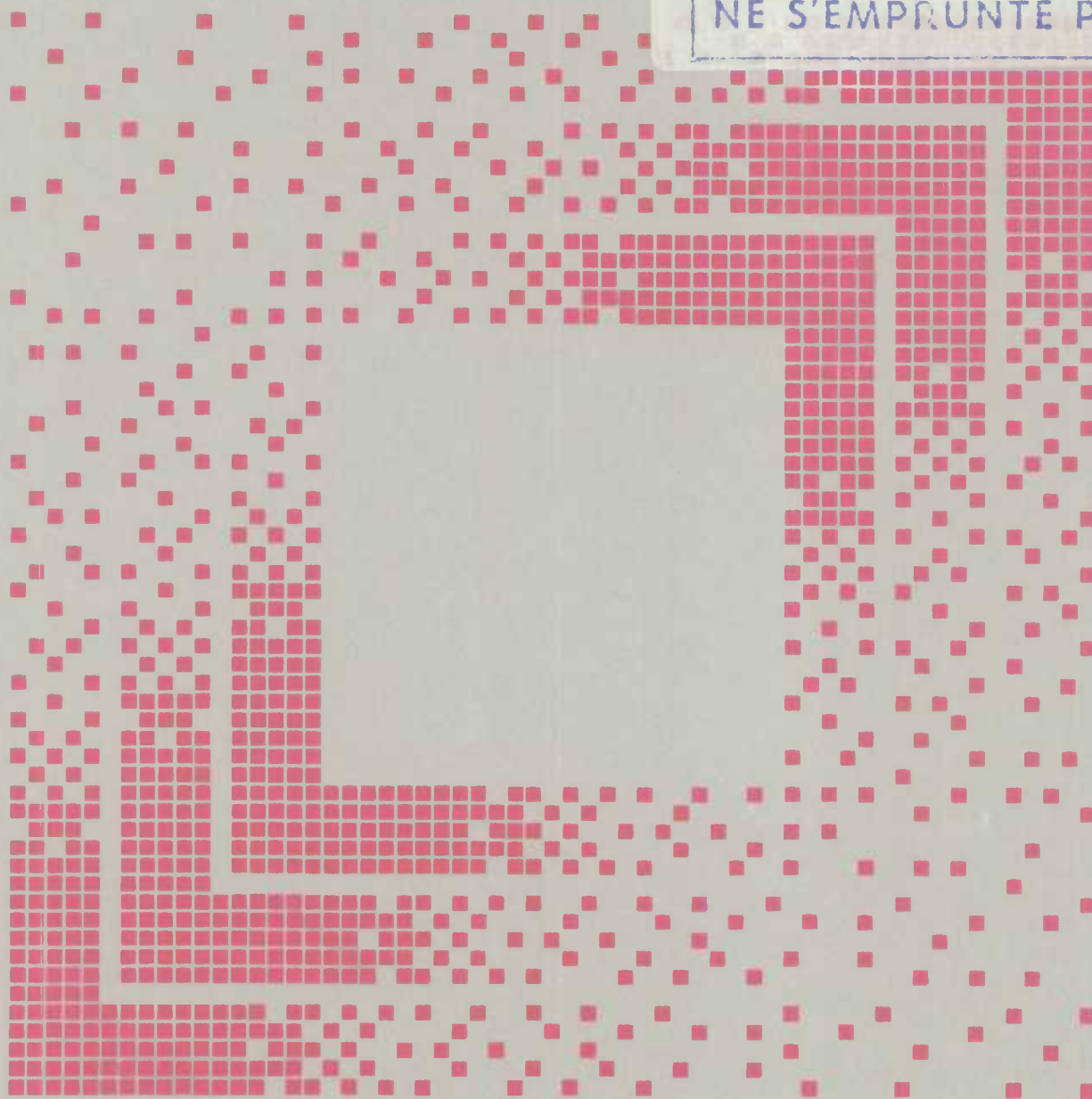


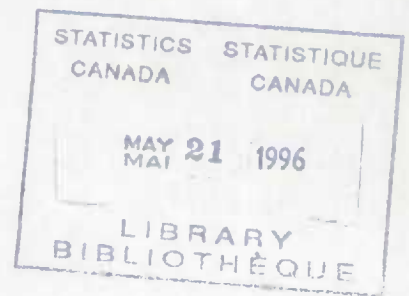
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General Social Survey

FEATURES AND STATUS REPORT

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GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY
FEATURES AND STATUS REPORT
MARCH 1992

Aussi disponible en français

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FOR MORE INFORMATION...

The information listed below is available on request at no charge. To be added to the GSS Mailing List or receive any of the information, please mark the appropriate circle and return the form to the address indicated shown below.

- ∘ Please add my name to the **GSS Mailing List**
- ∘ Questionnaire package (Cycles 1 to 5)
- ∘ Questionnaire package (Cycle 6)
- ∘ Questionnaire package (Cycle 7)

Preliminary Data Releases

- ∘ Cycle 2: Language Module
- ∘ Cycle 2: Time Use and Social Mobility Module
- ∘ Cycle 3: Personal Risk
- ∘ Cycle 4: Work and Education
- ∘ Cycle 5: Family and Friends
- ∘ Cycle 6: Health

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone #.....

GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY
STATISTICS CANADA
7-D8, JEAN TALON BLDG
TUNNEY'S PASTURE
OTTAWA, ONTARIO
K1A 0T6

GSS PRODUCTS

GSS also has a number of products which can be purchased. For more information, please contact one of the managers listed on page 12 of this report.

Public Use Microdata Files (user documentation included)

| | | | |
|---|---------|---|-------|
| o | Cycle 1 | Health and Social Support | \$750 |
| o | Cycle 2 | Time Use, Social Mobility and Language | \$750 |
| o | Cycle 3 | Personal Risk | \$750 |
| o | Cycle 4 | Work and Education | \$750 |
| o | Cycle 5 | Family and Friends | \$750 |
| | Cycle 6 | Health (Available Summer 1992) | \$750 |

The Canadian Association of Research Librarians (CARL) has formed a consortium of 23 university libraries to purchase the GSS Microdata Files for Cycles 1 to 5. Participating institutions have received the microdata files from CARL.

Publications

| | |
|---------|--|
| Cycle 1 | <u>Health and Social Support, 1985</u> GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.1 \$30 Canada \$32 Other Countries |
| Cycle 2 | <u>Where does time go?</u> GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.4 \$40 Canada US\$48 United States US\$56 Other Countries |
| Cycle 2 | <u>Ups and downs on the ladder of success: Social mobility in Canada</u> GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.5 \$40 Canada US\$48 United States US\$56 Other Countries |
| Cycle 3 | <u>Patterns of Criminal Victimization in Canada</u> GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.2 \$38 Canada \$46 Other Countries |

- Cycle 3 Accidents in Canada
 GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.3
 \$40 Canada
 US\$48 United States
 US\$56 Other Countries
- Cycle 4 Quality of Work in the Service Sector
 GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No. 6
 \$40 Canada
 US\$48 United States
 US\$56 Other Countries

To order publications, please contact:

Publication Sales or call:
Statistics Canada 1-800-267-6677
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6

FEATURES AND STATUS REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

For some time Statistics Canada has been aware of gaps in the national statistical information system with respect to data on socio-economic trends. These gaps cannot be filled through existing data sources or vehicles because of the level of detail required or the population to be covered. For example, there are no large scale household surveys in areas such as health, education, and criminal victimizations.

