

The Daily

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Survey of Household Spending, Public Use Microdata File

2006

Understanding consumer spending is important for a wide variety of users, including social policy analysts, advocacy and community groups, businesses and all levels of government. The Public Use Microdata File from the 2006 Survey of Household Spending gives users the ability to conduct their own analysis of spending on a wide variety of goods and services, dwelling characteristics and possession of household equipment and services. Results from the 2006 Survey of Household Spending were originally released on February 26, 2008.

The Public Use Microdata File for the Survey of Household Spending contains household level information about expenditures on a wide variety of goods and services. It also contains information about dwelling characteristics and household equipment. All records have been thoroughly screened to ensure the anonymity of respondents.

The *Survey of Household Spending: Public Use Microdata File, 2006* (62M0004XCB, \$3,210) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-7355; toll-free 1-888-297-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.



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Releases

Pension plans in Canada

As of January 1, 2007

After only a modest gain in 2005, membership in employer registered pension plans resumed normal growth in 2006, entirely the result of increases among women.

Canada's 18,594 employer sponsored registered pension plans added 77,700 new members in 2006, representing a growth of 1.4%, according to new data from an annual census of these plans. This took total membership to 5.8 million in 2006.

In 2005, these plans, also known as registered pension plans (RPPs), added only about 20,000 people, a pace of growth that was substantially slower than annual gains recorded since the turn of the millennium.

Gains in 2006 were distributed evenly between the public sector, which added 39,400 members, and the private sector, which added 38,300, despite the fact that the public sector only accounts for less than 10% of all registered pension plans. Most levels of government in the public sector added members during the period.

However, the growth in the membership of these plans has still been far slower than the rate of growth of paid workers as measured by Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey. Consequently, there has been a continuous decline of the proportion of paid workers with a registered pension plan.

In 2006, 38.1% of paid workers had a registered pension plans, down marginally from 38.5% in 2005. During this period, coverage for women increased, while membership of men declined.

Gains come from women

The gain in membership in registered pension plans during 2006 came from women. Membership rose by about 82,200 among women, but it fell by about 4,500 among men, for a net gain of 77,700.

Of the 5.8 million total membership, women accounted for 2.8 million, or 48.5%, while men accounted for 3.0 million, or 51.5%. In 2000, women accounted for 45.1%, and men, 54.9%

Increases for women were shared between the public and private sectors.

For the first time, the proportion of women members with "defined benefit plans" exceeded the share of men. The vast majority of RPP members belong to these plans, which are RPPs that define the benefits to be paid according to a formula stipulated in the plan text.

Note to readers

Registered pension plans (RPPs) are established by employers or unions for employees. These data come from the Pension Plans in Canada Survey at January 1, 2007, which provides information on terms and conditions, membership and contributions.

Membership is defined as active members of the pension plan currently making contributions to the pension plan or for whom contributions are being made.

There are two main types of RPPs: defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans. A defined benefit plan is an RPP that defines the benefits to be paid according to a formula stipulated in the plan text. The employer's contributions are not predetermined, but are a function of the cost of providing the promised pension.

In contrast, a defined contribution plan is an RPP that specifies the contributions made by the employee, if the plan is contributory, as well as by the employer. Pension benefits paid are a function of accumulated contributions and investment returns.

As of January 1, 2007, nearly 3,400 small RPPs that covered the period from January 1, 2003, to January 1, 2007, were added. These plans have about 4,000 members and account for less than 0.1% of the total membership. These plans are usually for specified individuals and are not registered by Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia jurisdictions.

In 2006, 83% of women had a defined benefit plan, compared with 77% for men. This can be explained by the fact that most members in the public sector have a defined benefit plan and the proportion of women working in the public sector is higher than men.

Gains mainly from combination plans

For a second year, membership of defined benefit pension plans declined slightly. However, these plans still remain the main type of plan, with nearly 80% of all memberships.

Gains in membership came mainly from combination plans which added just over 88,000 members in 2006. Combination plans have both defined benefit and defined contribution components.

