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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

New products

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Releases

Study: A decade-long look at registered apprentices

1993 to 2003

About one-half of the individuals who registered in an apprenticeship program in New Brunswick and in Ontario in 1993, and nearly 60% of those in Alberta, had completed their training a decade later, usually in the trade they had chosen in 1993.

These results come from a new study that examines trends in completing or discontinuing apprenticeship programs among registered apprentices who started their program in 1993.

A similar study, released by Statistics Canada in 2005, looked at the 1992 cohort. Results of the new study were similar to those for the 1992 cohort in each of the three provinces.

The median duration for completing an apprenticeship trade program was four to five years. For most trades, a majority of those who completed their program took equal or less time than the nominal duration, plus one year to complete. However, in some trade groups, a good 40% took more than that duration. Few who once discontinued a program returned and eventually completed a program.

In all three provinces, the rate of completion was higher among apprentices registered in the industrial and mechanical trades. It was lower among those training in the building construction trades.

There was no apparent relation between the nominal duration of a program and the likelihood of completing it. However, in two of the three jurisdictions (Ontario and Alberta), there was an apparent relation between the age of the apprentice at the start of the program and the completion rate; younger people had a higher completion rate.

On average, apprentices were 26 to 27 years old at the start of their program in 1993, depending on the program. Between 85% and 93% of them were men.

The purpose of this study is to provide measures of completion of apprenticeship programs and information on the learning paths of the apprentices over time. Accurate indicators of the success of these programs are important to ensure that they continue to meet the demand for skilled workers.

New Brunswick: Just under half completed a trade

Just over 900 people registered in an apprenticeship program in 1993 in New Brunswick. Trades that were most common were automotive service technician, construction electrician, carpenter and industrial instrument mechanic.

After the 11-year period, 47% of the newly registered apprentices in 1993 had completed a trade, and 93% of this group completed in the trade in which they registered in 1993.

About 53% discontinued their program at some point, and only 6% of those who discontinued returned and eventually completed a program.

About two-thirds of the apprentices in the welder and industrial mechanic-millwright trades completed their program. Conversely, only about one-fifth in the carpenter and the plumber trades did the same.

Note to readers

The study uses longitudinal data created from the Registered Apprenticeship Information System. It covers three provinces that were able to provide data at the individual level over the 11-year period: New Brunswick, Ontario and Alberta.

The study examines the completion and discontinuation rates trends in apprenticeship programs for the 1993 cohort of newly registered apprentices over an 11-year period. It also compares the measures for the 1993 and the 1992 cohorts.

Ontario: Automotive service technician, hairstylist most common trades

More than 9,000 people registered in an apprenticeship program in 1993 in Ontario. Trades that were the most common were automotive service technician, hairstylist, construction electrician and carpenter.

The completion rate over the 11-year period was 50%, and 96% of those who completed their program did so in the trade in which they registered in 1993. About 44% discontinued at some point, and only 8% of those who discontinued eventually returned and completed a program.

About 9% of the 1993 cohort of registered apprentices in Ontario was still training by 2003.

More than two-thirds of the 1993 cohort of registered apprentices in Ontario in the industrial mechanic-millwright, hairstylist and refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic trades completed their training.

Conversely, only one-third or less of the apprentices in the cook, carpentry and landscape gardening trades completed their program. There was also significant variation in the time taken to complete a trade depending on the trade.

Alberta: Highest completion rate of the three provinces

In Alberta, approximately 5,500 individuals registered in an apprenticeship program in 1993. The most common trades were hairstylist, construction electrician, welder, automotive service technician and carpenter.

The completion rate over the 11-year period was 59%, higher than for the two other jurisdictions. Of those who completed their program, 96% did so in the trade in which they registered in 1993.

About 48% discontinued at some point, with 14% of these discontinuers returning and completing a program. The rate of return to a program was higher in Alberta than in the other two jurisdictions.

Approximately 7 out of 10 apprentices registered in Alberta in 1993 as hairstylist, heavy equipment mechanic technician, welder, industrial mechanic-millwright completed their program.

Conversely, less than one-half of the apprentices registered as cook, steamfitter-pipefitter, sheet metal worker and carpenter completed their program.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3154.

The report "Registered apprentices: The cohort of 1993, a decade later, comparisons with the 1992 cohort" is now available as part of the *Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research Papers* (81-595-MIE2008063, free). From the *Publications* module of our website, choose *Free Internet publications*, then *Education, training and learning*.