In 1985, Statistics Canada initiated the General Social Survey (GSS) which over five years would cover major topics of importance. The GSS has two principal objectives: first, to gather data with a degree of regularity on social trends in order to monitor changes in Canadian society over time, and secondly, to provide information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest. GSS is a continuing program with a single survey cycle each year.

2. FEATURES

This section briefly describes basic features of the GSS which are common across all survey cycles.

2.1 CONTENT

To meet the stated objectives, the content of GSS is made up of three components: Classification, Core and Focus.

Classification content consists of variables which provide the means of delineating population groups and for use in the analysis of Core and Focus data. Examples of classification variables are age, sex, education and income.

Core content is intended to obtain information which monitors long-term social trends or measures temporal changes in society related to living conditions or well-being. General topic areas for core content include health, education, social environment and personal risk. All Core content areas cannot be treated adequately in each survey cycle. Instead, each cycle covers a specific Core content area, which will recur on a periodic basis, once every five years. Figure 1 shows the content by cycle until 1992.

Within a survey cycle, data related to both the status of the content area as well as barriers and bridges to improving status are collected. For example Cycle 1 Core content included disability and health problems (health status measures) and smoking, alcohol use, and physical activity (barriers and bridges to improving health status).

Figure 1: GSS content coverage

| Cycle | Data collection | Main Core content | Focus issue |
|-------|-----------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | 1985 | Health | Social support |
| 2 | 1986 | Time use, social mobility | Language |
| 3 | 1988 | Personal risk | Victim services |
| 4 | 1989 | Education and work | No Focus issue |
| 5 | 1990 | Family and friends | No Focus issue |
| 6 | 1991 | Health | Flu vaccinations and other topics |
| 7 | 1992 | Time use | Culture, Sport and Unpaid Work Activities |
| 8 | 1993 | Personal Risk | To be determined |

Focus content is aimed at meeting the second objective of GSS, namely to provide information touching directly on a specific policy issue or social problem, for example, youth unemployment. This does not imply that Core content has little relevance to policy questions and social issues. However, in comparison to Focus content, Core content is not principally driven by short term policy issues, but rather provides the means for monitoring and analysis of important aspects of behaviour and living conditions of Canadians over the longer term. Focus content, in general, is not expected to be repeated on a periodic basis.

While resources for Classification and Core content are included as part of Statistics Canada's budget, costs associated with Focus content are recovered from sponsors.

2.2 COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

Telephone interviewing plays a major role in collection of data by GSS. This collection methodology is attractive because of lower collection, sample design and maintenance costs, as well as considerable flexibility with respect to sample design and size changes. Furthermore, centralized data collection should allow better monitoring and control of costs and data quality. About three percent of households in the ten provinces do not have phones.

Nevertheless, phone interviewing does have drawbacks: non-coverage of households, while low, is concentrated in population groups with low education attainment or income; response rates tend to be lower than for face-to-face interviews, and there are limitations on the amount or type of data which can be collected. Alternative collection methods may be more appropriate than phone interviewing for particular population groups and for particular types of data. Thus, GSS is not being confined to a single collection methodology.

The sample size of each cycle of the GSS is approximately 10,000 households, with the majority of data collected in non-proxy mode from one person per household.¹ This sample is allocated across the ten provinces so as to improve the scope of regional estimates, even at some expense to national estimates. In some cycles sample size has been increased to better focus on a particular group or region. The sample size was increased for cycles 1, 2, 5 and 6.

2.3 OUTPUTS

The GSS provides four main types of outputs.

- a) A series of publications which present national and some regional level summary data, primarily in the form of tables and charts, as well as initial analyses and findings. An important goal of this series is to display the range of survey data and to indicate the potential for further data analysis and research by others.
- b) Public use microdata files, together with supporting documentation, which will facilitate the use of General Social Survey data by governments, universities, institutes, business, media and the general public. These files contain individual records, screened to ensure confidentiality, which permit detailed analyses, for example, by occupation, by education or by five-year age groups.

¹ Cycle 6 is an exception and allowed proxy responding in case of illness or disability or where language problems exist.

Files are available on 9-track tape, tape cartridge and in some cases microcomputer diskettes.

- c) Special request tabulations and analyses, primarily on a cost recovery basis. These are intended for users who do not have suitable computer facilities for manipulating the microdata files, do not wish to purchase the microdata files, or have specific requests not satisfied by the public use microdata files alone.
- d) Special studies which illuminate aspects of the system used to develop, collect, process and analyse the General Social Survey data.

3. STATUS

This section summarizes progress to date for Cycles 1 to 7 as well as expected activities over the next year.

3.1 CYCLE 1

Initial work on Cycle 1 started in August 1984. Classification content to be used for this and subsequent cycles was identified. Core content on health covered short and long term disability, well-being, height and weight, health problems, smoking, alcohol use, physical activity, sleep and use of health care services. Focus content, concentrating on the elderly, included potential support networks, support received and given and social activities.

Questionnaires, procedures and manuals were produced for a pilot survey in March 1985, which was carried out through Toronto and Vancouver Regional Offices. A small field test to assess French versions of the questionnaires was mounted in May in Montreal. Interviewing for the main Cycle 1 sample took place across the ten provinces in September and October 1985. Persons aged 15 to 64 years old were interviewed by phone, with persons 65 years and older interviewed face-to-face.

Cycle 1 outputs

| Output | Date released | Cost |
|--|---------------|---------------------------|
| Questionnaire package | October 1985 | No charge |
| Public use microdata file plus user documentation (9-track tape - all ten provinces) | January 1987 | \$750 |
| "Health and Social Support, 1985" (GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.1) | January 1988 | \$30 Canada \$32 Other |

3.2 CYCLE 2

Core content development for Cycle 2 was initiated in August 1985, when the topic of "personal risk" was proposed. This topic covers risk from accidents, crime and the environment, that is, risk to a person from outside (the person) sources. However, in December 1985, a decision was taken to delay the personal risk Core content component. Core content on time use and social mobility, intended for a later Cycle, was moved forward as a replacement. This new Core content covers the topics of daily activities done on own and with others, inter- and intra- generational mobility, and personal well-being. A consortium of clients sponsored language knowledge and use as the topic for Focus content.

A pilot survey in July and August 1986 was carried out through the Montreal and Winnipeg Regional Offices. Interviewing for the main Cycle 2 sample (10,000 households across 10 provinces) was done, solely by telephone, in November and December 1986. An additional sample of approximately 6,000 households was interviewed by telephone during the same period and using the same questionnaires, except for the exclusion of the section on daily activities. This additional sample was concentrated in areas of New Brunswick, Québec and Ontario where there are significant proportions of both official language groups. Both samples selected only persons who were 15 years of age or older.