Defined contribution pension plans also contributed to the growth, with an increase of 6,100 members.

The under-funding of defined benefit pension plans since the beginning of 2000 may be an important factor explaining the increase in combination plans. To reduce their future financial obligation, a number of employers have added a defined contribution component to their existing defined benefit plans.

The proportion of plans under-funded during the period dropped considerably from 57% in 2005 to 45% in 2006.

The market value of assets (for both active members and retirees) in employer pension plans amounted to nearly \$1.1 trillion in 2006.

Major membership gains in British Columbia and Alberta

British Columbia experienced the largest increase in membership in 2006, with a gain of 27,000, followed by Alberta, where membership was up by 25,600.

In 2006, membership in British Columbia totalled 675,000, below the peak of 689,000 reached in 2000. Membership in Alberta continued its upward trend, which started almost 10 year ago, peaking at 562,000 in 2006.

Since 2000, membership in Alberta has increased by just over 100,000. The strong performance of Alberta's economy over the last few years has been an important factor contributing to the growth in membership. However, the number of paid workers grew faster than pension plan membership.

Membership was up by 20,650 in Ontario and by 19,800 in Quebec.

Contributions on the rise

In 2006, total employee and employer contributions to RPPs climbed by \$6.4 billion, or 17.1%, to a record high \$43.8 billion.

Following low returns on investment early in 2000, employers continued to inject money into defined benefit pension plans to ensure adequate financing. Employer contributions accounted for 72% of the total, up from 70% in 2005. Increases mainly came from special payments for unfunded liabilities and solvency deficiencies, which increased by 44% to \$10.9 billion.

Registered pension plans and members, by type of plan

	2006	2007	2006 to 2007	%
	number		change	change
Total				
Plans	15,130	18,594	3,464	23
Members	5,690,580	5,768,280	77,700	1
Males	2,977,758	2,973,239	-4,519	0
Females	2,712,822	2,795,041	82,219	3
Defined benefit plans				
Plans	7,611	11,056	3,445	45
Members	4,600,581	4,590,805	-9,776	0
Males	2,337,151	2,282,930	-54,221	-2
Females	2,263,430	2,307,875	44,445	2
Defined contribution plans				
Plans	7,196	7,160	-36	-1
Members	893,403	899,540	6,137	1
Males	525,998	534,214	8,216	2
Females	367,405	365,326	-2,079	-1
Combination plans				
Plans	240	289	49	20
Members	132,322	220,622	88,300	67
Males	75,505	122,881	47,376	63
Females	56,817	97,741	40,924	72
Others (including hybrid plans)				
Plans	83	89	6	7
Members	64,274	57,313	-6,961	-11
Males	39,104	33,214	-5,890	-15
Females	25,170	24,099	-1,071	-4

Note: The reference date for the number of Registered Pension Plans and their terms and conditions is January 1. However, the data on plan members are as of the plan's year-end (normally December 31st) in the previous calendar year.

Available on CANSIM: tables 280-0008 to 280-0027.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2609.

To obtain statistical tables providing key information or custom tabulations (74C0002, various prices), or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Foreign affiliate trade statistics

2006

Sales of goods and services of foreign affiliates of Canadian businesses rose for a third consecutive year in 2006, largely as a result of robust growth in the financial as well as the mining and oil and gas sectors. On the other hand, employment of foreign affiliates fell slightly in 2006 after rising for four consecutive years.

Sales of goods and services by foreign affiliates operating abroad increased by \$26.4 billion in 2006, up 6.4% from 2005. Over 90% of the sales increase was accounted for by the financial (up \$9.3 billion) and mining and oil and gas (up \$14.8 billion) sectors. Nevertheless, this represented a slight deceleration from gains of 8.8% in 2005 and 12.9% in 2004.

Sales in the goods-producing industries led the growth in 2006, expanding 7.2% to \$288 billion. Service-producing industries sales were up 5.0% to \$153 billion, though down from growth of 11.1% in 2005 and 10.1% in 2004.