To obtain more information on Statistics Canada's Education Statistics Program, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-4441; TTY: 1-800-363-7629; *educationstats@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Study: Public infrastructure's contribution to production

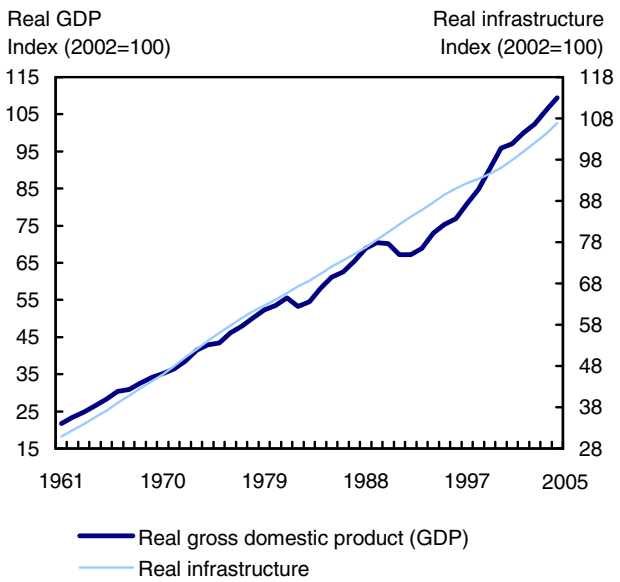
1961 to 2005

Public infrastructure, the roads and water and sewer systems that comprise the foundation of Canada's economy, provided a rate of return to public capital at least as high as the government long-term bond yield over the period from 1961 to 2005.

Infrastructure is an enabling input for the economy that facilitates the flow of goods and people. It is one of the cornerstones upon which the private sector operates.

On average, the stock of public infrastructure is half as large as gross domestic product (GDP) in the business sector, and 28% of the size of the capital stock in the private sector.

Real GDP and infrastructure growth



Rate of growth of real GDP and stock of public infrastructure closely related over time

Public infrastructure provides support for businesses and individuals. Over time, the expanding stock of infrastructure in Canada closely matches trend changes in real GDP, aside from the recessions of the early 1980s and 1990s.

The roads, water and sewer systems that make up the majority of public capital allows for lower transportation costs, greater concentrations of people and firms, promotes agglomeration and provides firms and consumers access to broader, deeper markets.

Note to readers

This study employs provincial and industry data to estimate the impact of public infrastructure on real gross domestic product in the business sector, and the implicit rate of return earned by these investments. This rate of return only considers the impact on business-sector output. The study uses several alternative methods, the estimation of both production and cost functions, to do so.

In addition, the production and cost functions are estimated using several different techniques that account for time series properties of the data used. The study compares the results, and provides an estimate of the rate of return on infrastructure spending.

In this study, infrastructure is defined as all investments in public administration (North American Industrial Classification System 91) and excludes health care and education.

Estimating infrastructure's rate of return is complicated

Despite the contribution that public capital makes to the economy, the study notes that it has proven difficult to generate a robust estimate for infrastructure's rate of return. In Canada, public capital provision is primarily funded through taxation, and generally does not have commercial markets for its output. These factors make estimating infrastructure's rate of return more complicated.

Previous estimates of the impact vary considerably. Evaluations of the range of estimates provided by these studies are difficult for a number of reasons — from the variety of jurisdictions covered, to differences in data sources used and analytical approaches taken.

The study released today provides an overview of the difficulties faced when estimating the rate of return on infrastructure. The study then uses a variety of econometric techniques to estimate the relationship between real output in the business sector and public capital, and the relationship between unit costs of private sector output and public capital for Canada. The analysis investigates the strengths and weakness of each approach and then triangulates the results in order to suggest the rate of return on which the various methods converge.

The return on infrastructure is measured in this study as the benefit that a dollar invested in roads, sewers, water treatment, and so on, generates for the business sector. This benefit is either in terms of

decreased private sector costs attributable to the "free" provision of infrastructure, and/or increased private sector output.

The study argues that the appropriate estimate of the rate of return centres on 17%, with a range of plus or minus 12%. This means that the range of plausible estimates generated by the study also includes values that are consistent with the return equalling the average annual long-term government bond yield and the average annual return on private capital.