Cycle 2 outputs

| Output | Date released | Cost |
|---|---------------|---|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Questionnaire package | December 1986 | No charge |
| Preliminary data: Language module | January 1989 | No charge |
| Preliminary data: Time Use module and Social Mobility module | February 1989 | No charge |
| "Where does time go?" (GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.4) | August 1991 | \$40 Canada US\$48 United States US\$56 Other |
| "Ups and downs on the ladder of success: Social Mobility in Canada" (GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.5) | December 1991 | \$40 Canada US\$48 United States US\$56 Other |
| Public Use Microdata File Tape | December 1989 | \$750 |
| ----- | ----- | ----- |

3.3 CYCLE 3

Core content for Cycle 3 is on personal risk, with primary emphasis on exposure to accidents and crime. Focus content, sponsored by the Department of Justice, is on services to victims of crime.

A pilot survey was carried out through Halifax and Montreal Regional Offices in June and July 1987. Interviewing by telephone for the main Cycle 3 sample, of approximately 10,000 households, was done in January and February 1988. As in previous cycles, only persons 15 years of age or older were selected.

A small scale reinterview survey was introduced in Cycle 3 in order to obtain some consistency measures, primarily for Classification content variables.

Cycle 3 outputs

| Output | Date released | Cost |
|--|---------------|---|
| Questionnaire package | February 1988 | No charge |
| Preliminary data (Tables) | April 1989 | No charge |
| Working Paper on the design of the survey | January 1989 | No charge |
| "Patterns of Criminal Victimization in Canada" (GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.2) | April 1990 | \$30 Canada \$38 Other |
| "Accidents in Canada" (GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.3) | February 1991 | \$40 Canada US\$48 United States US\$56 Other |
| Public use microdata file tape | May 1990 | \$750 |

3.4 CYCLE 4

Development of Core content for Cycle 4, targeted at work and education. Three main themes underlie this content: work and education in the service economy, new technologies and human resources, and emerging trends in education and work. A small module on knowledge and attitudes to science and technology is also included.

A pilot survey was carried out through Halifax and Montreal Regional Offices in July and August 1988. Interviewing by telephone for the main Cycle 4 sample survey, of approximately 10,000 households, was done in January and February, 1989. In March a reinterview survey, containing a small subset of the questions asked in the main survey, was conducted in two regional offices. The primary aim of this reinterview survey was to obtain consistency measures for selected Core content variables.

Cycle 4 outputs

| Output | Date released | Cost |
|---|---------------|---|
| Questionnaire package | January 1989 | No charge |
| Preliminary data (Tables) | January 1990 | No charge |
| Working Paper on the design of the survey | January 1990 | No charge |
| Public Use microdata file tape | July 1990 | \$750 |
| "Quality of Work in the Service Sector" (GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.6) | March 1992 | \$40 Canada US\$48 United States US\$56 Other |

The second Cycle 4 GSS Analysis Series reports should appear during the summer of 1992.

3.5 CYCLE 5

Core content for Cycle 5 concentrated on the respondent's family and friends and the relationships and interactions with them. The content draws heavily on the 1984 Family History Survey for birth and marriage/cohabitation history questions and on the social support sections of GSS Cycle 1 (1985 Survey). Some comparisons will be possible with both of these earlier surveys.

A pilot survey was carried out in Halifax and Montreal in August 1989 and the main survey was conducted over the January to March 1990 period. The Seniors Secretariat, Health and Welfare Canada and the Ontario Department of Community and Social Services have funded additional sample for the population 65 and over across Canada and for the entire population in Ontario. Total sample size is approximately 14,000.

Cycle 5 outputs

| Output | Date released | Cost |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Questionnaire package | February 1990 | No charge |
| Preliminary data (Tables) | January 1991 | No charge |
| Working Paper | March 1990 | No charge |
| Public use microdata file tape | June 1991 | \$750 |
| ----- | ----- | ----- |

An analysis report from the survey is in preparation and should be available late in 1992.

3.6 CYCLE 6

Cycle 6 marks the first repeat of the GSS core subject areas. Most of the core content of Cycle 6 repeats that of Cycle 1(1985). As well, much of the core content was included in the Canada Health Survey(1978/79). The three surveys can be used to measure changes in health status over time.

Focus content is diffuse: flu vaccinations, and emotional health measures sponsored by various divisions of Health and Welfare Canada and a health state classification system sponsored internally by Analytical Studies Branch.

Data collection began the third week of January 1991 and continued to the second week of December 1991. The sample was evenly distributed over the 12 months to counterbalance seasonal variation. Data collection took place from 5 regional offices - Halifax, Montreal, Sturgeon Falls, Winnipeg and Vancouver. The sample size was approximately 11,500 respondents. This includes an oversample of 1,500 respondents, 65 years and over selected from Labour Force Survey rotate-outs. The additional sample was sponsored by the Seniors Secretariat of Health and Welfare Canada. All interviewing was done by telephone.

The questions and associated procedures were successfully field tested in August, in Halifax, Montreal and Toronto.

Cycle 6 outputs

| Output | Date released | Cost |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Questionnaire package | March 1991 | No charge |
| Working Paper | July 1991 | No charge |
| Preliminary Release | March 1992 | No charge |
| ----- | ----- | ----- |

A microdata file should be available during the summer of 1992. An analysis report from the survey should be available in the winter of 1992/93.

3.7 CYCLE 7

Core content for Cycle 7 is again time use, first covered in the 1986 GSS. The diary approach used in Cycle 2 will be repeated. Improved coding of activities has been expanded. A particular objective of the survey is the measurement of unpaid work including domestic work, childcare, volunteer work, etc. Also included are questions to measure participation in sport and cultural content in cultural activities. This focus content on sports activities is sponsored by Sports Canada, and various government departments and cultural organizations. The sample size for the survey is 10,000 and interviewing will continue throughout 1992 with the interviews spread equally over the 12 months.

The questions and field procedures for the survey were successfully tested in Montreal and Halifax in July 1991.

Cycle 7 outputs

| Output | Date released | Cost |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Questionnaire package | February 1992 | No charge |
| ----- | ----- | ----- |

3.8 CYCLE 8

The 1993 GSS will again cover the topic of personal risk including both accidents and criminal victimization. The survey will be developed during the first half of 1992 and field tested during the summer of 1992. Data collection will start in January 1993 and continue throughout the calendar year.

GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY CONTACTS

Cycles 1, 3, 6 and 8:

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**ANNEX 1: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT
"HEALTH AND SOCIAL SUPPORT, 1985"**

**1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REPORT**

The first General Social Survey was carried out in September and October 1985, collecting information on health and related factors from 11,200 persons age 15 and older. The sample covered the non-institutionalized population of Canada; those aged 65 and older were over-sampled to increase the reliability of findings for this group. The data were gathered with telephone and face-to-face interviewing, with a response rate of approximately 85 percent.

The 1985 General Social Survey obtained information on the health status of persons 15 years of age and older, covering activity limitation, well-being and chronic health problems. Barriers and bridges to improving this status were also examined, including smoking, alcohol use and physical activity. In many cases, comparisons with the 1978 Canada Health Survey are possible. The first cycle of the General Social Survey also included a specific focus on older Canadians, covering support given and received, as well as social participation.

