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Perspectives on Labour and Income

April 2008 online edition

The April 2008 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, features three articles.

The article "Retiring together, or not" examines the retirement patterns of spouses in dual-earner couples.

The article "Work-related training" looks at how participation in job-related courses changed between 1993 and 2002 across a number of social and demographic characteristics. In particular, the factors affecting training, whether employer supported or self funded, are explored.

The 2006 Census hit the streets during the hottest labour market in a generation, with many regional unemployment rates at long-term lows and wage increases outstripping price hikes. The article "Running a census in a tight labour market" describes how census managers coped with the hiring problems this caused. While technological advances reduced manpower needs, tens of thousands of temporary workers were still required, which proved to be a problem in many areas. Census managers extended the collection period and moved an unprecedented number of enumerators across regions to attain acceptable data quality while remaining within budget.

The April 2008 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 9, no. 4 (75-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



Study: Retiring together, or not

1986 to 2001

Rather than retiring together, men and women in dual-earner couples appeared to have approached retirement in a more independent fashion during the 1990s, a new study has found.

The study, published today in *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, examined the extent to which spouses in dual-earner couples synchronized the timing of their retirements over the last two decades. It also looked at factors associated with taking different paths into retirement.

Among dual-earner couples in which at least one spouse retired in 2001, 29% of the spouses retired within two years of each other. This was a slight decline from about 32% during the late 1980s and 1990s.

There was also a decreasing tendency among couples to retire within two to four years of each other. For example, in 1986, in cases where the husband retired first, 19% of wives retired within two to four years. For husbands retiring in 2001, only 15% of wives retired within two to four years.

On the other hand, the proportions of husbands and wives who retired five or more years later than their spouses increased substantially from the 1986 cohort to the 2001 cohort.

Overall, this suggests that dual-earner couples in Canada took a more independent approach towards retirement during this 15-year period.

The opportunity to retire jointly may be constrained by factors such as age differences, health conditions, eligibility for pensions, job loss and career aspirations.

The study found that the likelihood that spouses would retire jointly was greater among older couples than younger couples.

A one-year increase in the age of the husband decreased the likelihood that either spouse retired five or more years after the other by about 2 percentage points. It increased the likelihood of joint retirement by 3.2 points.

Perhaps not surprisingly, if a husband in a dual-earner couple was 65, his or his wife's retirement was likely to have been accompanied, or closely followed, by the other's retirement.

In contrast, if the husband was 55, his or his wife's retirement was less likely to have been accompanied by the other's retirement. The other spouse was more likely to continue working.

The age difference between spouses was also a factor. A wife who was much younger than her husband was more likely to continue working after he retired than a wife who was about the same age or older.

Financial characteristics, including pension contributions prior to retirement, were also important. Husbands and wives earning \$45,000 or more were significantly less likely to continue working five or more years after their spouses' retirement compared with those earning less than \$15,000.

Conversely, husbands and wives with incomes of \$45,000 or more were significantly more likely to retire jointly.

Wives who had pension coverage, and who contributed a larger share to the couples' income, were more likely to continue working after their husbands' retirement than wives who did not have pensions or who contributed less.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3701 and 4107.

The article "Retiring together, or not" is now available in the April 2008 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 9, no. 4 (75-001-XWE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Grant Schellenberg (613-951-9580; grant.schellenberg@statcan.ca) or Yuri Ostrovsky (613-951-4299; yuri.ostrovsky@statcan.ca), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

Local government finance: Assets and liabilities

December 31, 2005

During the five years leading up to December 31, 2005, local governments in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut had financial assets that exceeded their liabilities.

The net financial debt of local governments, defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets, was \$9.5 billion at December 31, 2005, up 7.4%, or \$652 million, from a year earlier. On a long term basis, local government finance continued to improve, with net financial debt declining from a peak of \$23.5 billion in 1993.

At the national level, financial assets increased to \$61.2 billion, while total liabilities rose to \$70.6 billion. Local governments in Quebec continued to register the highest net financial debt, at \$14.8 billion. This level is lower than the peak of \$16.3 billion reached in 2002.

Local governments in Quebec had the highest per capita net financial debt in 2005, at \$1,944, down from a peak of \$2,176 in 2002. It was followed by Newfoundland and Labrador, with a per capita net

financial debt of \$1,303, and Prince Edward Island (\$804).

