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Releases

Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities

2006

The use of English in daily activities among English-speaking adults in Quebec appears to be much more widespread than the use of French among French-speaking adults outside Quebec, according to the first results of a groundbreaking survey.

Data from the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities show clearly that outside Quebec, the predominance of French in all social spheres is a reality only among the French-speaking population in certain regions of New Brunswick and of Ontario, mainly those bordering Quebec.

At least three-quarters of French-speaking adults in New Brunswick reported that they speak only French, or mostly French, with their friends and in their immediate networks.

In Ontario, 15% of French-speaking adults said they use only French, or mostly French, in their daily life. This proportion reaches 38% when taking into account those who reported speaking French and English equally. The use of French was much weaker in the provinces west of Ontario, as well as in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

In Quebec, results from the survey found that Quebec English-speaking adults use English heavily on a daily basis. Two-thirds (67%) of them used English predominantly with friends, while nearly 60% did so in their immediate networks.

Moreover, when those who reported using English and French equally were included, the survey showed that English was used more often, or as often, among nearly 85% of Quebec English-speaking adults.

The survey was designed to offer a better understanding of the linguistic life of official-language minorities, and provide information on whether members of such minority communities live their lives in the minority language.

Use of health services: English the predominant language

The survey examined the use of the minority language in the access to a variety of health care services, and the importance that official-language minorities attached to the availability of health services in the minority language.

It found that English was the predominant language in contacts with the different health services. The

Note to readers

This survey pertains to the vitality of Canada's official-language minorities, namely the English-speaking population in Quebec (English mother tongue or English first official language spoken) and the French-speaking population outside of Quebec (French Mother tongue or French first official language spoken). The information collected allows for a more in-depth understanding of the current situation of individuals who belong to these groups on subjects as diverse as instruction in the language of the minority or access to different services in the language of the minority (e.g., health care), as well as language practices both at home and outside of the home.

The survey has two universes: adults aged 18 and over, and children under 18 years of age whose parent (who is the respondent) belongs to the official-language minority. The two final databases contain 20,067 adults and 15,550 children.

The survey contained a series of modules on various themes, such as the respondent's language proficiency, his/her education, linguistic trajectory from childhood to adulthood and sense of belonging, as well as his/her perceived subjective vitality, his/her economic activity and income.

The sections of the report focus on various themes. The first section is on the sense of belonging and subjective vitality. The second section presents information on language practices and behaviours in the public sphere, while the third section is information on health care services and access to these services in the minority language. The final section tackles the theme of school attendance.

principal reason cited by respondents for this situation was the lack of professionals who spoke their minority language.

In Quebec, 72% of English-speaking adults reported using only English with their family doctor. Just over one-half (52%) of those who consulted a nurse used only English, as did about 51% of adults who consulted health professionals in other areas of service.

Outside Quebec, just over one-third (35%) of French-speaking adults reported using mostly French with their regular medical doctor. About 36% used mostly French with a nurse, as did 33% in contacts with other health care professionals.

Only in New Brunswick was French used more than English. More than three-quarters (77%) of the French-speaking adults there reported using mainly French with their family doctor. This proportion rose to 79% among those who contacted other health care professionals. In Ontario, the corresponding proportions were 31% and 20%, respectively.

The use of French varied on a regional basis in New Brunswick. In the northern region, the vast majority (90%) of French-speaking adults reported using mainly French with their family doctor. This compares with 80%

in the southeast region and 26% in the rest of the province.

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of French-speaking adults in all provinces outside Quebec said the main reason that it would be difficult to get health-care services in French is the scarcity of French-speaking professionals. Inside Quebec, at least 70% of English-speaking adults cited a similar problem for receiving services in English.

Minority school attendance outside Quebec

This survey also collected data on proportions of young people who attended minority language schools inside and outside Quebec, as well as the main reasons for parental choices regarding their child's language of instruction.

Outside Quebec, an estimated 111,600 children who had at least one French-speaking parent, or 49% of the total, attended a French-language school in 2006, elementary or secondary. Another 15% were exposed to instruction in French within a French immersion program.

Of these children, about 75,800 (53%) were registered in French-language schools at the elementary level. However, only about 35,800 (44%) were registered in French-language secondary schools. This suggests a significant number of these students had moved to an English-language school after completing their primary schooling in French.

The parents of 35% of the children registered in a French-immersion program told the survey they would have preferred their child to be registered in a minority French school. The parents of about 42% of children registered in a regular program at an English school had the same preference.

The parents of more than 80% of children who would not have preferred their child to be registered in a minority school considered it "very important" or "important" for their children to be able to speak French.