**Barriers and bridges to improved health
(chapter 2):**

- More than half of the Canadian population either smoke regularly or are exposed to second-hand smoke in their own homes. Data from the General Social Survey show that while only three Canadians in ten smoke daily, there are over three million additional non-smoking adults who live with someone who smokes.
- Regular cigarette smoking continues to decline, but there was confirmation of two disturbing trends - large numbers of young women smoking regularly and additional evidence suggesting that regular cigarette smokers are smoking more.
- Sixty-three percent of the adult Canadian population can be classified as current drinkers. While this figure is approximately the same as the 65% reported in the 1978-79 Canada Health Survey, those who do drink are consuming less alcohol per week.
- Nearly three in ten adult Canadians are active enough to anticipate health benefits which may include additional years of life.

- Active Canadians describe themselves as happier than their sedentary counterparts. They also tend to adopt other good lifestyle practices (such as avoidance of both smoking and heavy drinking).
- Nine out of ten Canadians contacted at least one type of health professional (physician, nurse or dentist) during the 12 months prior to the General Social Survey. Physician consultation is the most frequent type of contact and was reported by eight out of ten persons.
- Lower income Canadians tend to consult a physician on a more frequent basis than those with higher incomes.

Current health status (chapter 3):

- Over 80% of Canadians rate their health as good or excellent. An even higher proportion (88%) express satisfaction with their health.
- Canadians in general report high levels of happiness, with less than one in twenty of the adult population reporting some level of unhappiness. Those groups most likely to report unhappiness are the elderly, widowed, separated/divorced and the unemployed.
- Nearly 40% of the Canadian population 20 years of age and older can be classified as having excessive weight. This compares with over 50% found in the 1978-79 Canada Health Survey.
- Fewer than one in ten Canadians report spending one or more illness-related days in bed in the two weeks prior to the General Social survey. Young people, 15-24 years of age, are the most likely to report bed-days, followed by those 75 years of age and older, but it is the elderly who report the greatest number of bed-days.
- More than one in five Canadians report having arthritis or rheumatism, which are the most prevalent chronic conditions. Women are one-half again as likely to report this condition as are men.
- Canadians who are obese, underweight, or who smoke are more likely to report a range of health problems than are those who are within recommended weight limits and are non-smokers.

- Those who combine smoking with heavy drinking are more likely to report health problems than those engaging in either of these lifestyle practices alone.

Support networks and social participation of the elderly (chapter 4):

- Most people 55 years of age and older living outside institutions feel they are able to carry out routine daily activities without assistance, such as light housework, grocery shopping, meal preparation, managing money and personal care. However, three in ten say that they require help or are unable to do yard work, while one in five report having trouble with or being unable to do heavy housework.
- Two out of three persons 65 years of age and older provide support to organizations or persons outside their own household, with one in three providing more than one kind of support. Over half the persons in this age group provide financial support to organizations or persons outside the household, while one in six babysit or provide transportation for others.
- Seniors who have many social activities report being happier and healthier than those with few activities, even when compared to those of similar health status.

"Health and Social Support, 1985"

(Catalogue 11-612E, no. 1)

(Price: Canada \$30; elsewhere \$32)

Available from

Statistics Canada Publication Sales and Service

(613) 951-7276

ANNEX 2A: RELEASE - DAILY BULLETIN - January 4, 1989
"GSS - Cycle 2 - LANGUAGE MODULE, 1986"

**General Social Survey - Language
Module
1986**

Among Canadians 15 years and older, 67% have English as their main language and 24% have French. Two per cent of the population is equally at ease in English and French and the same percentage reported that they are equally at ease in English and a non-official language. About 5% of the population indicated that they have a main language other than English or French.

French is less widespread in Quebec than English in the rest of the country. In fact, 84% of the Quebec population 15 years and older has French as their main language (10% English), while 88% of other Canadians have English as their main language (3% French). In Quebec, as in the rest of the country, about 2% of the population is equally at ease in English and French.

Other highlights show:

- Nearly nine out of 10 Canadians can speak English. About half of adults with French mother tongue indicated at least a good ability to speak English.
- About 35% of Canadians can speak French and 12% of adults with English mother tongue reported at least a good ability to speak French.
- In Quebec, 95% of the population has at least a good ability to speak French (49% English). Four of 10 adults with French mother tongue can speak English; 60% of those with English mother tongue can speak French.
- In the nine other provinces, 99% of the population can speak English (14% French). Among adults with French mother tongue, nine out of 10 speak English, while 10% of those with English mother tongue report having at least a good ability to speak French.
- Two out of 10 Canadians have at least a good ability to speak a non-official language. This proportion rises to about 90% for adults with a mother tongue other than English or French.

ANNEX 2B: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT "WHERE DOES TIME GO?"

1.1 HIGHLIGHTS

The second General Social Survey, carried out in November and December of 1986, collected information on time use, social mobility and language knowledge and use. The sample covered the non-institutionalized population, 15 years of age and older, throughout the 10 provinces of Canada. The data were gathered by telephone with an overall response rate of approximately 79%.

The 1986 General Social Survey collected information on time use (what each respondent did, for how long, with whom and where, for a 24 hour period running from 4:00 a.m. one day to 4:00 a.m. the next), inter-generational and intra-generational mobility, personal well-being, and language knowledge and use. Some of the language variables refer to past periods in the respondent's lifetime such as the languages spoken at home in childhood and adolescence while many of the variables deal with the use of languages at the time of the survey.

This document covers only the time use portion of the survey. The social mobility and language information are presented in separate reports.

Time use and activities (chapter 2)

- Canadians aged 15 years and over spend 7.5 hours per day (averaged over a 7 day week) on productive activity, which includes paid work, education and unpaid work (i.e. domestic chores, primary child care and shopping) and 11.0 hours sleeping, eating and on other personal care activities. Free time averages 5.5 hours per day.
- Men and women allocate the same amount of time to productive activity, however the way they spend that time differs. The productive time for males is heavily concentrated on paid work, with an average of 4.7 hours per day, compared to 2.5 hours for females. The major component of productive activity for females, however, is unpaid work, with an average of 4.1 hours per day, compared to 1.9 hours for males.
- Overall, paid work amounts to less than one-half of total productive activity of all Canadians.
- On an average day 13 percent of Canadians 15 and over engage in educational activities such as attending classes, lectures, study and related activities.
- Time spent by students on their main activity education (6.2 hours per day) is comparable to the 6.6 hours per day allocated by employed workers to their main activity, paid work.

- On average, Canadians* spend 1.8 hours per day on domestic activities. Women spend 2.5 hours per day, compared to 1.0 hours for men.
- On an average day, 83% of employed women do some housework. The average time spent by these women doing housework is 2.3 hours. In comparison, 51% of employed men do some housework on an average day, their average being 1.7 hours.
- Shopping and the use of services such as adult medical and dental care, increases with age. On a given day, 28% of people aged 15 to 24 shop or use services. Those that do, average 2 hours. However, 41% of people 65 and over shop or use services on a given day. Those that do, average 2.7 hours on such activities.
- Nearly 90% of parents spend time with their children each day. Those that do, spend an average of 5.2 hours interacting with their children. Over half of all parents with children less than 19 years of age and living at home, spend an average of 2 hours per day on primary child care.
- Retired persons sleep an average of 8.7 hours per day, 0.9 hours per day more than the employed.
- Having children limits the amount of free time available. Women with partner and a child(ren) less than 25 years of age have the least amount of free time, just 4.4 hours per day compared to an average of 5.8 hours per day for women with a partner and no children. Their male counterparts have 4.7 and 6.3 hours respectively.
- Television viewing accounts for more than 40% of free-time activity. On average, men watch 2.6 hours per day compared to 2.1 hours for women.
- Free time rises from an average of 4.7 hours on weekdays to 7.0 hours on Saturday and peaks at 7.5 hours on Sunday. Men have 0.3 hours more free time on weekdays than women, 0.7 more on Saturday and nearly one hour more free time on Sunday.

