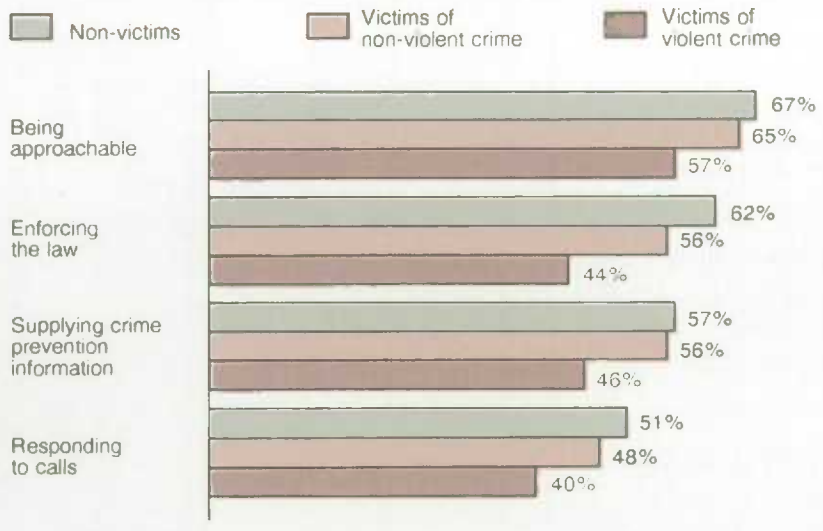
On the other hand, people in the Prairies gave local police the highest rating in terms of supplying crime prevention information. In 1988, 62% of Prairie residents felt police were doing a good job in this regard, compared with 60% in British Columbia and around 55% in the other regions.

There were also regional differences in how people perceived the criminal court system. For example, about one in five people in the Atlantic region and Quebec felt the courts were providing justice quickly. Proportions dropped to about one in ten in other regions.

Quebec and Atlantic residents were also most likely to have a positive impression of the courts' capacity to assist victims. In 1988, 23% of Quebec residents and 21%

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Percentage of adults who perceive the justice system as doing a good job, by victim status, 1988



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No. 2.

Percentage of adults with favourable perceptions of the justice system, by region, 1988

	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia
			%		
Police					
Being approachable	73	60	67	66	71
Enforcing the law	63	64	59	56	59
Supplying crime prevention information	55	55	53	62	60
Responding to calls	51	51	51	43	52
Criminal courts					
Providing justice quickly	22	20	10	12	9
Helping victim	21	23	13	15	10
Determining guilt	29	27	23	27	25
Protecting rights of accused	44	42	45	42	50

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1988.

of those in the Atlantic region felt the courts were doing a good job helping victims. Proportions in other regions were no higher than 15%.

People in British Columbia were the most positive about the ability of the criminal courts to protect the rights of the accused. In 1988, 50% felt the courts were doing a good job in this area. Residents of Quebec and the Prairies were least positive in their assessment of the courts on this measure (42%).

Atlantic residents were most likely to give the criminal courts a positive rating on determining guilt (29%), while Ontario residents were least likely to do so (23%).

Services for victims

While various programs have been established to help victims of crime, some programs are more widely known than others.

Canadians are most familiar with services for victims such as shelters for battered women, community police programs, and court assistance programs. Fully 90% of the adult population knew of such services in 1988.

The majority of Canadians are also aware of the availability of insurance to pay for losses or injury caused by crime. In 1988, about three-quarters (73%) of the population were familiar with this form of compensation.

Most Canadians were aware of civil awards for damages (59%); fewer were familiar with Criminal Injuries Compensation (44%).

One in four (39%) was aware of restitution payments ordered by a judge as part of an offender's sentence.

On the other hand, in 1988, fewer than one-third (31%) of the population knew of victim-offender reconciliation programs designed to resolve disputes.

Holly Johnson *is a senior analyst with the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada;* **Vincent Sacco** *is Head of the Department of Sociology at Queen's University.*

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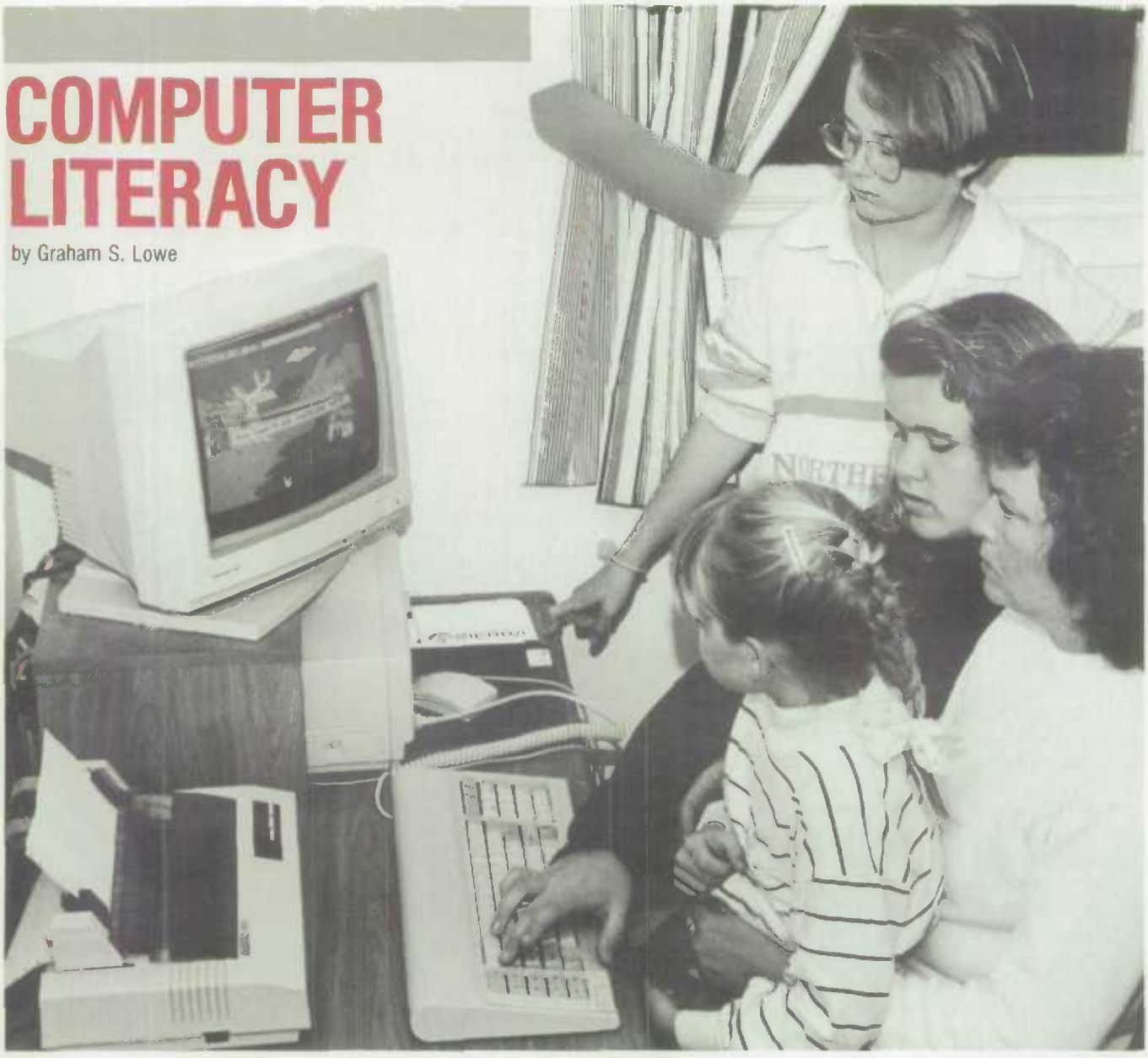
COMPUTER LITERACY

by Graham S. Lowe



Computers are now part of daily life for a growing number of Canadians. The 1980s witnessed technological innovations as business, industry, government, and educational institutions became increasingly computer-dependent. In the 1990s, the ability to use a computer will be more and more necessary in order to cope with the demands of many occupations or with school work.

Computer know-how

According to Statistics Canada's General Social Survey, in 1989, 9.6 million Canadians, just under half (47%) the adult population, reported being able to use a computer.

Computer literacy is, by far, most prevalent among teenagers. In 1989, 82% of

Computer use, training, and ownership, by age, 1989

Age group	Able to use	Formal training	Computer in home
		%	
15-19	82	63	35
20-24	66	53	16
25-34	60	38	17
35-44	56	35	30
45-54	38	23	25
55-64	22	12	10
65 and over	6	5	3
Total	**47**	**32**	**19**

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1989.

15-19-year-olds knew how to use a computer. For people aged 20-24, the figure was 66%, and at ages 25-34, 60%. Even at ages 35-44, 56% of people were computer literate. After age 45, however, proportions dropped sharply with 38% of 45-54-year-olds and 22% of 55-64-year-olds knowing how to use a computer. Just 6% of people aged 65 and over were computer literate.

Regional differences

The proportion of people with computer skills varies somewhat in different regions. In 1989, around half the adult population in Alberta (55%), Ontario (52%), and British Columbia (50%) could use a computer. This compared with 46% of adults in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and 40% in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

Many uses

Computers have a variety of uses. In the 12 months preceding the survey, playing games was the most commonly reported use (73% of users), although only 16% of people with computer skills used the technology solely for games. Not unexpectedly, game playing was most prevalent among teenage computer users (92%) and declined steadily in successive age groups to fewer than half of 55-64-year-olds (47%).

Word processing and data entry were each reported by 63% of users. It is somewhat surprising that word processing was also most prevalent among younger age groups. However, this high level of word processing activity among teenagers (72%) may be related to their use of this technology for school assignments. Data entry, on the other hand, was performed most often by people in the 25-54 age range (65%).

Two other work-related computer uses, record-keeping and data analysis, are less common. Just under half (48%) of users reported that they had done record-keeping, while about a third (32%) had performed data analysis. As well, these activities tended to be most prevalent among computer users in the prime working ages.