Minority school attendance in Quebec

In Quebec, the language of education of children of English-speaking parents is not always a matter of choice for parents. In most cases, this choice exists for children whose parents are Canadian citizens and had their elementary schooling in English in Canada. Other very specific criteria also allow parents to register their children in English schools. All other children must generally attend French schools as required under Quebec language legislation.

The survey found that in Quebec, just under one-half (49%) of the children of English-speaking parents were registered in an English elementary or secondary school in 2006. Of all the children attending an English school, half were in a French immersion program.

Among the children registered in a French-language school, one-third had parents who would have preferred to register them in a minority English school. However, while this situation is not what they would have chosen, the parents of 91% of these children nevertheless stated that they considered it "very important" or "important" for their children to be able to conduct a conversation in French.

The survey also examined differences in language of schooling among different types of families in Quebec. Of the 32,300 children who had two anglophone parents, 78% were registered in English schools. However, when one spouse was anglophone and the other francophone, only 37% of children were registered in an English school. The rest were in a French school.

Sense of belonging and perceptions regarding vitality

The survey asked members of official-language minorities, based on their experience, which group they identified with the most, namely francophones or anglophones.

Outside Quebec, about one-third (34%) of French speakers said they identified only or mostly with the francophone group. Nearly half (48%) said they identified with the two language groups equally, and nearly 15% said they identified mainly with the anglophone group.

These results vary widely on a regional basis. In New Brunswick, for example, 61% of adults identified primarily with the francophone group. In northern New Brunswick, this proportion increased to 73%.

The vast majority (89%) of French-speaking adults considered it important that linguistic rights, such as the right to education or the right to receive federal government services in the minority language, be respected in their province.

More than one in four French-speaking adults (26%) outside Quebec believed that the presence of French has increased in their municipality over the past 10 years. On the other hand, about 20% thought that its presence had decreased.

Nearly 42% of French-speaking adults considered the vitality of the francophone community in their municipality to be strong or very strong.

In Quebec, the proportion of English speakers who identified primarily with the anglophone group (51%) was much larger than the proportion of French speakers who identified with the francophone group outside Quebec (34%). About 40% of English speakers in Quebec said they identified with both groups.

The vast majority (95%) of English-speaking adults in Quebec considered it important that their linguistic rights be respected.

However, more than one-third (35%) of English-speaking adults said the presence of English had decreased in Quebec over the past decade. And about 42% said that the vitality of the anglophone community in their municipality was strong or very strong.

In general, with respect to both the past and the future, French-speaking adults outside Quebec seemed more optimistic about the change over time in the presence of French in their municipality than were their English-speaking counterparts in Quebec regarding the evolving presence of English in their community.

Whereas one-quarter of the former believed that the presence of French in their municipality will decline in the next 10 years, 36% of English-speaking adults in

Quebec foresaw a decline in the presence of English in their community.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5099.

The report *Minorities Speak Up: Results of the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, 2006* (91-548-XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact the Client Services (613-951-2320; demography@statcan.ca), Demography division. ■

Study: Staying at home longer to become homeowners

2006

There is a positive link between the age at which a young adult leaves the parental home and the likelihood that they become homeowners, but only until about age 25, according to a new study published today in *Canadian Social Trends*.

Compared with previous generations, today's young adults are more likely to live with their parents well into their 20s or return to their family home after an initial departure. One explanation, sometimes suggested in media reports, is that young people want to save money towards the purchase of their own home.

Yet the relationship between staying at home longer and eventually owning a home is not that clear, according to a new analysis of data from the 2006 General Social Survey on family transitions, published today in *Canadian Social Trends*.

According to the study, there is a link between the age at which a young adult leaves the parental home and the likelihood that they become homeowners, but only until about age 25. After age 25, the likelihood of being a homeowner when they are in their 30s declines. This conclusion remains the same even after taking account of various factors associated with the likelihood of being a homeowner (such as income, employment status, having a spouse and children, and place of residence).

About two-thirds (67%) of young adults who had left the parental home at 18 or 19 reported owning their own home in their 30s. The proportion was almost three-quarters (74%) for those who had left at 24 or 25.

Beyond age 25, the later their age at departure, the lower their probability of being a homeowner in their 30s. Among those who did not leave their parents' home until they were 28 to 30 years old, only 61% owned their own home in their 30s.

A similarly low ownership rate was reported by those who left the family home when they were very young. Only 61% of young adults who left at age 16 or 17 were homeowners when they reached their 30s.

The link between home ownership and young adults who return to live in the parental home is more complex. As a whole, these so-called "boomerang kids" are just as likely to be homeowners eventually as those who leave their parents' home only once.