Location and social contacts (chapter 3)

- On an average day, Canadians aged 15 years and over spend 15.7 hours at home. Time spent at home increases continually with age, from an average of 14.1 hours for persons 15 to 24 years of age, to 19.3 hours per day for persons 65 years and over.

ANNEX 2B: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT "WHERE DOES TIME GO?"

- Whether Canadians drive or use public transit, they spend about the same amount of time on transportation. The 69% of the population who travel by car average 1.3 hours per day, about the same time as the 11% of the population who use public transportation.
- Students spend more than twice as much time with friends as the average Canadian 15 years of age and over, 5.2 hours a day compared to 2.4 hours.
- Living arrangements notably affect social contacts. Men living with a partner and child(ren) have the most time with people, an average of 11.8 hours a day, while women living alone spend the most time alone, an average of 8.4 hours a day.
- Female students living at home have a particularly heavy weekday workload averaging 10.1 hours of productive time per day compared to their male counterparts who average 8.9 hours per day.
- Retired males and females living alone have the most free time (9.3 and 8.4 hours respectively). Retirees living with a partner have about an hour less free time each day.
- Virtually everyone spends some time alone each day. Excluding time spent on selected personal care activities, retired males living alone spend the most time alone, an average of 10.6 hours per day. Their female counterparts average 9.8 hours per day alone.

Role groups and time use (chapter 4)

- Employed parents spend the most time on productive activities, on average more than 9 hours per day, leaving only about 4 hours for free time. During the week, employed parents do on average, more than 10.5 hours of productive work per day and have approximately 3 hours of free time while on weekends time is more evenly divided between productive work and free time.

ANNEX 2C: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT "UPS AND DOWNS ON THE LADDER OF SUCCESS"

HIGHLIGHTS

The second General Social Survey, carried out in November and December of 1986, collected information on time use, social mobility and language knowledge and use. The sample covered the non-institutionalized population, 15 years of age and older, throughout the 10 provinces of Canada. The data were gathered by telephone with an overall response rate of approximately 79%.

The 1986 General Social Survey collected information on time use (what each respondent did, for how long, with whom and where, for a 24 hour period running from 4:00 a.m. one day to 4:00 a.m. the next), inter-generational and intra-generational mobility, personal well-being, and language knowledge and use. Some of the language variables refer to past periods in the respondent's lifetime, such as, the languages spoken at home in childhood and adolescence, while many of the variables deal with the use of languages at the time of the survey.

This document covers only the social mobility portion of the survey. The time use and language information are presented in separate reports.

OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY

- Most Canadians experience occupational mobility in comparison to the occupations of their fathers (inter-generational mobility). Only 12% of women and 26% of men experienced no mobility at all.
- Occupational inheritance is most common among men whose fathers are in the professional classes, the upper white-collar sector, and in farming. Women experience little occupational inheritance between themselves and their fathers.
- Canadians are more likely to experience upward rather than downward inter-generational mobility. Forty-eight percent of women and 39% of men moved upward in the occupational hierarchy. Most of this occupational mobility was short range in nature.
- Women also experienced higher rates of downward mobility than men, in comparison to their fathers' occupations (40% compared with 36%).
- Ethnicity, as indicated by first language spoken, had opposite effects on the inter-generational mobility patterns of men and women. Men, whose first language was neither English nor French (allophones),

had the highest rates of upward occupational mobility and the lowest rates downward. Allophone women had the lowest rates upward and the highest rates downward.

- Nativity, as indicated by whether the respondent and both parents were born in Canada, had opposite effects on the inter-generational mobility patterns of men and women. Among men, the highest levels of upward occupational mobility and the lowest rates downward were among those who were not Canadian-born or whose parents were not Canadian-born. Among women, the lowest rates up and the highest rates down were found among those not Canadian-born.
- Most Canadians experienced no occupational mobility in their own working life (intra-generational mobility). Women were more likely to stay at one occupational level than men (56% compared with 49%, respectively).
- Men experienced more upward intra-generational mobility than women (32% compared with 24%, respectively), and were much more likely to experience long range upward mobility.
- Patterns of intra-generational mobility vary with age, but in opposite ways for men and women. Older men experienced more upward mobility, while older women experienced more downward mobility.

SOCIAL MOBILITY AND EDUCATION

- There has been substantial upgrading of educational levels between generations: 48% of parents, but only 14% of their children have not gone past Grade 8. Only 16% of parents have had at least some postsecondary education compared with 43% of their children. Canadians, who are 65 or older, are four times more likely to have no more than a Grade 10 education than people under age 40.
- About half of the educational mobility (i.e. excluding cases where the parents' and children's education level is the same) is "structural", due to overall upgrading, and half is "circulation" mobility.
- The chances of attaining a postsecondary education (at least some college or university) are twice as great for people whose parents had postsecondary education as for people whose parents did not go beyond Grade 10.
- In comparison to older Canadians, younger Canadians

ANNEX 2C: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT "UPS AND DOWNS ON THE LADDER OF SUCCESS"

have attained a higher level of education and are more likely to have exceeded their parents' level of education.

- Generally, the gender of the respondents or their parents accounts for little difference in educational mobility. One exception is that the son of a parent with Grade 8 or less has more of a chance of attaining a university degree than does a daughter. A second exception is, that in each age category, women are more likely to inherit the educational status of their mother.
- The chance of a woman being a full-time homemaker is higher if a woman's mother also was a full-time homemaker than when her mother had a job in the paid labour force.

STATUS ATTAINMENT

- Canadian-born women and men in the labour force come from similar socio-economic backgrounds, whereas in the early 1970s, women in the labour force were from higher socio-economic backgrounds than were men.
- Foreign-born women and men in the labour force come from higher socio-economic backgrounds than do Canadian-born women and men in the labour force.
- Women in the labour force, both Canadian- and foreign-born, have a higher average number of years of schooling than do men.
- Women's initial jobs in the labour market average slightly higher socio-economic status than do the first jobs of men.
- Men experience more upward mobility than do women, despite the fact that men average fewer years of schooling than women.

- Father's education and occupation has a stronger effect on the education levels and first jobs of men than of women.

- There is a stronger link between first job and current job of women than of men.

- Young, foreign-born women experience the least amount of upward mobility, and their occupational destinies are strongly influenced by their father's occupation and education.

- The higher the level of education and the greater the socio-economic status of a person's father, the more years of schooling people are likely to complete.

- A person's first job in the labour market is principally influenced by their level of education, and parental education and occupation have little direct effect on labour market entry.

- People's current jobs are influenced most by their starting positions in the labour force, and not by their level of schooling.