A comparatively small number of computer users are involved in programming. About a quarter (26%) of users indicated that they had programmed computers. The group most likely to have done so were teenagers (49%). This may reflect the large number of students who do programming as part of their course work.

Computer literacy in the workforce

People in the labour force are more likely than others to be computer literate. In 1989, close to six in ten employed adults (57%) could use computers, and more than half (52%) of those who were unemployed were able to do so. By contrast, just 18% of people keeping house and 8% of those who were retired were computer literate.

Computer knowledge, however, varies widely among people in different occupations. The occupational group with the highest rate of computer literacy in 1989 was physical/natural sciences and engineering: fully 88% of the people in this field knew how to use a computer.

At the same time, 76% of people in clerical occupations were able to use a computer, as were 70% of those in teaching. As well, 69% of people with jobs in management/administration were computer literate, while the figure was 63% in sales.

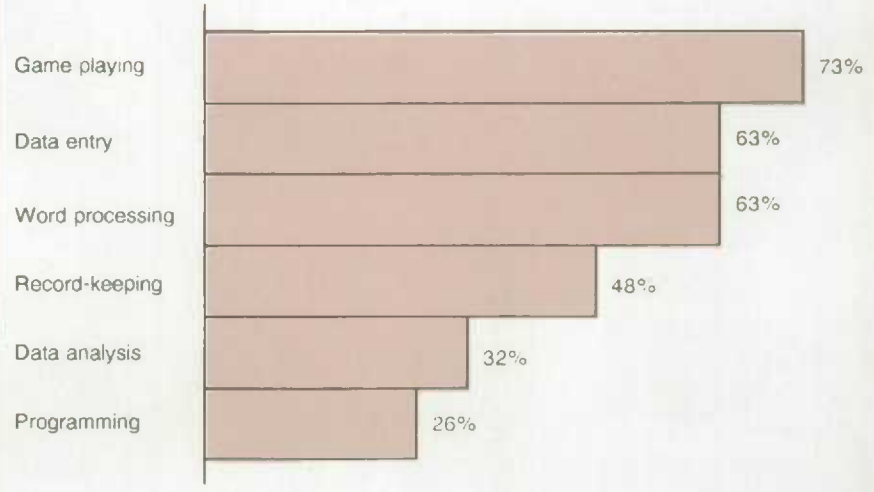
On the other hand, in a number of occupations that accounted for a large proportion of workers, the level of computer literacy was relatively low: primary (25%), processing (28%), nursing (33%), machining (35%), construction (38%), product fabricating, assembling and repairing (39%), transportation (40%), and services (44%).

Computer courses

The majority of computer users have gained some skills through formal training. In 1989, almost 6.4 million people, representing two-thirds of those who could operate a computer, reported that they

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Computer usage by the population aged 15 and over who can use computers, 1989



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1989.

Computer users, by age and type of use, 1989

Age group	Game playing	Word processing	Data entry	Record-keeping	Data analysis	Programming
			%			
15-19	92	72	61	38	24	49
20-24	79	65	60	46	28	26
25-34	72	60	65	50	35	23
35-44	71	63	66	52	39	21
45-54	59	60	65	51	31	15
55-64	47	52	61	51	35	14
65 and over	72	40	41	32	18	14

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1989.

had taken a computer course. As a proportion of the population aged 15 and over, those who had computer training represented 32%.

Participation in computer courses, however, varies at different ages and is highest among teenagers. Close to two-thirds (63%) of 15-19-year-olds had taken a computer course, as had 53% of people aged 20-24. For many of these young people, computer training may have been part of their regular school work.

Among older people, participation in computer training is less prevalent. Over a third (37%) of those aged 25-44 had taken a computer course. The figure was 23% at ages 45-54 and 12% at ages 55-64. Seniors aged 65 and over were the group least likely to have enrolled, with just 5% reporting that they had taken a course.

Not surprisingly, computer training is related to overall educational attainment. More than half (57%) of people with university degrees had taken a computer course, compared with 35% of individuals with a high school diploma and 17% of those with less than high school.

Computers in the home

The shrinking size, user friendliness, and relative affordability of the new generation of personal computers have transformed them into a household technology. In 1989, 3.9 million Canadians, 19% of all adults, reported that they had a computer in their home.

Ontario and British Columbia residents were more likely than other Canadians to have home computers. In 1989, 23% of people in Ontario and 22% of those in British Columbia reported that they had a computer in their home. The ownership rate was also just above the national average in Alberta (20%). By contrast, rates of ownership were relatively low in Quebec (17%), the Atlantic provinces (16%), and Manitoba and Saskatchewan (15%).

Computer ownership rates tend to be highest among well-educated people. Whereas 35% of university degree-holders had home computers in 1989, the proportion was 20% among people with a post-secondary diploma and 19% among those with a high school diploma. For people with less than high school graduation, the figure was 14%.

Owning a computer is also associated with a relatively high income. While 36% of people in households with incomes of $60,000 or more reported having home computers, the proportion was 10% among those in households with incomes below $30,000.

Use of home computers

Although a substantial number of Canadians have a computer in their home, they do not necessarily use it, as the equipment may be operated by other household members. In 1989, 66% of people with computers in their homes reported having used them in the previous 12 months.

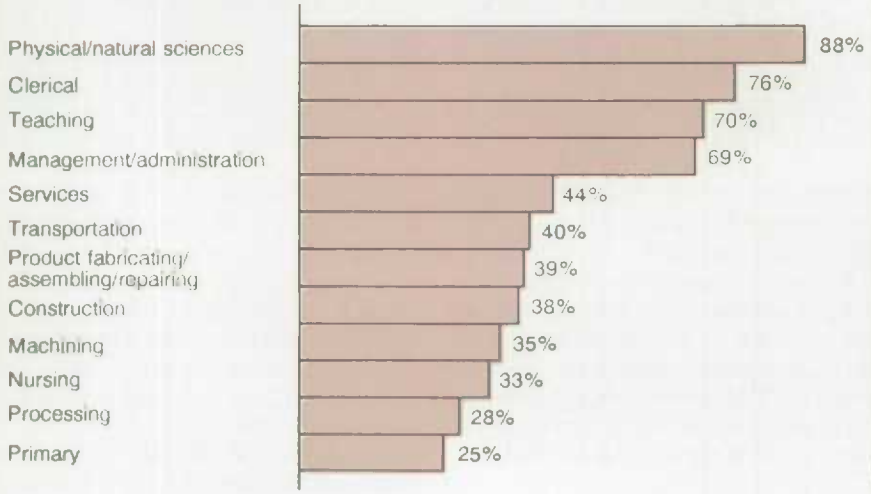
The most common application reported by home computer users was game playing. However, although 83% of users had played computer games, just 6% of users indicated that this was the only way in which they had used their equipment.

In fact, almost as many people (82%) used their computer for word processing as for playing games. Close to three-quarters (72%) of users had entered data, and 60% reported that they had done record-keeping. On the other hand, fewer than half had analysed data (43%) or programmed their computers (40%).

Graham S. Lowe *is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Alberta.*

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Ability to use computers, by selected occupations, 1989



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1989.

SLEEP PATTERNS

by Tamara Knighton

Sleep is a physiological necessity that consumes about one-third of a typical day. Although most Canadians get more than 6.5 hours of sleep a night, about one-quarter of adults sleep less than this.

When lack of sleep becomes chronic and extensive, it can have serious consequences such as impaired judgment and delayed reaction time, which, in turn, may result in automobile and industrial accidents. Also, the health and productivity of people who are not getting adequate sleep may be affected.

According to Statistics Canada's General Social Survey, conducted in November and December of 1986, sleeping less than 6.5 hours a night tends to be relatively common among some groups. People in their middle years and those who are employed, particularly full-time workers, are most likely to get less than 6.5 hours of sleep.

Eight hours

Most people appear to get enough sleep. In 1986, Canadians aged 15 and over averaged 8.2 hours of sleep a night. As well, almost three-quarters got at least 6.5 hours of sleep: 57% slept between 6.5 and 8.5 hours, while 15% slept more than 8.5 hours. Nonetheless, about one in four (28%) adults slept less than 6.5 hours a night.

Women sleep longer

Generally, women get slightly more sleep than men. In 1986, women averaged 8.3 hours a night, compared with 8.1 hours for men. And overall, a higher percentage of men (31%) than women (25%) slept less than 6.5 hours.

Even when factors such as work and the presence of children are considered, women still sleep longer.

For instance, employed women with at least one child under age 5 at home averaged 8.0 hours of sleep a night in 1986, compared with 7.7 hours for their male counterparts. As well, while 30% of these women slept less than 6.5 hours, the figure for men was 43%.

People in households without young children get more sleep, but again, the difference between women and men persists. Employed women with no children under age 19 at home slept an average of 8.1 hours a night in 1986, whereas men in these circumstances averaged 7.9 hours.

People in middle years sleep less

Sleep duration varies markedly at different ages. People aged 25-64 tend to sleep somewhat less than do those at younger and older ages. In 1986, nightly sleep averaged 7.9 hours for 35-54-year-olds, 8.0 hours for those aged 25-34, and 8.2 hours for people aged 55-64.

On the other hand, the 15-24 age group averaged 8.6 hours a night in 1986. The elderly slept the most of any group, averaging 8.7 hours.

As well, getting relatively little sleep at night is most common among people in their middle years. More than a third (35%) of 35-54-year-olds slept less than 6.5 hours a night in 1986, while this was

the case for 31% of people aged 25-34. About one-quarter of those aged 15-24 (24%) and 55-64 (25%) slept less than 6.5 hours. However, the comparable figure for the elderly was only 16%.

These patterns were the same for men and women, although at all ages, men tended to sleep less.