However, for boomerang kids, the likelihood of owning a home depends on their reasons for returning to live with their parents. Those who returned because they lost their job or were having financial problems were much less likely to be homeowners in their 30s than those who never came back home.

On the other hand, young adults who "boomeranged" because a relationship ended or because they had finished their studies were no less likely to become homeowners than those who never returned to live with their parents.

Other explanations cited for why young people delay leaving (or return to) the parental home include the prolonged period of education, accumulation of debt, the temporary nature of jobs often held by young people, and delayed formation of couples.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4501.

The study "Staying at home longer to become homeowners?" is in the December 2007 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, Vol. 84 (11-008-XWE, free), now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper version (11-008-XPE, \$24/\$39) is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Federal government spending on science and technology

2007/2008 (intentions)

The federal government's spending on science and technology is expected to reach \$9.5 billion in the fiscal year 2007/2008, after surpassing \$9 billion in 2005/2006. Research and development will be the main beneficiary of this federal investment.

A survey of the science and technology activities of federal departments and agencies shows that intended spending on research and development for 2007/2008 will be an estimated \$6.1 billion. Related scientific activities, such as scientific and general data collection and information services, will receive \$3.5 billion.

As a result, science and technology will account for about 4.5% of the total federal government budget in 2007/2008, compared with 5.1% two years earlier.

Federal science and technology spending will contract slightly in 2007/2008, from \$9.7 billion in 2006/2007 to \$9.5 billion. This decline will occur in related scientific activities. However, indications are that federal research and development spending will hold steady.

Almost half (48%) of federal science and technology investment in 2007/2008 will be performed outside the federal government with the majority (80%) of

this funding directed towards natural sciences and engineering.

The higher education sector will receive \$2.9 billion and Canadian business enterprises \$1.1 billion to fund science and technology activities in 2007/2008.

The higher education sector will receive \$2.6 billion, while the federal government departments and agencies will receive \$2.3 billion to conduct research and development.

Intentions for direct federal funding of research and development by Canadian business enterprises are down slightly from \$791 million in 2005/2006 to \$733 million in 2007/2008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4212.

The service bulletin *Science Statistics*, Vol. 31, no. 7 (88-001-XWE, free), is now available online from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Nadeau, (613-951-2541; marc.nadeau@statcan.ca) or Louise Earl, (613-951-2880; louise.earl@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Provincial and territorial government finance: Assets and liabilities

March 31, 2006

On March 31, 2006, the net financial debt (defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets) of provincial and territorial general governments reached \$253 billion, down \$6 billion or 2.3% compared with March 31, 2005. Financial assets were up 7.5% to \$333.8 billion, and total liabilities were up 3.0% to \$586.8 billion.

While Quebec and Ontario posted a combined increase in net financial debt of \$5.5 billion between 2005 and 2006, Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan lowered their combined total provincial and territorial general government net financial debt by \$11.6 billion. The financial assets of Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon continued to exceed their liabilities in 2006.

As a percentage of the gross domestic product, the net financial debt of provincial and territorial general governments reached a 15-year low at 17.7% in 2006, down from 19.4% in 2005 and well below the peak of 28.8% recorded in 1996.

The per capita net financial debt of provincial and territorial general governments decreased

from \$8,042 in 2005 to \$7,776 in 2006. It is the lowest per capita net financial debt in the last 11 years. Although Newfoundland and Labrador posted a decrease of 4.1% in its net financial debt in 2006, the per capita net financial debt was still the highest in Canada at \$18,787, down from \$19,439 in 2005. Quebec, at \$13,549, and Nova Scotia, at \$12,594, had the second and third highest net financial debts per capita.

Note: These statistics are based on the actual data released in the provincial and territorial governments' public accounts dated March 31, 2006 and converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System.

The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial and local governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ.

The FMS adjusts data from governments' public accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as compatible national aggregates that are consistent over time. As a result, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements. A reconciliation statement between the public accounts and the FMS is available on CANSIM.

This release is the second in a series of four data products related to government balance sheets (reference date March 31, 2006) in Canada. The federal government balance sheet was released on December 21, 2006 and the local government and consolidated government balance sheet will be released in April 2008.

Available on CANSIM: tables 385-0014, 385-0018, 385-0019, 385-0025, 385-0026 and 385-0029.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1709.