- Anglophone men experience more upward, intra-generational mobility than do francophone men, and anglophone women experience more upward, intra-generational mobility than do francophone women.

- The mobility experiences of francophones are more influenced by family origin and subsequent educational and first job attainments than is the case for anglophones. This suggests a slightly more open opportunity structure for anglophones.

ANNEX 3A: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT "PATTERNS OF CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION IN CANADA"

1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

The third General Social Survey, carried out in January and February 1988, collected information on two types of personal risk - the risk of accident and criminal victimization - from 9,870 persons 15 years and older. The sample covered the non-institutionalized population throughout the 10 provinces of Canada. The data were gathered by telephone with a response rate of approximately 82%.

The 1988 General Social Survey collected the following types of information: attitudes to various components of the justice system; awareness of victim services; perception of risk with regard to accidents and crime incidents; and information on the kind and number of times the respondent had been involved in an accident or a crime incident during 1987. Each time an accident or criminal victimization was reported, a report was completed collecting details about the incident. In total, 2,404 Accident Incident Reports and 3,808 Crime Incident Reports were completed.

The current presentation covers only the criminal victimization data; the accident data are covered in a separate report.

The risk of victimization (chapter 2).

- An estimated 4.8 million Canadians 15 years and over were victimized by 5.4 million criminal incidents in 1987. Approximately one in three of these incidents were of a violent nature and a further 40% involved crimes against households.
- Among Canadians, the risk of personal victimization is highest for those who are male, young, single, residents of urban areas, and those who are students or unemployed. Greater risks are also faced by those Canadians who frequently engage in evening activities outside the home and among those who regularly use alcohol.
- Rates of household crime are generally greater for households with high incomes, for residences that are rented rather than owned, and for those located in urban areas.
- Risk of both personal and household crime increase from the eastern to the western regions of Canada.

Public reactions to crime and the criminal justice system (chapter 3).

- One in four Canadians indicated that they feel unsafe walking alone in their own neighbourhoods at night. The fear of crime is most frequently expressed by women, the elderly, urban residents, those who are divorced or separated or widowed and those who were victims of robbery or break and enter during the survey year.
- With respect to a number of dimensions of police service, at least one out of two Canadians perceive local police to be doing a good job. Overall, Canadians' views of the courts appear to be less favourable than their views of the police.
- Elderly Canadians and those who have lower levels of education are least likely to be familiar with services and programs intended to assist victims of crime.
- In response to crime, Canadians are most likely to state that they changed their daily activity patterns or installed new locks or burglar alarms and least likely to say that they changed their telephone numbers or took self-defence courses. Defensive behaviour of all types is more common among victims of crime.

The victimization experience (chapter 4).

- Except in the case of robbery, the majority of victimization incidents occurred in or around victims' residences. Almost two out of every three violent victimizations involved offenders with whom victims had some degree of familiarity.
- In total, the economic costs of criminal incidents exceeded one billion dollars in 1987.
- A small number of incidents caused victims to experience difficulties in carrying out their daily activities. Victims did not typically seek medical assistance in the aftermath of incidents involving violence.
- Overall, 40% of the victimization incidents revealed by the GSS came to the attention of the police. When the police did gain knowledge of crime incidents, they were most likely to do so as a result of action taken by the victim.
- In the majority of incidents, victims did not attempt to gain compensation from the courts or from insurance companies.
- In only about one in twenty incidents did victims contact a victim support agency for advice or assistance.

**ANNEX 3B: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT
"ACCIDENTS IN CANADA"**

1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

The third General Social Survey, carried out in January and February 1988, collected information on two types of personal risk - the risk of accident and criminal victimization - from 9,870 people age 15 and over. The sample covered the non-institutionalized population throughout the 10 provinces. The data were gathered by telephone with a response rate of approximately 82%.

The 1988 General Social Survey collected the following types of information: attitudes to various components of the justice system; awareness of victim services; perception of risk with regard to accidents and crime incidents; and information on the kind and number of times the respondent had been involved in an accident or a crime incident during 1987. Each time an accident or criminal victimization was reported, a report was completed collecting details about the incident. In total, 2,404 Accident Incident Reports and 3,808 Crime Incident Reports were completed.

The current presentation covers only the accident data; crime victimization data are covered in a separate report.¹

Social and Environmental Factors (Chapter 2):

- An estimated one in five Canadians (3.8 million people) reported having had at least one accident in 1987. In total, these people reported 5.1 million separate incidents.
- Motor vehicle/traffic accidents accounted for one in three incidents reported. Those which occurred while participating in a sports or leisure activity were the next most frequently reported accidents (23%), followed by work-related accidents (21%). Just over one in ten accidents occurred in or around the home (13%).
- People who drank alcohol on a regular basis were more likely to have experienced one or more accidents in the past three years, than those who did not.
- Accident rates tended to be higher in the western provinces.

Consequences of Accidents (Chapter 3):

- Accidents resulted in one or more of the following consequences: personal injuries (79%), hospital care (45%), activity-loss days (79%), or financial loss (39%).
- Almost one out of two accidents resulted in hospital care (45%). In the majority of cases, however, this care was obtained on an out-patient basis, such as in a hospital emergency department. Fewer than one in ten resulted in an overnight stay in hospital (8%).

- In 1987, approximately 51 million activity-loss days, nine million bed-disability days and two million hospital days were attributable to accidents.
- Of all accidents, 36% resulted in the victims' spending one or more days in bed. Accidents in and around the home were somewhat more likely than other types to result in bed-days.
- In 1987, two out of three motor vehicle/traffic incidents resulted in financial loss (66%). Canadians paid approximately 1.1 billion dollars in personal out-of-pocket expenses for accidents. About one out of five sports-related accidents and home accidents resulted in financial loss (19% and 23%, respectively).

Prevention of Accidents (Chapter 4):

- Of the total population, one out of two accidents (52%) was viewed as being the result of carelessness or unsafe activity. In the remaining incidents, respondents stated that the accident was something that could not have been predicted or avoided.
- Personal carelessness was cited by 26% of respondents reporting work-related accidents. In 8% of work-related accidents, the victim stated that unsafe working conditions were responsible for the event.

Overview of Accident Types (Chapter 5):

- In 1987, Canadians reported 1.7 million motor vehicle/traffic accidents. These accidents represented 33% of all incidents.
- Of all motor vehicle accidents, 45% occurred to people under age 25. Thirty-one percent of all motor vehicle accidents involved men age 15-24.
- Almost two out of three (65%) work-related accidents resulted in hospital care.
- About 60% of all work-related accidents happened to people age 25-44.
- Work-related incidents were responsible for 39% of all spine and back injuries.
- Approximately 17 million days of activity-loss, 2.5 million days of bed-disability and .4 million in-patient hospital days resulted from work accidents.
- Of all sports accidents, 65% occurred to men. Of these incidents, 38% were reported by men age 15-24.
- Falls comprised about 43% of all home accidents. With increasing age, falls constituted an increasing proportion of all incidents.