Less sleep for workers

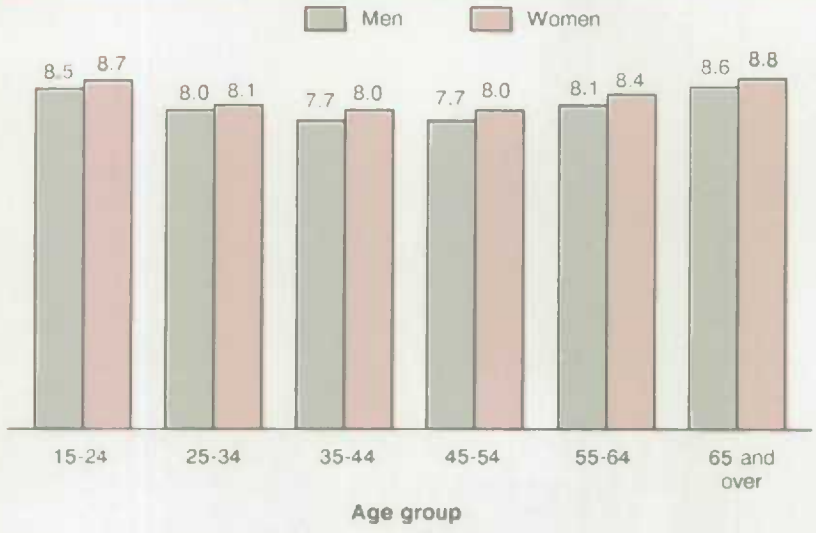
People working for pay sleep less than those who do not. In 1986, full-time workers averaged 7.9 hours of sleep a night. Part-time workers slept longer, with an average of 8.3 hours.

Among people who were not working for pay, job-seekers slept the most, averaging 8.9 hours. Retirees slept almost as long (8.7 hours), while averages were lower for students (8.5 hours) and people keeping house (8.4 hours).

People with full-time jobs are most likely to get relatively little sleep. More than a third (35%) of this group averaged less than 6.5 hours of sleep a night in 1986. The corresponding figure for part-time workers was 25%, and for students, 24%. Job-seekers (21%) and people keeping house (22%) were not as likely to be sleep-deprived. Comparatively few retirees (14%) got less than 6.5 hours of sleep.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

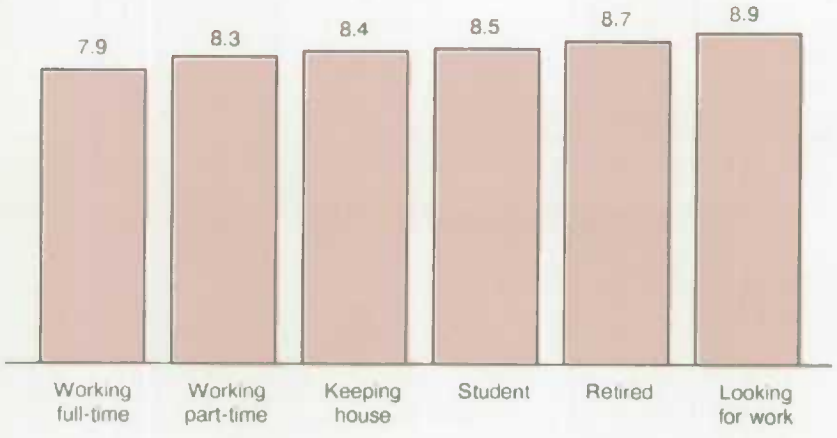
Average hours of sleep, by age and sex, 1986



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1986.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Average hours of sleep, by major activity, 1986



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1986.

Catching up

Sleep duration varies substantially on different days. Not surprisingly, people sleep longer on weekends.

In 1986, average weekend sleep duration was 8.9 hours a night, compared with 8.0 hours on weekdays. Also, more than twice as many people slept more than 8.5 hours a night on weekends (27%) than on weekdays (11%).

Napping

As well, a considerable number of Canadians take naps. In 1986, on a given day, about 10% of Canadians napped for an average of almost 2 hours.

Men and women are equally likely to nap. However, women's naps tend to be just slightly longer (an average of 2.0 hours) than those of men (1.9 hours).

Napping is most common at older ages. In 1986, while 24% of people aged 65 and over napped, proportions for younger age groups ranged from 7% for 15-24-year-olds to 11% for those aged 55-64.

But although older people are most likely to nap, their naps are shorter than those of younger age groups. Nappers aged 55 and over averaged 1.8 hours a day, compared with 2.0 hours for younger people who napped.

People working for pay or looking for work and students are less likely to nap than are those who are keeping house or retired. On a given day in 1986, 7% of workers, 8% of students, and 9% of job-seekers napped. This compared with 12% of people keeping house and 23% of retirees. However, naps taken by workers, job-seekers, and students were longer (an average of 2.0 hours) than those taken by people keeping house (1.8 hours) and retirees (1.9 hours).

Tamara Knighton *is a research assistant with the Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Statistics Canada.*

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

by Katherine Nessner

Overcoming barriers to allow Canadians with disabilities to fully participate in social and economic life has been a major policy concern in Canada over the past decade. While the likelihood of having a disability is greatest among elderly people, many children under the age of 15 also have some degree of disability.

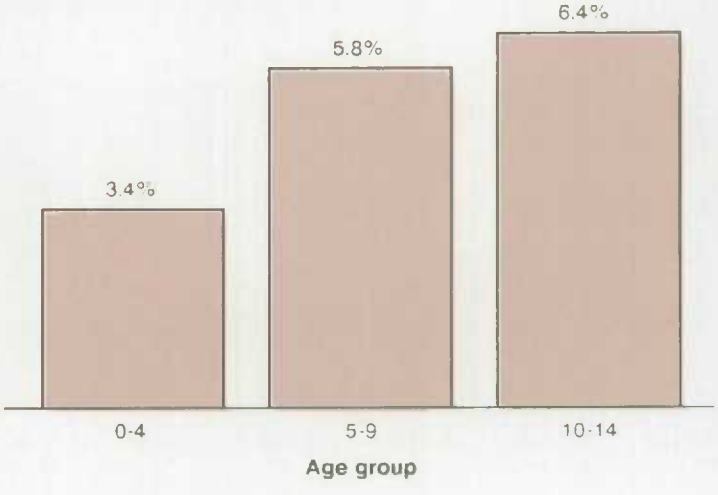
In 1986, there were an estimated 277,000 Canadian children with disabilities. Fully 99% of these children lived in households, while the remaining 1% lived in health-related institutions.

Children with disabilities represent 5% of all young people. Boys, however, are slightly more likely than girls to have a disability. In 1986, 6% of boys were disabled, compared with 5% of girls.

As well, disabilities are more prevalent among older children than among younger ones. In 1986, about 6% of children aged 5-14 were disabled, while the proportion was 3% for those younger than age 5.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Proportion of children with disabilities, by age, 1986



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-602.

Nonetheless, the level of disability among children tends to be relatively low, compared with older age groups. For example, in 1986, 9% of people aged 35-44 had a disability. This proportion climbed for each successive age group to 46% at age 65 and over.

Most in school

In 1986, slightly more than half of all non-institutionalized children with disabilities had a long-term condition or health problem that limited or prevented participation in many activities.

Nonetheless, most children with disabilities were in school. In fact, 51% of children aged 5-14 with disabilities were attending regular schools in April 1986. Another 30% were in regular schools with special classes, while 6% were attending special schools.

In April 1986, 6% of children with disabilities aged 5-14 residing in households were not in school, but half of them had attended school at one time. About 3% of children with disabilities had never gone to school.

The education of some children with disabilities has been disrupted. For example, 6% of school-age children with disabilities had begun school later than most children, and 17% had their schooling interrupted for long periods. In total, almost one-third (32%) of school-age children with disabilities had taken longer than other children to achieve their current level of education.

As well, some children with disabilities have difficulty participating in certain physical activities. For example, in 1986, 30% of children aged 10-14 with disabilities were prevented by their condition or health problem from leisure time participation in physical activities.

Nature of disability

Almost three-quarters of children with disabilities residing in households in 1986 had a mild disability. Another 18% had a moderate disability, while 9% had a severe disability.

Those with a learning disability make up the largest single group of children with disabilities. In 1986, 26% of all disabled children had a learning disability. As well, 17% had a hearing problem, and 10% had a vision problem that could not be corrected by glasses or contact lenses. In addition, 9% were reported to have a mental handicap, such as developmental delay or mental retardation.

Other disabling long-term conditions and health problems are less prevalent among children. In 1986, 9% of children with disabilities had a heart condition or disease. Smaller proportions were affected by epilepsy (5%), cerebral palsy (4%), a kidney condition or disease (3%), or a lung condition or disease, excluding allergies, asthma, and bronchitis (3%).[1]

As well, children may have disabilities that cannot be diagnosed before age 5. Speech problems affected 17% of children aged 5-14 with disabilities, while 13% were reported to have psychiatric problems.

Medication and assistive devices

Many children with disabilities require medication on a regular basis. In 1986, 31% of children aged 5-14 with disabilities were taking medication at least once a week for their condition or health problem.

Assistive devices are also used by many children with disabilities. In 1986, 26% of non-institutionalized children with disabilities used some form of assistive device, the majority of which facilitated mobility and/or agility. That year, 8% of children with disabilities used medically prescribed footwear; 5% had braces other than those used for teeth; 3% used a wheelchair; and 2% used crutches or other types of walking aids. Fewer than 1% had an artificial leg, arm, hand, or foot. In addition, 4% used a hearing aid, and 1% had a vision aid other than glasses or contact lenses.[2]

Transportation barriers

Some children with disabilities are restricted from full participation in everyday activities because of transportation difficulties. In 1986, 5% of disabled children aged 5-14 needed special bus or van service for local travel, but over half of them did not have access to such service. At the same time, local public transportation was available to 54% of disabled children aged 5-14 in 1986. However, one in ten of these children had trouble using such facilities.

Other children are prevented from leaving their residence for short trips because of their condition or health problem. In 1986, 4% of all children aged 5-14 with disabilities were housebound.

In 1986, 2% of children aged 5-14 with disabilities were prevented from taking long-distance trips because transportation services were not suitable for their conditions. Another 6% were able to travel, but had trouble using a bus, train, or airplane.