These statistics are based on annual reports of municipalities and school boards as well as provincial and territorial government reports dated December 31, 2005. Data were converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System.

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial, territorial 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 the Public Accounts of governments and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as national aggregates that are consistent over time. As a result, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements.

An up-to-date portrait of national, provincial, territorial and local economies and their structure is available from the *National Economic Accounts* module of our website.

Available on CANSIM: table 385-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1709.

Data are available through custom tabulation. For more information on products and services, contact the information officer (613-951-0767; fe-pid-dipinfo@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Aldo Diaz (613-951-8563) or Diana-Lynn Walters (613-951-1833), Public Institutions Division.

Excess of liabilities over financial assets

Province/territory	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	\$ millions					
Newfoundland and Labrador	726	729	768	767	772	666
Prince Edward Island	47	45	64	70	97	111
Nova Scotia	326	357	334	309	306	330
New Brunswick	328	355	393	421	454	496
Quebec	14,763	15,719	16,276	15,027	15,106	14,842
Ontario	378	-1,995	-2,925	-3,428	-3,759	-2,557
Manitoba	558	437	312	444	427	487
Saskatchewan	-730	-734	-859	-892	-932	-868
Alberta	-668	-1,194	-961	-1,275	-1,621	-1,950
British Columbia	-2,443	-1,074	-1,248	-1,742	-2,019	-2,070
Yukon	-21	-16	-16	-16	-20	-21
Northwest Territories	9	3	3	2	3	2
Nunavut	-13	-10	-6	-9	-11	-13
Net financial debt	13,260	12,622	12,135	9,678	8,803	9,455

Excess of liabilities over financial assets: Per capita

Province/territory	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	\$					
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,388	1,402	1,480	1,453	1,499	1,303
Prince Edward Island	346	328	467	507	703	804
Nova Scotia	350	382	357	330	327	353
New Brunswick	437	473	523	560	604	661
Quebec	1,999	2,115	2,176	1,995	1,992	1,944
Ontario	32	-166	-240	-277	-300	-202
Manitoba	485	379	269	380	364	414
Saskatchewan	-729	-736	-863	-896	-940	-879
Alberta	-220	-385	-305	-399	-498	-582
British Columbia	-601	-262	-301	-416	-476	-481
Yukon	-700	-533	-533	-516	-645	-677
Northwest Territories	220	73	71	47	70	48
Nunavut	-464	-357	-207	-310	-367	-433
Net financial debt	429	404	384	303	273	291

Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

March 2008 (preliminary)

Placements of hatchery chicks onto farms were estimated at 60.3 million birds in March, up 2.3% from March 2007. Placements of turkey poults on farms decreased 2.0% to 2.1 million birds.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Stocks of frozen and chilled meats

April 2008

The stocks of red meat in storage amounted to 100 396 metric tonnes in April, up 9% from a year earlier and up 5% from January 2008. The stocks of poultry meat totalled 66 749 metric tonnes in April, up 23% from a year earlier and up 15% from January 2008.

This release contains details for various cuts of pork, beef, veal, poultry, mutton and lamb as well as fancy meats at the Canadian level. At the regional level, it contains totals for the red meats. This release also contains the holdings of imported meat at the national level for the same periods.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0081 and 003-0082.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3423.

The April 2008 issue of *Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats*, Vol. 3, no. 1 (23-009-XWE, free) is now available on our website. From the *Publications* module, choose *Free Internet publications*, then *Agriculture*.

To order data, or to obtain more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

New products

Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats, April 2008,
Vol. 3, no. 1
Catalogue number 23-009-XWE
(free).

Perspectives on Labour and Income, April 2008,
Vol. 9, no. 4
Catalogue number 75-001-XWE
(free).

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

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Release dates: April 28 to May 2, 2008

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
28	Provincial and territorial economic accounts	2007 (preliminary)
28	Survey of Earned Doctorates	2004/2005
29	Annual Review of Manufacturing	2007
29	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	February 2008
29	Employment Insurance	February 2008
30	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	March 2008
30	Gross domestic product by industry	February 2008
1	2006 Census: Earnings, income and shelter costs	2006 Census
2	Port activity	2005