**ANNEX 4A: RELEASE - DAILY BULLETIN - January 23, 1990
"GSS - Cycle 4 - EDUCATION AND WORK, 1989"**

General Social Survey - Education and Work, 1989

About 43% (5.4 million) of persons employed at the time of the survey reported that their work had been somewhat or greatly affected by the introduction of computers or automated technology in the past five years. Two-thirds of those affected reported that the level of skills required to do their work had increased, 88% stated that their job security had stayed the same or increased and 61% stated that their jobs had become more interesting as a result of this automation.

Highlights

Education Enrolment and Future Plans

- In 1989, 3.3 million (16%) Canadians age 15 years and older reported working towards a diploma or degree. Of these, 40% were seeking a high school diploma, some 30% were studying for a university degree, about 15% were pursuing a diploma or certificate from a community college (including CEGEPs and nursing schools), and 11% were seeking diplomas from a trade, technical or vocational school or business college. Of the 3.3 million individuals enrolled in a diploma or degree program, 8% had not taken any courses in the 12 months prior to the survey.
- In the 12 months before beginning their current educational diploma or degree program, more than two in three of this group had been students and 27% had been employed.
- Close to one in four (4.9 million) adult Canadians intend to start an educational program in the next five years. An estimated 2.3 million (60%) Canadians age 15 to 24 years and 2.2 million (25%) age 25 to 44 years have further educational plans, while only 5% of persons age 45 years and older plan to pursue further studies. Almost one in four Canadians who reported employment as their main activity in 1988 were planning for further education.
- The main reasons given for future education plans were predominantly employment-related: 29% to prepare for a first career, 33% to improve their existing career, 10% to make a career change and 10% to improve their earnings. Only 15% stated that their main reason behind plans for further education was an interest in the subject.
- Females were slightly more likely than males to have plans for further education. Women were also more likely to be planning further education in order to get a first job, to change jobs or careers or because they were interested in the subject. Men, in contrast, were more likely than women to indicate increased earnings as a main reason for further education.

Use of Computers

- Among Canadians who were employed at the time of the survey, one-third (4.3 million) reported using computers in their job and more than half (58%) used the computer an average of 10 or more hours per week.
- An estimated 9.6 million adult Canadians (47%) reported being able to use a computer for some purpose, with little difference between males (48%) and females (46%). About 74% of the population age 15 to 24 years reported having this ability, compared with 58% of 25 to 44 year olds and only 22% of individuals age 45 or older.
- Nearly one in three Canadians (6.4 million) reported having taken a course on how to use computers. About 58% of persons 15 to 24 years old had taken a computer course, compared with only 14% of individuals 45 years of age or older.

Retirement

- Of those employed in 1988, 43% reported plans to retire before age 65, 14% at age 65 and only 1% after age 65. An additional 7% indicated they did not plan to retire and 34% did not know when they would retire.
- Retirement plans differ considerably by age. Baby boomers (persons age 25 to 44 years) were most likely to indicate plans for an early retirement, with about half of this age group choosing this option.
- The survey showed that about 62% of Canadians (12.6 million) do not support mandatory retirement. Of the one in three who believe it is a good idea, men are slightly more likely to favour mandatory retirement than women. Canadians age 45 years and over are somewhat more supportive of mandatory retirement than are younger persons.

ANNEX 4B: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT "QUALITY OF WORK IN THE SERVICE SECTOR"

1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

The fourth General Social Survey (GSS), completed by Statistics Canada in the first few months of 1989, was developed around the general topic *Work and Education: Toward the Year 2000*. A total of 9,338 individuals were surveyed, representing the non-institutionalized population (aged 15 and over) of the 10 provinces. The response rate for this telephone survey was 80%.

Respondents in the 1989 GSS were questioned about a range of topics, including: education and work histories; current employment and educational activity; job satisfaction and other more material rewards from employment; education, work and retirement plans; experiences with new workplace technologies; and interest in science and technology. These questions addressed three general themes: *patterns and trends in work and education; new technologies and human resources; and work in the service economy*. This report focuses on the third theme, the quality of employment in Canada's service-based economy.

A profile of the employed labour force (Chapter 2)

- In 1989, 12.5 million Canadians aged 15 to 64 reported having a paid job. Seventy-one percent were employed in the service industries. About one-third of these service workers were working in the *lower-tier* services (retail trade and other consumer services). The rest were employed in *upper-tier* service industries (distributive services, business services, education, health and welfare, and public administration).
- Women and youth aged 15 to 24 were over-represented in the service sector, particularly in the lower-tier service industries. Lower-tier service sector workers were more likely to be employed in small, non-unionized work organizations.

Non-standard forms of work (Chapter 3)

- Part-time work was the most common form of non-standard employment, accounting for 15% (1.9 million) of all employed aged 15 to 64 in 1989. About half as many (7%; 878,000) reported seasonal jobs in which they normally worked nine or fewer months of the year. Roughly the same proportion were self-employed without any employees (858,000). Somewhat fewer (799,000; 8% of paid employees) were in temporary jobs (with a specific end date), while 5% (635,000) were holding more than one job.

- There was considerable overlap across the three non-standard employment situations. For example, 40% of temporary workers were in part-time jobs, while almost 15% of part-time workers were in part-year positions.
- Own-account self-employment and multiple jobs do not necessarily imply a precarious employment situation. However, when part-time, part-year and temporary work were combined (all of which clearly suggest employment insecurity), 2.8 million (22%) employed 15- to 64-year-old Canadians were observed in non-standard jobs. Using this more restricted definition, young workers and women were found to be considerably over-represented in non-standard jobs.
- The lower-tier service industries (retail trade and other consumer services) exhibited the highest rates of non-standard employment, with over one-third of people working in these sectors in non-standard jobs. However, the upper-tier education, health and welfare industries also had almost 30% of their employees in non-standard jobs.
- While many non-standard jobs were a product of the expanding service economy, one-quarter of Canadians employed in the traditional blue-collar construction sector were also in non-standard jobs, particularly part-year and temporary jobs. In addition, part-year work was fairly common in the natural resource-based industries, while almost half of those employed in agriculture were self-employed (without employees). Thus, some types of non-standard work have long been part of Canada's staple-based economy.

Extrinsic work rewards (Chapter 4)

- The average 1988 personal income of the currently employed (who were in the same job with the same employer) 15- to 64-year-old Canadians was \$27,199. Part-time workers, who constituted the bulk of those in non-standard jobs, reported personal 1988 incomes about one-third the size of those reported by full-time workers. In turn, the female/male income ratio of .61 reflected the over-representation of women in lower-paying, often part-time jobs, in clerical, sales and service occupations.
- Incomes in lower-tier service industries were much lower than in goods-producing and upper-tier service industries. The ratio of clerical, sales and service

**ANNEX 4B: HIGHLIGHTS FROM GSS REPORT "QUALITY OF WORK
IN THE SERVICE SECTOR"**

incomes to managerial and professional incomes was also lower in retail trade and other consumer services. While seniority has a strong positive effect on personal income, workers in the lower-tier services must remain longer with an employer before seniority translates into higher incomes.