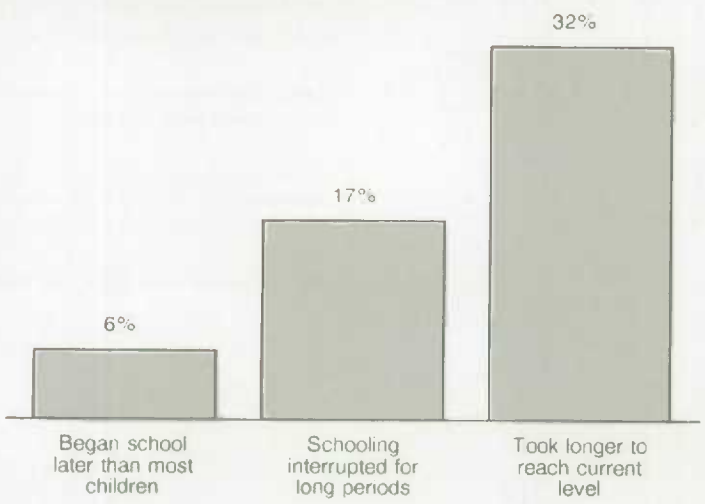
Barriers at home

Some children with disabilities also encounter barriers in their own homes. For example, in 1986, 4% of disabled children aged 5-14 required special features to enter or leave their residence. Half of this group, however, did not have such features. As well, 3% of children with disabilities in this age group required other special features inside their homes. However, these were lacking for more than one-third of this group.

Difficult access to bathroom facilities is also a common problem faced by children with disabilities. In 1986, 5% of children

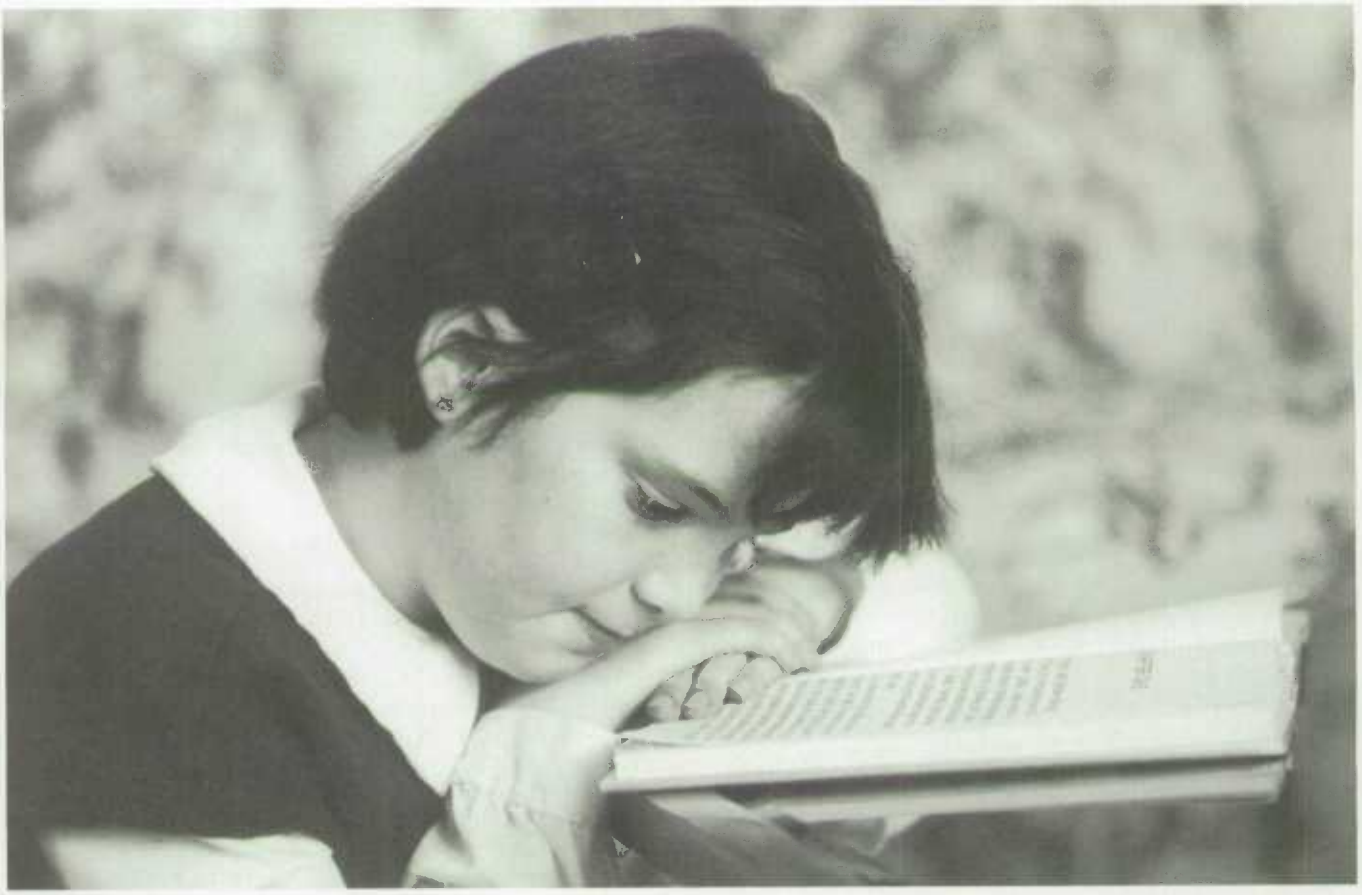
CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Proportion of children with disabilities whose education was affected, 1986



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-602.

[1] A child may have more than one disability.
[2] A child may use more than one type of assistive device.



aged 5-14 with disabilities reported difficulty using the bathtub; 4% reported difficulty using the toilet; and 4% reported difficulty using the basin. Again, modifications to these facilities had been made for only around one-third of these children.

Cost barriers

Barriers still exist for many children whose care-givers cannot afford the high costs of specialized services required for children with disabilities. Personal finances must often cover these costs. In 1986, the parents or care-givers of 38% of children aged 5-14 with disabilities reported out-of-pocket expenses not reimbursed by any insurance or government program.

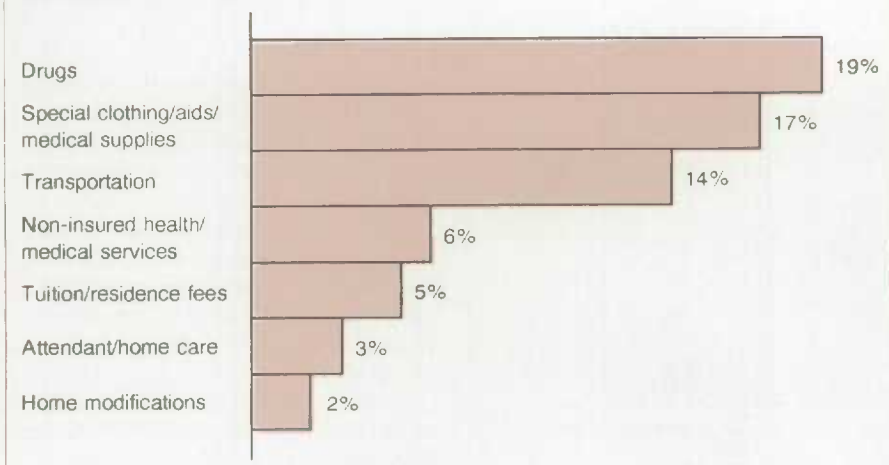
The most commonly reported expenses were for prescription and non-prescription drugs (19%), special clothing aids and medical supplies (17%), and transportation (14%). Other expenses included non-insured health and medical services (6%), tuition or residence fees (5%), personal services and attendant homecare (3%), and home modifications (2%).

Katherine Nessner *is a Contributing Editor with* Canadian Social Trends.

- More information on people with disabilities is available in *Highlights: Disabled Persons in Canada*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-602.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Percentage of care-givers of children aged 5-14 with disabilities incurring non-reimbursed expenses, 1986



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-602.

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READING SKILLS

by Gilles Montigny

In recent years, technological progress and organizational changes have increased the basic qualifications for many entry-level jobs. As a result, there are growing concerns that people without adequate reading skills will not be able to compete in an increasingly complex job market.

The results of the Survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities indicate that the majority of Canadian adults have reading abilities which allow them to deal with most everyday reading requirements. In 1989, 63% of people aged 16-69 were judged to have adequate reading skills.

Nonetheless, a substantial minority of adults have limited reading abilities. In 1989, nearly 2.7 million adult Canadians, 15% of the population aged 16-69 with reported abilities in either English or French, had limited reading skills such that they could not deal with the majority of written material they encountered.[1]

[1] The data in this article excluded people with language problems. As a result, some of the numbers reported here may differ from previously published results from this survey, which grouped people without skills in either official language among those at the lowest reading level.

The population with limited reading skills included people with very limited reading ability (10%), as well as those who are likely to identify themselves as people who cannot read (5%).

A further 4 million Canadian adults, 22% of the population aged 16-69, could use reading material to carry out simple reading tasks within familiar contexts with materials that were clearly laid out. This group, however, did not have sufficient skills to cope with more complex reading contexts.

More limited skills among older Canadians

Older Canadians are much more likely than younger people to have problems reading. In 1989, 36% of people aged 55-69 had limited reading skills, whereas the figure was only 14% among those aged 35-54, and just 7% for those under age 35.

At the same time, a relatively small percentage of older Canadians had adequate reading skills. In 1989, only 36% of people aged 55-69 could meet most everyday reading demands. In contrast, 63% of people aged 35-54, 76% of those aged 25-34, and 71% of those aged 16-24 had adequate skills.

Somewhat surprisingly, though, a relatively large proportion of young adults could read simple, clearly laid-out material, but had difficulty with complex reading material. In 1989, almost a quarter (23%) of people aged 16-24 could read, but only simple text. In comparison, 17% of those aged 25-34 were in this category.

The relatively high proportion of the youngest adults experiencing reading problems may be attributable, in part, to their somewhat limited exposure to a variety of written material; many of them, for example, are still in school.

Reading skills and education

Not surprisingly, people with higher levels of education are most likely to have adequate reading abilities. In 1989, 89% of those who had attended university and 81% who had gone to community college could handle most everyday reading requirements.