Employment in the goods-producing industries rose by 10,000 in 2006 to 690,000 workers. This was led by the mining and oil and gas extraction industries, which were up another 7,000 workers, in light of the strong world markets in the resource-based industries in 2006. However, these gains were more than offset in the service-producing industries, as employment fell by 13,000 workers in 2006 to 394,000. Although jobs held steady for most of the service sectors, there was a significant drop in the information and cultural sector.

Sales of foreign affiliates in the European Union declined by \$6.6 billion in 2006, barely offsetting a \$6.3 billion rise in sales at US affiliates. Accordingly, most of the sales increase of foreign affiliates originated from the "other countries" category, which had a sales gain of \$26.7 billion. This reflects strong economic growth in some of these regions.

Currency conversion played a role in the value of foreign affiliate sales in Europe and the United States. The appreciation of the Canadian dollar vis-à-vis the Euro and the British pound partly explain the decline in sales from European Union affiliates, which are denominated in foreign currencies. These sales, when converted back to the Canadian dollar, translated into a 5% decline in their value. The noon average value of the Canadian dollar also appreciated by 6% in 2006 vis-à-vis the US dollar, partly dampening the Canadian dollar sales increase of US affiliates.

In 2006, employment at European Union affiliates had a modest rise of 4,000 to 225,000 workers. However, at US affiliates, employment fell by 30,000 to 595,000. Largely offsetting this decline was an increase of 25,000 jobs at affiliates in "other countries."

Over the longer term, sales of foreign affiliates in "other countries" increased 80.5% in 2006 over 2002, compared with gains of 18.1% in the European Union and 10.1% in the United States. From 2002 to 2006, the strongest growth in employment has been in "other countries" with an increase of 29.3%. The growth in employment and sales of these foreign affiliates is in line with the growth in Canadian direct investment abroad in that part of the world, which increased by over 25% during the same period.

Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0060 and 376-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1539.

For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; infobalance@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bruce Nichols (613-951-5665; bruce.nichols@statcan.ca), Balance of Payments Division. ■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

May 2008 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 8 537.2 thousand cubic metres in May, down 3.0% from the same month in 2007. (One cubic metre is equivalent to 6.3 barrels.)

Sales decreased in five of the seven major petroleum product groups, led by motor gasoline

(-3.2%) and diesel fuel oil (-2.1%). Sales of light fuel oil, mainly used for heating purposes, were down 26% compared with May 2007.

Motor gasoline represented 42% of total refinery production, unchanged from May 2007. Sales decreased in all of the three grades of motor gasoline. The largest decrease was in mid-grade gasoline (-7.0%) followed by premium unleaded (-6.0%). Regular unleaded gasoline sales declined 2.9%.

Note: Preliminary domestic sales of refined petroleum products data are not available on CANSIM.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	May 2007 ^r	May 2008 ^p	May 2007 to May 2008 % change
	thousands of cubic metres		
Total, all products	8 802.4	8 537.2	-3.0
Motor gasoline	3 712.9	3 595.4	-3.2
Diesel fuel oil	2 369.8	2 318.9	-2.1
Light fuel oil	276.0	204.1	-26.1
Heavy fuel oil	526.0	648.4	23.3
Aviation turbo fuels	530.0	533.6	0.7
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	413.2	366.1	-11.4
All other refined products	974.4	870.9	-10.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics. ■

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes

July 2008

Data on Canadian foreign post indexes are now available for July.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2322.

The July 2008 issue of *Canadian Foreign Post Indexes* (62-013-XIE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; prices-prix@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claudio Perez (613-951-1733; claudio.perez@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

New products

**Survey of Household Spending: Public Use
Microdata File, 2006**
Catalogue number 62M0004XCB (\$3,210).

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

Industry Price Indexes, May 2008, Vol. 34, no. 5
Catalogue number 62-011-XIE
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Release dates: July 7 to 11, 2008

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
7	Building permits	May 2008
10	Book publishing	2006
11	Labour Force Survey	June 2008
11	Canadian international merchandise trade	May 2008
11	New Housing Price Index	May 2008