- Almost two-thirds of employed 15- to 64-year-old Canadians reported having medical insurance, just over half had a dental plan and an employer-paid pension plan, while four out of ten stated that their employer provides paid maternity leave.
- Fringe benefits were less common in the lower-tier services, where work organizations were smaller and unions were less established, as well as in agriculture and construction. Within each industry, workers in non-standard jobs were less likely to receive these fringe benefits.
- About one-third of employed 15- to 64-year-old Canadians had received a promotion in the past five years. Nevertheless, over half evaluated their career development and promotion opportunities positively. The lower-tier services appeared to offer somewhat fewer promotion opportunities, but it was very clear that non-standard workers received fewer promotions.

Intrinsic work rewards (Chapter 5)

- Job satisfaction remained high among Canadian workers in 1989. While only one in ten stated that they were dissatisfied with their job, a somewhat larger minority evaluated their pay negatively. But over half of employed Canadians strongly agreed that they had a lot of freedom in how they did their job, and almost half strongly agreed that their job required a high level of skill.
- Alternatively, almost one-third strongly agreed that their job involved repetitious work. More than four out of ten stated that their job was not at all related to their education. And almost one-quarter considered themselves to be overqualified for their job, including large numbers of those with postsecondary educational credentials.
- Workers in non-standard jobs reported less job autonomy, more repetitious work and lower skill requirements. Workers in the lower-tier services, especially those in non-standard jobs, typically reported lower skill requirements and a greater mismatch between their education and job. They were also more likely to say they were overqualified for their job, and were less likely to agree that their pay was good. Since women and youth were over-represented in non-standard jobs in the lower-tier services, they also tend to report fewer intrinsic work rewards.

ANNEX 5: RELEASE - DAILY BULLETIN - January 24, 1991
"GSS - Cycle 5 - FAMILY AND FRIENDS, 1990"

General Social Survey - Family and Friends

1990

The 1990 General Social Survey collected data on contact with family members and friends, birth history of children, fertility intentions, marriage and common-law unions, household help and social support networks. Selected data from this fifth cycle of the GSS are now available. A public-use microdata file is scheduled for release in the spring of 1991.

Highlights

Marriage and Common-law Unions

- In 1990, 70% of Canadians aged 18-64 years had been married at least once, while 28% (compared to 16% in 1984) had lived or were living in common-law unions. Some 58% of persons in this age group were married and living with their spouse in 1990, 9% were living common-law and 32% were living outside marriage and common-law unions.
- Those living common-law represented 22% of all unmarried (never married, divorced, separated or widowed) Canadians aged 18-64 years. However, this proportion varied widely by province, from a high of 33% in Quebec to a low of 15% in the Atlantic provinces. Closer to the national average were the Western provinces of Manitoba (21%), Saskatchewan (20%), Alberta (22%), and British Columbia (19%). In Ontario, the proportion was 16%.
- Among younger Canadians, living common-law is often a prelude to marriage: some 37% of currently married people aged 18-29 years and 28% of those aged 30-39 years had lived in a common-law union with their spouse before marrying. By contrast, common-law unions preceded marriage for only 12% of those aged 40-49 years and 4% of those aged 50-64 years.

Raising Children

- In 1990, as in 1984, two-thirds of women aged 18-64 years had given birth to children. However, the proportion of younger women having children has decreased: to 30% of women aged 18-29 years from 35% in 1984, and to 76% of women aged 30-39 years from 80% six years earlier.

- In 1990, nearly 6% of men and just over 3% of women aged 18-64 years had raised step-children, up from 4% of men and 2% of women in 1984. The higher percentages for men reflect the fact that, after divorce, women more often have custody of children and are more apt to bring them to a new marriage.

Fertility Intentions

- Of Canadians aged 15-44 years, 50% intend to have a child or have additional children in the future. Another 9% are uncertain of their future plans. The remaining 40% indicate that they or their spouse/partner do not intend to have children and for more than half of them it is because of sterility or infertility.
- Some 76% of persons aged 15-44 years with no children intend to have children in the future: 48% of those with one child intend to have another child and only 9% of those with two or more children have such intentions.

Support Systems

- Among married persons, husbands (62%) were more likely to turn to their spouse for emotional support than were wives (51%). Wives (19%) were more likely to turn to friends for emotional support than were their husbands (11%).
- Among unmarried persons, women (46%) were almost as likely to turn to friends for emotional support as men (49%).

Second-generation Immigrants

- More than one in three Canadians (37%) aged 15 years and over have at least one foreign-born parent and 18% were themselves born outside Canada.
- Older Canadians are more likely to have a foreign-born parent: 50% of those 75 years and older compared to only 32% of those aged 15-24 years.

**ANNEX 6: RELEASE - DAILY BULLETIN - March 16, 1992
"GSS - Cycle 6 - HEALTH, 1991"**

**General Social Survey - Health
1991**

**Highlights - A Trend to a Healthier
Lifestyle**

Smoking

Over the past 25 years, the proportion of Canadians who are regular smokers has declined. In 1991, about 5.4 million people or 26% of the population aged 15 years and over smoked daily, down from 41% in 1966. However, while the rate among men dropped sharply from 54% in 1966 to 26% in 1991, the percentage of smokers among women dipped only slightly from 28% to 26%. As a result, the smoking rates of men and women have now converged.

Within the next five years, if current trends continue, smoking may be more prevalent among women than among men. At ages 15 to 19, the smoking rate of women (20%) now exceeds that of men (12%).

Alcohol Consumption

The majority of Canadians consume alcohol, but the proportion of drinkers is declining. In 1991, 11.6 million people or 55% of the population aged 15 years and over were "current drinkers," in that they consumed alcohol at least once a month. This level of consumption was down from 65% in 1978. There were, however, wide variations in the prevalence of drinking and the amount of alcohol consumed. Men were more likely than women to be drinkers, and men who were drinkers tended to consume more alcohol than did their female counterparts. For both sexes, drinking peaks at ages 20 to 24 and then declines with advancing age. In 1991, 80% of men and 58% of women aged 20 to 24 years were current drinkers.

Heavy drinking is relatively rare among Canadians. In 1991, 10% of adults who were current drinkers had 14 or more drinks a week. Heavy drinking was more common among men (15% of current drinkers) than among women (4%), a disparity that prevailed at all ages.

Physical Activity

Canadians of all ages reported an increased level of physical activity compared with just a few years ago.

In 1991, based on the energy they typically expended in leisure pursuits, 6.7 million Canadians aged 15 years and over or 32% of the adult population were physically "very active." This was up from 1985, when about 27% of adults were defined as very active.

Men are more likely than women to be very active. In 1991, 39% of men and 26% of women were physically active. For both sexes, this was an increase from 1985, when the corresponding figures were 31% and 23%. The physically active component of the population is highest among young people and declines with advancing age. For example, in 1991, 55% of 15- to 24-year-olds were very active compared to 12% of those aged 65 and over. In all age groups, however, the 1991 figures represent increases from 1985.

Weight Relative to Height

Despite increased levels of physical activity in recent years, the proportion of Canadian adults who are overweight has risen. In 1991, approximately 3.7 million people aged 20 to 64 were overweight according to Health and Welfare Canada standards. This estimate represented 23% of the population aged 20 to 64 in 1991, whereas 17% of those in this age range were overweight in 1985.

Men are more likely than women to be overweight. In 1991, 28% of men were overweight compared to 18% of women. The proportion of those who are overweight tends to rise with advancing age.

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