This compares with 70% of high school graduates, and just 48% of people who had not completed high school. A very low proportion, only 12%[2], of those who had elementary schooling or no schooling whatever, could read well enough to deal with most everyday situations.

Still, even some people with higher levels of education had less than adequate reading skills. For example, in 1989, 8% of people who had attended university, 15% of those who had been to community college, and 22% of high school graduates could handle simple reading material, but did not have the skills to cope with more complex contexts. As well, a small number of people at each of these education levels had limited reading skills; however, the sampling variability associated with these estimates was too high to allow for these figures to be released.

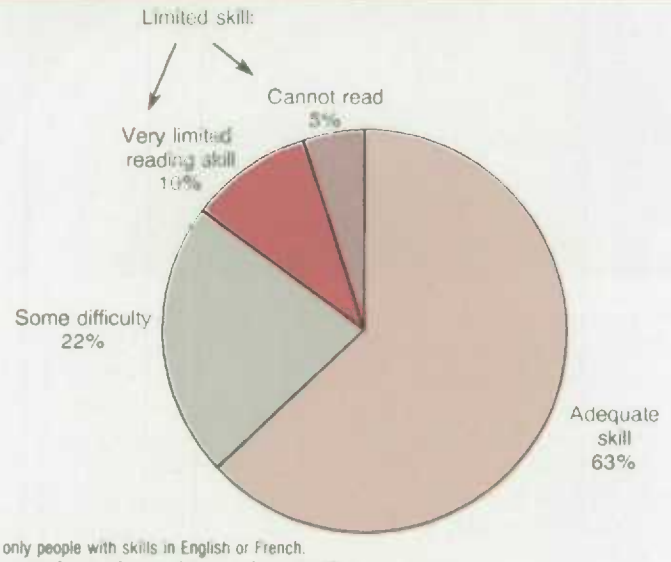
More reading problems among immigrants

Immigrants generally have fewer reading skills than people born in Canada. In 1989, 28% of immigrants who had some skills in either English or French had limited reading abilities, compared with just 12% of people born in Canada. Many of these immigrants, however, may have been able to read languages other than English or French.

As well, recent immigrants have somewhat lower levels of reading proficiency

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

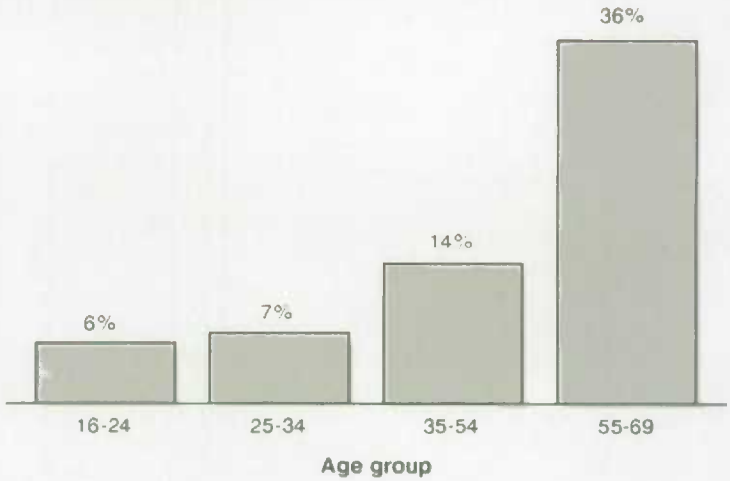
Reading skills of people aged 16-69[1], 1989



[1] Includes only people with skills in English or French.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities, 1989.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Proportion of people aged 16-69[1] with limited reading skills, by age, 1989



[1] Includes only people with skills in English or French.
Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities, 1989.

[2] The sampling variability of this estimate is high.

than those who have been in Canada longer. Of immigrants living in Canada in 1989, 40% of those who had arrived since 1980 had limited reading skills, compared with 20% of those who arrived in the 1970-1979 period.

Reading skills highest in West

Residents of the Western provinces generally have higher reading skills than people living in Central or Atlantic Canada. In 1989, 70% of people in both the Prairies and British Columbia could meet most everyday reading demands. This proportion dropped to 65% in Ontario, 57% in Quebec, and 52% in the Atlantic provinces.

Conversely, only 11% of people living in the Prairie provinces or British Columbia had limited reading skills, whereas the figure was 14% in Ontario, 18% in Quebec, and 19% in the Atlantic provinces.

The Atlantic region was also characterized by a relatively large number of people who could read only simple text. In 1989, 30% of people living in this region could read only material that was not too complex. The figure in the other regions was 25% in Quebec, 22% in Ontario, and 19% in the Prairies and British Columbia.

Survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities

In October 1989, Statistics Canada, on behalf of the National Literacy Secretariat of the Department of the Secretary of State, conducted a survey designed to assess the functional reading, writing, and numeracy skills of Canada's adult population.

The Survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities consisted of interviews with individuals in their homes and involved a series of tasks designed to test reading, writing, and numeracy activities commonly encountered in daily life. Assessment of everyday literacy was restricted to Canada's official languages.

A representative sample of approximately 9,500 people aged 16-69 attempted some or all the tasks designed to measure their literacy skills. Residents of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, members of the armed forces, people living on Indian reserves, and inmates of institutions were excluded from the sample. These exclusions accounted for approximately 3% of the Canadian population.

For the survey, literacy was defined as the information processing skills necessary to use printed material commonly encountered at work, at home, and in the community.

From this broad definition, four skill levels were defined according to the reading abilities required to accomplish a variety of activities. These included:

Level 1 People at this level have difficulty dealing with printed material. They are most likely to identify themselves as not being able to read at all.

Level 2 People at this level can use printed material for limited purposes such as finding a familiar word in a simple text.

Level 3 People at this level can use reading material in a variety of situations, provided the material is simple, clearly laid out, and the tasks involved are not too complex.

Level 4 People at this level can meet most everyday reading demands.

For the purpose of this report, Canadians at Levels 1 and 2 are described as having limited reading skills. People at Level 3 can read material within familiar contexts, but they do not have sufficient skills to cope with more complex material. Those at Level 4 have reading skills adequate to meet everyday requirements.

Numeracy skills of Canadians

The Survey of Literacy Skills used in Daily Activities also tested Canadians' numeracy abilities.[1] The results were somewhat similar to those for reading skills.

In 1989, 2.4 million Canadians, 14% of the test population, had limited numeracy skills. These people were able, at most, to locate and recognize numbers in isolation, or in a short text, but they were not able to perform numerical operations consistently.

Another 4.1 million people, 24% of the population, could deal with commonly encountered documents and forms requiring simple operations such as addition or subtraction, but they did not have the skills necessary to meet most everyday numeracy requirements.

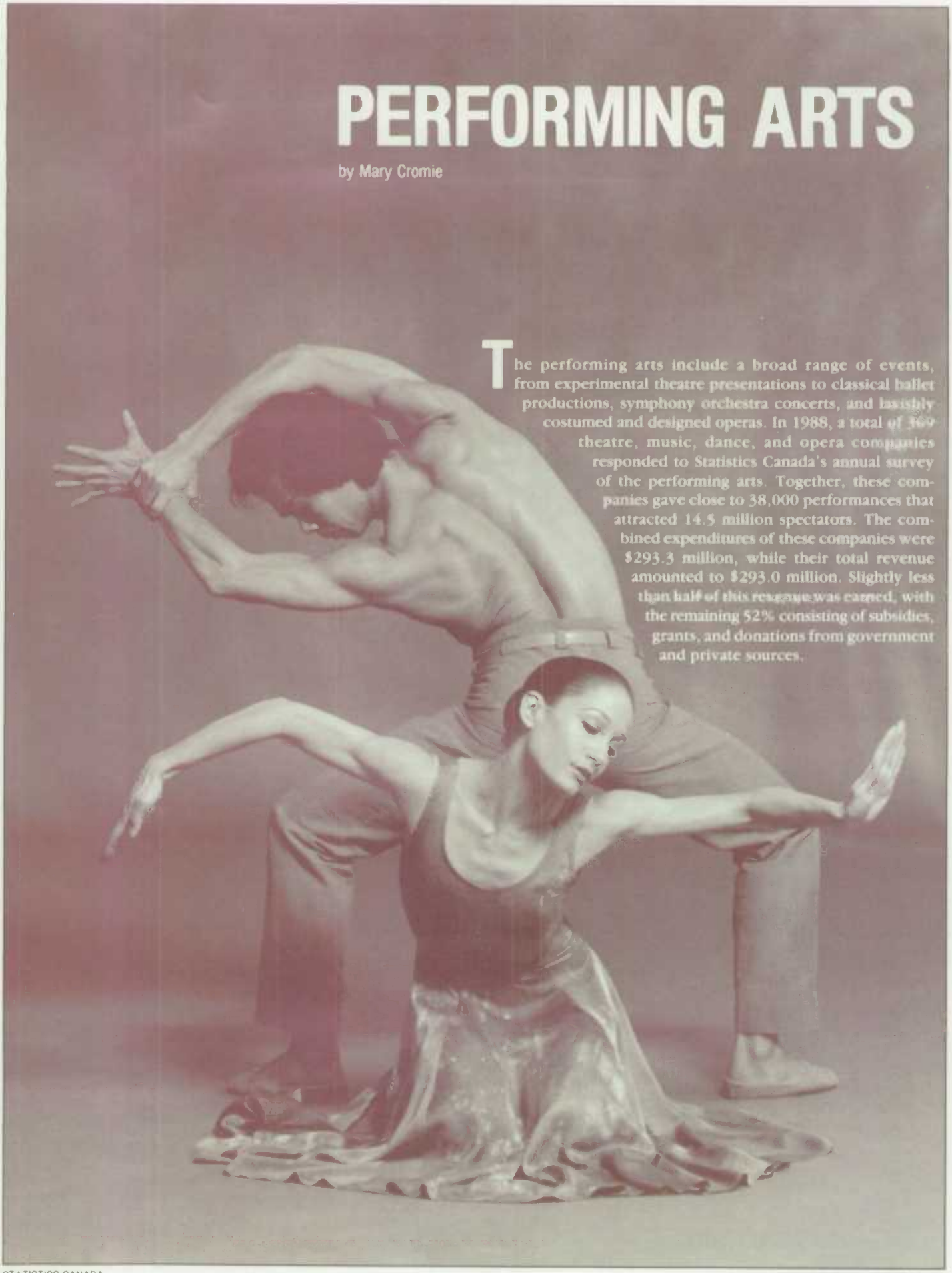
The majority of Canada's adult population, however, have numeracy skills sufficient to handle most everyday problems. In 1989, 62% of people aged 16-69 could meet most daily numeracy requirements.