Data tables on the provincial and territorial government finance: Assets and liabilities are also available online in the *National economic accounts* module on our website.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-0767; fe-pid-dipinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or quality of this release, contact Philippe Samborski (613-951-7101; philippe.samborski@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division. □

Net financial debt of provincial and territorial general governments at March 31, 2006¹

Province or territory	Net financial debt	Change in net financial debt over 2005	Per capita	Population at April 1 ²
	\$ millions	%	\$	thousands
Newfoundland and Labrador	9,600	-4.1	18,787	511
Prince Edward Island	1,287	2.9	9,326	138
Nova Scotia	11,775	2.2	12,594	935
New Brunswick	5,706	0.3	7,608	750
Quebec	103,434	3.6	13,549	7,634
Ontario	112,408	1.7	8,880	12,658
Manitoba	11,858	3.8	10,083	1,176
Saskatchewan	8,558	-7.3	8,671	987
Alberta	-27,609	... ³	-8,246	3,348
British Columbia	16,221	-15.5	3,770	4,303
Yukon	-336	... ³	-10,839	31
Northwest Territories	-96	... ³	-2,286	42
Nunavut	243	-21.9	8,100	30

... not applicable

1. This table is derived using the Financial Management System.

2. From CANSIM table 051-0005, Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories, quarterly.

3. The province has a negative net financial debt (net financial wealth).

Provincial and territorial general governments net financial debt at March 31¹

	Net financial debt	Net financial debt as a % of GDP	Per capita net financial debt	GDP first quarter ²	Population at April 1
	\$ millions	%	\$	\$ millions	thousands
1986	76,065	15.1	2,923	503,852	26,020
1987	89,532	16.6	3,398	538,112	26,348
1988	97,494	16.4	3,654	595,656	26,682
1989	101,510	15.8	3,739	643,120	27,152
1990	112,015	16.6	4,062	676,764	27,573
1991	116,652	17.2	4,176	678,172	27,936
1992	143,065	20.6	5,062	692,940	28,265
1993	173,691	24.3	6,074	714,776	28,597
1994	202,446	27.0	7,004	750,696	28,905
1995	224,041	27.9	7,670	801,904	29,211
1996	235,896	28.8	7,992	819,976	29,515
1997	241,746	27.9	8,107	867,828	29,819
1998	245,223	27.0	8,152	906,904	30,082
1999	258,271	27.2	8,519	949,136	30,317
2000	256,166	24.6	8,372	1,042,100	30,597
2001	241,813	21.7	7,822	1,115,212	30,913
2002	249,431	22.3	7,978	1,119,204	31,266
2003	255,881	21.2	8,103	1,208,584	31,578
2004	259,988	20.7	8,151	1,253,040	31,895
2005	259,014	19.4	8,042	1,334,424	32,206
2006	253,049	17.7	7,776	1,431,364	32,543

1. This table is derived using the Financial Management System.

2. From CANSIM table 380-0002, Gross domestic product (GDP), expenditure-based, quarterly.

For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers

First quarter 2007

There were an estimated 3,579 for-hire trucking companies based in Canada with annual revenues of \$1 million or more in the first quarter of 2007, up from 3,541 carriers in the first quarter of 2006. Operating revenues totalled \$6.9 billion, down 5.9% from the first quarter of 2006. Operating expenses reached \$6.5 billion, down 4.8% from the same period in 2006. As a result the operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenues) deteriorated somewhat, moving from 0.93 to 0.94.

On a year-over-year basis, average operating revenues declined 6.9% to \$1.9 million, while average operating revenues decreased 5.8% to \$1.8 million.

In addition, for-hire trucking transportation revenues from domestic movements decreased by 11.2% to \$4.5 billion from the \$5.0 billion registered in the first quarter of 2006. In contrast, revenues from international movements increased 9.2%, mainly because of an almost 14% growth in revenues from outbound movements.

Note: Following the selection of a new sample, revisions have been made to many of the published estimates to ensure reasonable time series continuity. The new sample was implemented for the fourth quarter of 2005, allowing for three quarters of "parallel" estimates from both the new and old samples. Revisions, when

necessary, start with the first quarter of 2003. Estimates from the fourth quarter of 2005 to date are now based entirely on the new sample.

Available on CANSIM: table 403-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2748.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Cement

October 2007

Data on cement are now available for October.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Canadian Social Trends, no. 84
Catalogue number 11-008-XWE
(free).

Canadian Social Trends, Winter 2007, no. 84
Catalogue number 11-008-XPE (\$24/\$39).

Health Indicators, 2007, Vol. 1, no. 2
Catalogue number 82-221-XWE
(free).

**Health Regions: Boundaries and Correspondence
with Census Geography**, 2007
Catalogue number 82-402-XWE
(free).

Science Statistics, Vol. 31, no. 7
Catalogue number 88-001-XWE
(free).

**Minorities Speak Up: Results of the Survey on the
Vitality of Official-Language Minorities**, 2006
Catalogue number 91-548-XWE
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Statistics Canada	
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MAJOR RELEASES	
• Urban transit, 1996 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4
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