The study "An examination of public capital's role in production" is now available as part of the *Economic Analysis Research Paper Series* (11F0027MIE2008050, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

For further information on public infrastructure, consult the research paper *Infrastructure capital: What is it? Where is it? How much of it is there?* (15-206-XIE2008016, free), released on March 12, 2008.

Also useful is the research paper *Public infrastructure in Canada: Where do we stand?* (11-624-MIE2003005, free).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ryan Macdonald (613-951-5687), Micro-economic Analysis Division. ■

Financial Performance Indicators for Canadian Business

2006

The three volume series of *Financial Performance Indicators for Canadian Business* for 2006 is now available in CD-ROM format. It is an authoritative reference source of key financial ratios for many industries in Canada.

Volume 1 covers large incorporated firms in both the financial and non-financial sectors, at the national level, with annual sales revenue of $25 million or more.

Volume 2 covers medium-sized incorporated firms in the non-financial sector, at the national level, with annual sales revenue of $5 million to less than $25 million.

Volume 3 covers small-sized incorporated firms with annual sales revenue from $30,000 to less than $5 million in the non-financial sector at the national, provincial and territorial levels, and for the Atlantic and Prairies regions.

Data showed median profitability ratios for firms in all three groups improved.

Large corporations recorded a median operating profit margin of 3.0% in 2006, up from 2.7% in 2005 and 2.6% in 2004.

Median operating profit margins for medium firms were 3.1% in 2006, 2.8% in 2005 and 2.6% in 2004, while those for small firms were 5.0% in 2006, 4.0% in 2005 and 3.5% in 2004.

Volume 3 provides ratio distributions for small-sized corporations at the provincial level. Given the robust economic activity driven by the oil and gas, mining and construction industries, it is not surprising that Alberta posted the highest median operating profit margin (9.3%) in 2006.

This series uses up-to-date, reliable and comprehensive data on Canadian businesses derived from Statistics Canada databases of financial statements.

This CD-ROM enables users to compare their firm's performance to that of their industry to address issues such as profitability, efficiency and business risk. The CD-ROM can also be used for inter-industry comparisons.

The CD-ROM provides three years of data (2004, 2005 and 2006). It offers a full slate of financial ratios and a common-sized balance sheet for sectors and industries in Canada. Data are compiled based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2007).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2510.

The CD-ROM *Financial Performance Indicators for Canadian Business* (61-224-XCB) is now available. All volumes cost $1,045; Volumes 1, 2 and 3 national, $590; Volume 1, $240; Volume 2, $240; Volume 3, national, $240; Volume 3, province, territory or region, $240 each. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-263-1136) or Louise Noel (toll-free 1-888-811-6235; *louise.noel@statcan.ca*), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Danielle Lafontaine-Sorgo (613-951-2634; *danielle.lafontaine-sorgo@statcan.ca*) or Haig McCarrell (613-951-5948; *haig.mccarrell@statcan.ca*), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

Supply and disposition of refined petroleum products

December 2007

Data on the supply, disposition and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: tables 134-0001 to 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

The December 2007 issue of *The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada*, Vol. 62, no. 12 (45-004-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

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

New products

Economic Analysis Research Paper Series: "An examination of public capital's role in production", no. 50
Catalogue number 11F0027MIE2008050
(free).

The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada, December 2007, Vol. 62, no. 12
Catalogue number 45-004-XWE
(free).

Financial Performance Indicators for Canadian Business, 2004 to 2006
Catalogue number 61-224-XCB
(various prices).

New Motor Vehicle Sales, February 2008, Vol. 80, no. 2
Catalogue number 63-007-XWE
(free).

Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research Papers: "Registered apprentices: The cohort of 1993, a decade later, comparisons with the 1992 cohort", 1993 to 2003, no. 63
Catalogue number 81-595-MIE2008063
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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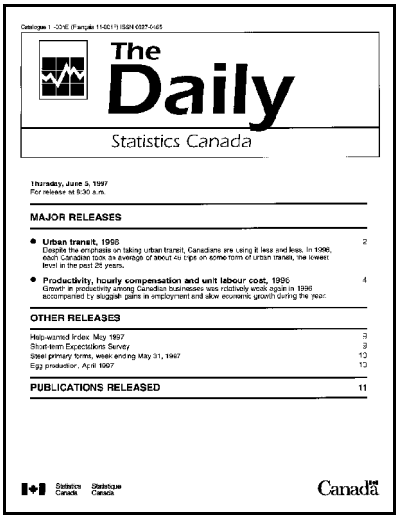

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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997 8
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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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