[1] The numeracy section of the survey excluded people who did not have skills in either English or French, as well as people who were not asked to take the test because of their limited reading skills.

Gilles Montigny *is a project manager with the Household Surveys Division, Statistics Canada.*

PERFORMING ARTS

by Mary Cromie



The performing arts include a broad range of events, from experimental theatre presentations to classical ballet productions, symphony orchestra concerts, and lavishly costumed and designed operas. In 1988, a total of 369 theatre, music, dance, and opera companies responded to Statistics Canada's annual survey of the performing arts. Together, these companies gave close to 38,000 performances that attracted 14.5 million spectators. The combined expenditures of these companies were $293.3 million, while their total revenue amounted to $293.0 million. Slightly less than half of this revenue was earned, with the remaining 52% consisting of subsidies, grants, and donations from government and private sources.

Companies and performances

Theatre companies account for the majority of performing arts companies. In 1988, the 220 theatre companies surveyed represented 60% of all performing arts groups who responded to the survey. Together, they attracted an audience of almost 8.5 million people, 58% of the total performing arts audience. However, average attendance, at 273 per performance, was the lowest of the four disciplines.

Music companies make up the next largest performing arts group. In 1988, 88 music companies responded to the survey and they accounted for 24% of all companies. Music performances drew almost 3.7 million people, which represented 25% of total attendance. In addition, these performances had the highest average attendance of the four disciplines (1,190 per presentation).

There are relatively few dance or opera companies. Dance groups (48) made up 13% of companies surveyed in 1988, while opera companies (13) accounted for only 4%.

The 1988 audience for dance performances numbered 1.8 million, or 13% of the total performing arts audience. Attendance at each performance averaged 654. The opera audience numbered 572,000 and accounted for the remaining 4% of total 1988 attendance. Each production attracted an average of 895 patrons, the

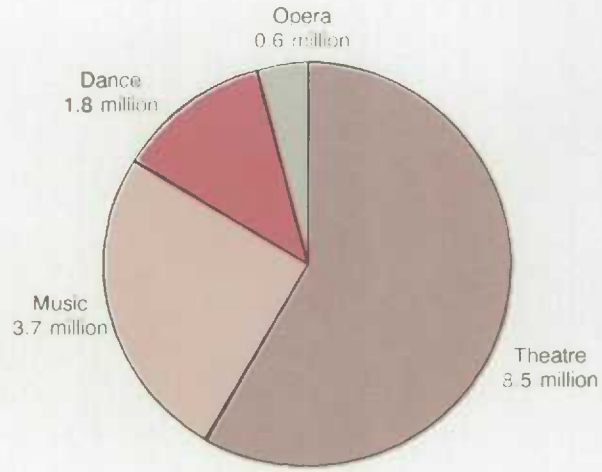
Performing arts survey

The performing arts survey has been conducted annually since 1985 as part of the Culture Statistics Program of Statistics Canada. The population surveyed consists of professional non-profit performing arts companies classified as primarily theatre, music (instrumental or choral), dance, or opera.

Data from different years, however, are not directly comparable, because some different companies have responded in different years.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Total 1988 attendance at performing arts presentations



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 87-209.

second highest average attendance of the four disciplines.

Home or away

Although most performing arts presentations take place in the companies' home area, a substantial proportion are presented on tour. In 1988, 35% of all performances were given by companies on tour.

Some types of companies are more likely than others to tour. Nearly half (49%) of dance performances in 1988 were presented by companies on tour. Also, about a third of theatre (36%) and opera (32%) productions were given on tour. On the other hand, tour performances accounted for just 19% of music concerts.

Youth

Many performing arts productions are oriented toward young people. In 1988, performances for these audiences accounted for 36% of all presentations.

Opera had the highest percentage of youth performances in 1988. That year, about half (52%) of all opera productions were for young audiences. This figure reflects the practices of several of the larger opera companies to open dress rehearsals to student audiences, to do extensive school touring, and to offer other educational services such as student workshops.

The other disciplines place less emphasis on youth performances. In 1988, 38% of theatre presentations, 26% of dance performances, and 21% of music presentations were directed toward young audiences.

Canadian content

The majority of performing arts presentations have some Canadian content; that is, the performance contains at least one work written, choreographed, or composed by a Canadian. Overall, 63% of productions conformed to this definition in 1988.

The presence of Canadian content varies widely in different disciplines. In 1988, the majority of dance (80%) and theatre (67%) performances had some Canadian content. The proportions were much lower for music (26%) and for opera (3%).

Balanced books

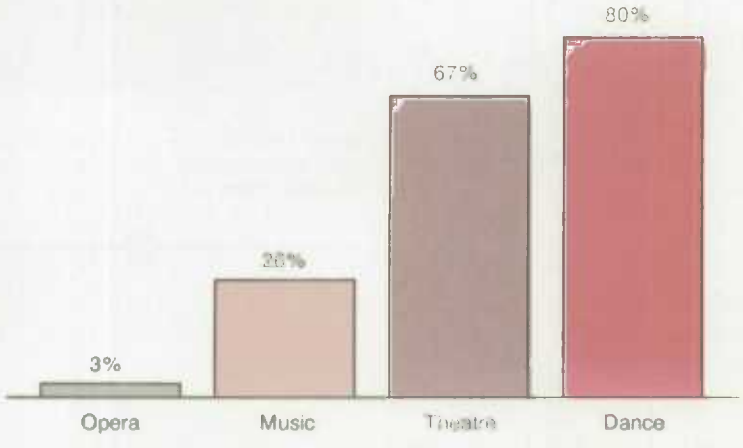
Since the performing arts survey is confined to non-profit companies, it is not surprising that overall in 1988, their incomes and expenditures were roughly equal. Total expenditures that year were $293.3 million, while revenue amounted to $293.0 million. The deficit was just 0.1% of revenue.

In fact, music companies were the only group with a deficit in 1988. These companies' expenses were $83.5 million, while their revenue was $82.7 million. The shortfall amounted to 0.9% of revenue.

By contrast, theatre companies spent $134.9 million in 1988, but received revenue of $135.3 million. Dance companies' expenditures and income were virtually the same at $45.3 million. Similarly, opera companies' expenditures and revenue balanced at $29.7 million.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Percentage of all 1988 performances with Canadian content[1]



[1] Performance includes at least one work written, choreographed, or composed by a Canadian.
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 87-209.

Personnel largest expenditure

Personnel costs absorb the largest share of performing arts companies' budgets. More than half (55%) of expenditures went for wages and salaries in 1988. Other production costs made up 18% of total spending; publicity and promotion, 10%; and administration, 6%. The remaining 11% was spent on a variety of other functions, such as space costs, workshops, or schools and festivals associated with the companies.

Box office

Overall, ticket sales for performing arts presentations generated $98.5 million in 1988 and made up just over a third (34%) of total company revenue. Other earned revenue totalled $45.2 million and accounted for 15% of the companies' income.

Theatre companies realize a larger share of their revenue from the sale of tickets than do other kinds of companies. In 1988, 41% of theatre companies' income came from ticket sales. Opera companies received 34% of their revenue from box office receipts, while the figure for music companies was 28%. Dance companies drew 22% of their income from admission charges.

The private sector

Overall, corporations, foundations, and individuals provided 16% of the revenue of performing arts companies, a total of $46.6 million.

Such corporate and individual sponsorships and donations were most important to opera companies, accounting for 26% of their revenue. These sources also supplied 18% of music companies' revenue and 16% of the revenue of dance companies. Least reliant on private funds were theatre companies, which received just 12% of their income from such sources.

The public share

The largest share of performing arts companies' unearned revenue came from government subsidies, which amounted to $102.7 million in 1988. This represented 35% of their total income.

Of the four disciplines, dance companies were most dependent on government. In 1988, these companies received 41% of their revenue from government sources. At the same time, government subsidies provided about a third of the income of music, opera, and theatre companies.

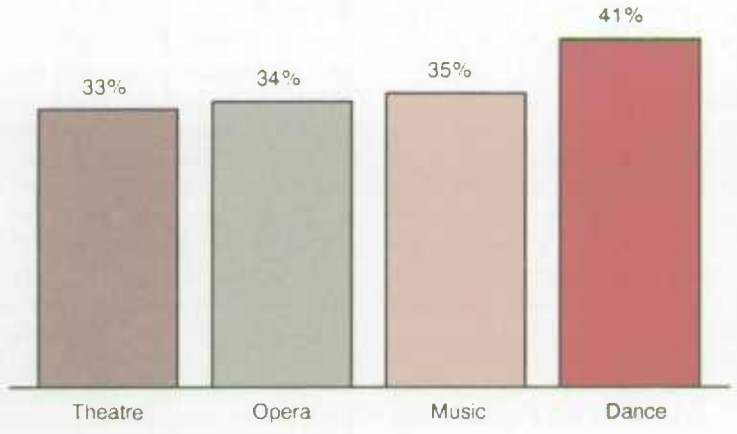
The contributions of different levels of government to performing arts companies vary. In 1988, revenues from

federal sources totalled $48.4 million and made up 17% of companies' income. This compared with $39.3 million (13%) from provincial governments and $13.6 million (5%) from municipal and other governments.

The relative proportions of income provided by different levels of government vary for each discipline. For example, in 1988, federal sources provided 23% of dance companies' revenue, the highest share for any discipline. In contrast, opera companies were the least reliant on federal sources. In fact, unlike the other disciplines, opera companies actually received more of their income from provincial than from federal sources: 16% versus 13%.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Government share of performing arts companies' 1988 revenue



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 87-209.

Sources of performing arts companies' revenue, by discipline, 1988

	Theatre	Music	Dance	Opera	Total
			%		
Ticket sales	41	28	22	34	34
Other earned	14	19	20	6	15
Total earned	**55**	**47**	**42**	**40**	**49**
Federal	15	17	23	13	17
Provincial	14	12	13	16	13
Municipal/other	4	6	5	5	5
Total public	33	35	41	34	35
Corporate	5	9	7	8	7
Foundations	1	1	1	2	t
Individuals	2	3	3	8	3
Other	4	4	5	9	5
Total private	12	18	16	26	16
Total unearned	**46**	**53**	**57**	**60**	**51**
Total %	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
$ (Millions)	**135.3**	**82.7**	**45.3**	**29.7**	**293.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 87-209.

Household spending on performing arts

In 1986, 39% of Canadian households reported spending money to attend live, staged performances. This was up from 28% in 1978. The average amount of these expenditures in 1986 was $99, compared with $91 in 1978 (constant 1986$).

The proportion of households reporting expenditures on live performances varied in different provinces. The figure was highest in Alberta (42%) and Ontario and British Columbia (each 40%). In contrast, just 33% of households in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick made such expenditures.

The average amount spent on live performances in 1986 ranged from $118 in British Columbia and $112 in Ontario to $58 in New Brunswick and $52 in Newfoundland.

Urban households, particularly those in large cities, are more likely than those in rural areas to make such expenditures. In 1986, 41% of urban households reported spending on live performances; in cities with 500,000 or more residents, the figure was 45%. On the other hand, just 32% of rural households made expenditures in this category. To a large extent, this difference reflects the tendency for performing arts facilities to be located in urban areas.

As well, people in urban households spend more than others on live performances. In 1988, the average amount all urban households spent on live performances was $105. For those in large cities, the amount was higher at $122. Rural households making such expenditures spent half that amount ($60).

Mary Cromie *is a senior analyst with the Education, Culture and Tourism Division, Statistics Canada.*

COMMUTING TIME

by Judith Frederick

As Canada's workforce has grown, so has the number of people travelling to and from their jobs each day. This daily commuting brings with it a number of problems that are especially acute in large metropolitan areas, where a substantial segment of the workforce may live in outlying suburbs or smaller cities nearby. Among these problems are traffic congestion, pollution, accidents, parking, and the need for investments in roads and public transportation. Travelling to work is also a major claim on an individual's time, typically consuming three-quarters of an hour in each commuter's day.

According to Statistics Canada's General Social Survey, conducted in November and December of 1986, 7.4 million Canadians, 38% of the population aged 15 and over, travelled to and from work on a typical day. Averaged over seven days, they spent 48 minutes a day commuting. This time included travel to and from paid work by different types of vehicles and on foot. Commuting did not include travel for business trips.

Busy days

As might be expected, the proportion of people who commute to work is much higher during the week than on weekends. In 1986, almost half (48%) of the adult population commuted on weekdays. The corresponding figures were 16% for Saturday and 14% for Sunday.

Also, travel time to and from work tends to be longest during the week. Each weekday, commuters spent an average of 49 minutes travelling. Those who commuted on Saturday spent almost as long

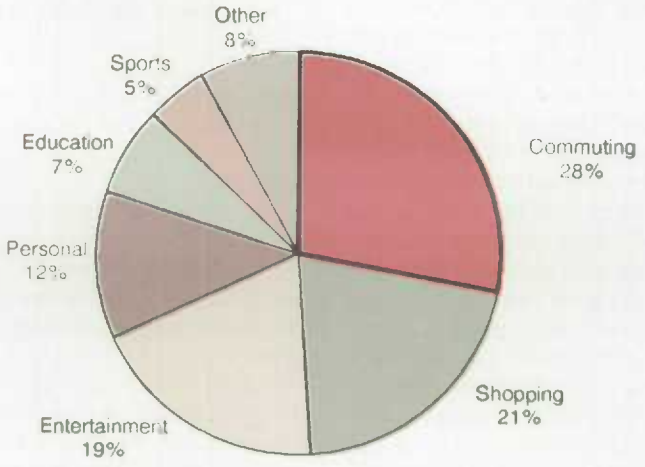
Other travel

Commuting to work was the largest single component of travel time in 1986, accounting for 28% of all travel. However, a number of other reasons bring people out on the road. Shopping accounted for 21% of all travel time, while getting to and from entertainment activities made up another 19%, and travel for personal reasons, 12%. The remaining travel time involved trips for education (7%), sports events (5%), organizational activities (3%), child care (3%), and domestic duties (1%). Excluded were business trips and vacations.

Participation in various kinds of travel differs for men and women. In 1986, as well as commuting, men were more likely than women to travel to sports events and entertainment activities. On the other hand, during a typical day, higher proportions of women than men travelled for shopping, organizational activities, child care, and education.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Distribution of all travel time, 1986



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1986.

on the road: 46 minutes. On the other hand, commuting time on Sunday averaged 38 minutes.

Working age people commute most

Not surprisingly, the proportion of commuters is highest among people in the prime working age range. In 1986, 52% of 35-44-year-olds and 50% of those aged 25-34 commuted. At ages 45-54, the proportion was slightly lower at 46%.

Younger people, many of whom are still in school, are less likely to commute. Just 35% of 15-24-year-olds commuted in 1986.

The proportion of people aged 55 and over travelling to and from work is much lower. At progressively older ages, increasing numbers of people retire from the workforce, and as a result, the percentage of commuters declines sharply. In 1986, for example, the commuting rate among 55-64-year-olds was 28%, while just 4% of those aged 65 and over commuted.

Age, however, has little bearing on time spent travelling to and from work. Average daily commuting time ranged from 45 minutes for 15-24-year-old commuters to 51 minutes for those aged 35-44.

Patterns were similar for men and women, although at all ages, a higher proportion of men than women commuted. This is largely because at all ages, men are more likely than women to be in the labour force.

As well, Canadian men who commuted spent a slightly longer time on the road than did their female counterparts. Male commuters averaged 51 minutes a day, compared with 44 minutes for women.

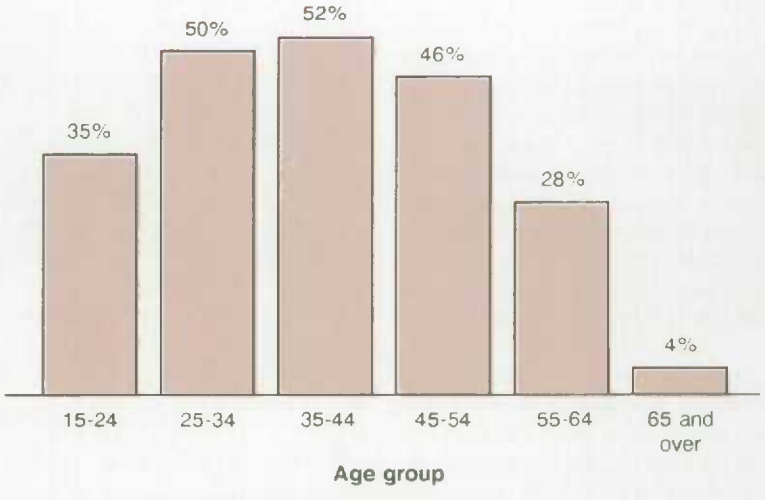
Main activity[1]

People whose main activity is working for pay have the highest commuting rate. On a typical day in 1986, 67% of people with jobs commuted. The comparable figure among the unemployed was 21%, and among students, 14%. Just 6% of people whose main activity was keeping house commuted. Very few retired people — only 1% — were commuters.

Commuting time also varied substantially, depending on a person's main activity. People who were employed spent an average of 50 minutes a day getting to and from work. For those who were unemployed, the time was considerably longer, averaging 64 minutes. This may reflect time spent travelling to several locations in search of a job. Daily commuting for students and people keeping house averaged 32 minutes. The small number of retired people who commuted did so for an average of 38 minutes.

CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

Percentage of population who commute, by age, 1986



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1986.

Urban/rural

Urban dwellers are more likely than rural inhabitants to be commuters. While 40% of people living in urban centres commuted during a typical day in 1986, the proportion was 31% for their rural counterparts.

As well, residents of large cities, with the concomitant volume of traffic, spend more time on the road than do people who live in smaller urban areas or rural localities. Whereas commuters living in metropolitan areas in 1986 averaged 53 minutes a day on the road, the average was 43 minutes for those in smaller centres and 40 minutes for rural commuters.

[1] Respondents were asked to report their main activity during the week before the survey. This did not mean that they did not engage in other activities. Thus, someone whose main activity was not employment, for example, a student or retiree, might have commuted to and from a part-time job.

Judith Frederick *is a senior analyst with the Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Statistics Canada.*

SOCIAL INDICATORS

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
POPULATION								
Canada, June 1 (000s)	24,583.1	24,787.2	24,978.2	25,165.4	25,353.0	25,617.3	25,909.2	26,223.2
Annual growth (%)	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.2
Immigration[1]	134,920	105,286	87,504	84,062	88,051	125,696	152,285	161,024
Emigration[1]	45,338	50,249	48,826	46,252	44,816	51,040	40,528	37,314
FAMILY								
Birth rate (per 1,000)	15.1	15.0	15.0	14.8	14.7	14.4	14.5	*
Marriage rate (per 1,000)	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.3	6.9	7.1	7.2	*
Divorce rate (per 1,000)	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.4	3.1	3.4	3.1	*
Families experiencing unemployment (000s)	984	1,066	1,039	990	915	872	789	776
LABOUR FORCE								
Total employment (000s)	10,618	10,675	10,932	11,221	11,531	11,861	12,244	12,486
- goods sector (000s)	3,376	3,317	3,404	3,425	3,477	3,553	3,693	3,740
- services sector (000s)	7,242	7,359	7,528	7,796	8,054	8,308	8,550	8,745
Total unemployment (000s)	1,308	1,434	1,384	1,311	1,215	1,150	1,031	1,018
Unemployment rate (%)	11.0	11.8	11.2	10.5	9.5	8.8	7.8	7.5
Part-time employment (%)	14.4	15.4	15.3	15.5	15.5	15.2	15.4	15.1
Women's participation rate (%)	51.7	52.6	53.6	54.6	55.3	56.4	57.4	57.9
Unionization rate - % of paid workers	33.3	35.7	35.1	34.4	34.1	33.3	*	*
INCOME								
Median family income	30,110	30,986	32,739	34,736	36,858	38,851	41,238	*
% of families with low income	12.6	13.8	13.9	12.6	11.8	11.3	10.5	*
Women's full-time earnings as a % of men's	64.0	64.6	65.6	64.9	65.8	65.9	65.3	*
EDUCATION								
Elementary and secondary enrolment (000s)	4,994.0	4,974.9	4,946.1	4,927.8	4,938.0	4,972.9	5,024.1	*
Full-time postsecondary enrolment (000s)	722.0	766.7	782.8	789.8	796.9	805.4	817.1	836.6[p]
Doctoral degrees awarded	1,713	1,821	1,878	2,000	2,218	2,384	2,415	*
Government expenditures on education - as a % of GDP	6.2	6.2	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.6	5.4	*
HEALTH								
% of deaths due to cardiovascular disease								
- men	44.4	43.8	42.8	41.7	41.4	40.5	39.5	*
- women	48.3	47.2	46.6	45.3	44.9	44.0	43.4	*
% of deaths due to cancer - men	23.9	24.4	25.5	25.4	25.9	26.4	27.0	*
- women	24.2	24.8	25.5	25.7	25.5	26.1	26.4	*
Government expenditures on health - as a % of GDP	5.8	6.0	5.7	5.7	6.1	5.9	5.9	*
JUSTICE								
Crime rates (per 100,000)								
- violent	685	692	714	749	808	856	898	950
- property	5,955	5,717	5,607	5,560	5,714	5,731	5,630	5,514
- homicide	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.5
GOVERNMENT								
Expenditures on social programmes[2] (1988 $000,000)	135,536.6	141,988.2	143,661.4	148,891.5	154,255.3	155,903.0	159,082.8	*
- as a % of total expenditures	57.9	59.4	58.0	58.1	59.9	59.3	59.7	*
- as a % of GDP	27.9	28.5	27.4	27.5	28.1	27.1	26.4	*
UI beneficiaries (000s)	3,123.1	3,396.1	3,221.9	3,181.5	3,136.7	3,079.9	3,016.4	3,025.2
OAS/GIS beneficiaries[m] (000s)	2,368.6	2,425.7	2,490.9	2,569.5	2,652.2	2,748.5	2,835.1	2,919.4
Canada Assistance Plan beneficiaries[m] (000s)	1,502.8	1,832.9	1,894.9	1,923.3	1,892.9	1,904.9	1,853.0	1,856.1
ECONOMIC INDICATORS								
GDP (1986 $) - annual % change	−3.2	+3.2	+6.3	+4.8	+3.3	+4.0	+4.4	+3.0
Annual inflation rate (%)	10.8	5.8	4.4	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.1	5.0
Urban housing starts	104,792	134,207	110,874	139,408	170,863	215,340	189,635	183,323

- Not available * Not yet available [p] Preliminary estimates [m] Figures as of March.

[1] For year ending May 31st.

[2] Includes Protection of Persons and Property; Health; Social Services; Education; Recreation and Culture.

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1990 ANNUAL INDEX OF ARTICLES

POPULATION

Spring — The Farm Community
Spring — The Inner City in Transition
Spring — Winnipeg
Summer — The Demographic Future
Summer — Time Use of the Elderly
Autumn — The Indo-Chinese in Canada

FAMILY

Spring — Household Chores
Autumn — Decline in the Number of Children

LABOUR FORCE

Spring — Annual Labour Force Estimates, 1946-1989
Spring — Regional Unemployment
Summer — Secretaries
Autumn — Changes in Women's Occupations
Autumn — Labour Force Trends: Two Decades in Review

HOUSING

Spring — Co-operative Housing: A Third Tenure Form
Spring — Home Ownership
Spring — Shelter Costs
Summer — Home Improvement
Autumn — People in Co-operative Housing

EDUCATION

Summer — Changes in Educational Attainment
Autumn — Women in School Administration
Winter — Computer Literacy
Winter — Reading Skills

HEALTH

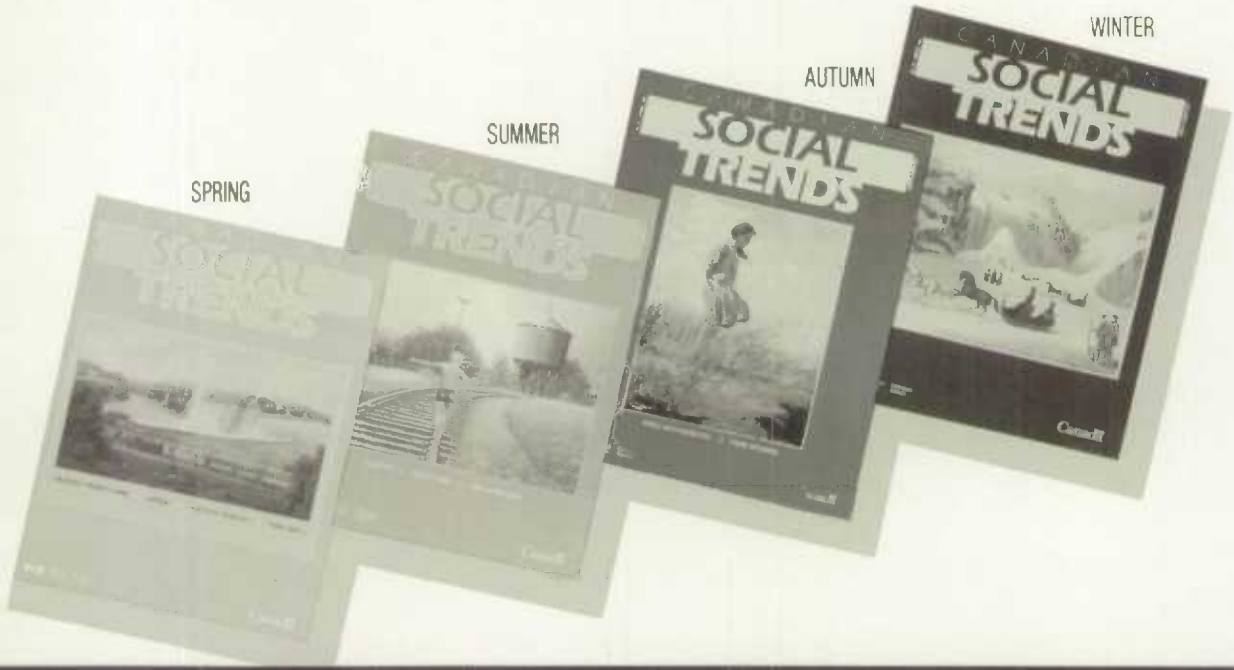
Summer — Accidents
Autumn — Profile of Canadians with Disabilities
Winter — Children with Disabilities
Winter — What Canadians are Eating
Winter — Sleep Patterns

JUSTICE

Spring — Household Property Crimes
Summer — Homicide
Summer — Policing in Canada
Summer — Violent Victimization
Autumn — Young Offenders
Winter — Perceptions of the Justice System

CULTURE

Winter — Commuting Time
Winter — Performing Arts



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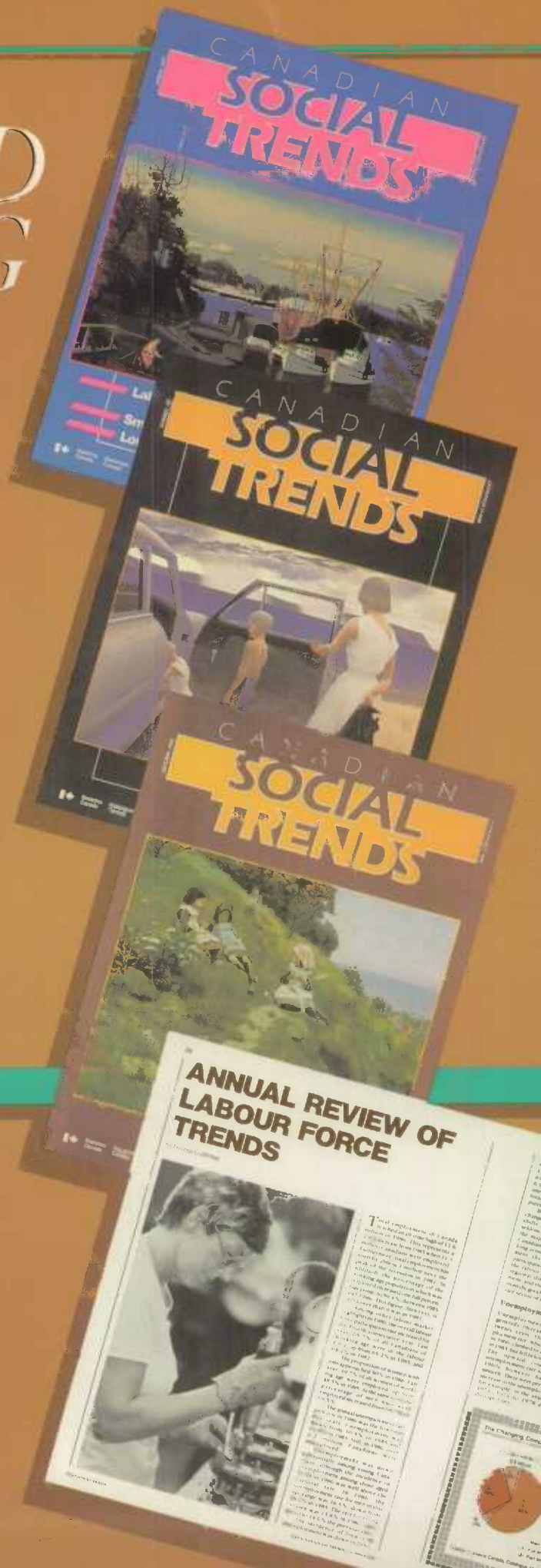

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