

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

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The parents of 3 out of 5 children who had some form of activity limitation in 2006 reported that their employment was affected by their child's condition. More than one-third of parents reported that they worked fewer hours, while another third indicated they had adjusted their work hours.	
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Releases

Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Impact on families 2006

The parents of 3 out of 5 children who had some form of activity limitation in 2006 reported that their employment was affected by their child's condition. More than one-third of parents reported that they worked fewer hours, while another third indicated they had adjusted their work hours.

The child's activity limitation influenced the parent's employment in a variety of areas. The largest impact reported related to hours worked.

Some 38.4% of parents reported that they worked fewer hours, while an additional 36.5% indicated they had adjusted their work hours to accommodate their child's activity limitation.

Women were more likely to have adjusted their employment than men. Asked whose employment was most affected, parents reported it was the mother in 64% of cases, both parents in 25%, the father in 8% and other family members in 3%.

In 2006, about 200,000 Canadian families were coping with the challenges that arise from caring for a child with disabilities. These challenges are diverse in nature, and can affect many aspects of life.

Parents of children with severe to very severe activity limitations were more likely than parents of children with mild to moderate activity limitations to indicate their child's condition had an impact on their employment, finances, leisure and personal time. This was also the case with respect to their ability to find help and childcare.

Despite having a child with a disability, nearly two-thirds of parents reported that their health ranged from good to excellent. Moreover, 4 out of 5 parents of children with activity limitations reported that they were satisfied with their quality of life.

Note to readers

This report is the sixth in a series of releases analyzing information from the Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS). It focuses on the impact a child with an activity limitation has on the family when present in the household.

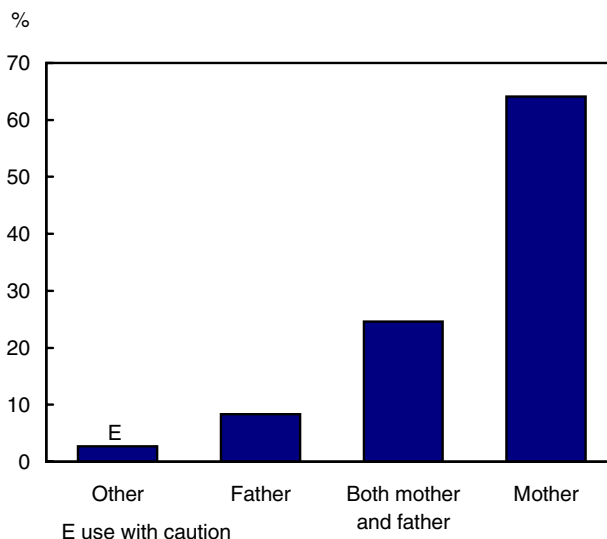
These questions were answered by one parent (or guardian) of children up to the age of 14 who had an activity limitation. It cannot be inferred from this report that the findings are representative of all parents of children with disabilities. Furthermore this report is based on child-level data. This means that all estimates represent the number (or percentage) of children with activity limitations whose responding parent (or guardian) gave a certain response to the survey.

The terms "activity limitation" and "disability" are used interchangeably in this report. A person with an activity limitation is defined as a person whose everyday activities are limited because of a health-related condition or problem.

The PALS severity scale was derived using disability concepts from the World Health Organization. For more information, consult the Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Technical and Methodological Report (89-628-XWE2007001, free).

PALS was funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada and conducted by Statistics Canada. The survey provides essential information on the prevalence of different activity limitations, the types of support available to people with activity limitations, their employment profile, income and participation in social activities.

Proportion of caregivers of children with activity limitations whose employment was affected, by caregiver type, 2006



Help for parents

Almost 1 in 4 parents (24.6%) received help in balancing daily activities with their child's activity limitation. Of the families who received assistance, well over half (56.5%) received help from family members living outside of the family home.

Other sources of help, to a lesser degree, were government organizations or agencies, friends or neighbours, and family living in the family home. There were no significant differences between lone parents and parents in relationships in regard to help received.

Parents most often asked for help to gain more personal time, to attend to other family responsibilities, and to do household chores. Parents of children with severe activity limitations were more likely to express a need for help.

For those parents who did not obtain extra help, cost was the main barrier. Nearly three-quarters of these parents (73.5%) reported that the extra help was too expensive.

Use of childcare

Nearly 3 in 10 parents (28.9%) who had a child with an activity limitation used some form of childcare.

The use of childcare was influenced by the severity of the child's condition. Parents of children with severe activity limitations were more likely to use childcare. Just over one-third (34.3%) of them did so, compared with 25.2% of parents of children with mild to moderate activity limitations.

More than 1 in 5 parents (21.5%) who were using childcare stated that childcare services or programs had refused to provide care for their child.

In one-quarter (25.4%) of these cases, daycare centres had refused child care.

Health and stress

Although the majority of parents were satisfied with their health and lives in general, they experienced stress related to their child's condition.

Just over one-quarter of parents (26.5%) reported that the condition of their child's health was their main source of stress. This proportion increased to 38.3% among parents of children who had a severe to very severe activity limitation.

Parents experienced stress in trying to balance the responsibilities of caring for their child with an activity limitation and other obligations, such as work.

Approximately 3 out of 5 parents (61.4%) reported feeling stress sometimes or always coping with these responsibilities. This was most pronounced when looking at the severity of the activity limitation.

For example, 46.2% of parents of children with a mild to moderate activity limitation reported such stress. This proportion increased to 81.7% for parents of children with severe to very severe activity limitations.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3251.

The publication *The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Families of Children with Disabilities in Canada* (89-628-XWE2008009, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A series of tables are also available (89-628-XWE2008010, free).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Krista Kowalchuk (613-951-0784; krista.kowalchuk@statcan.gc.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Study: Use of thermostats

2006

During the heating season, households that had a programmable thermostat were more likely to reduce house temperature as they slept in 2006 than those with devices that could not be programmed.

In 2006, 4 out of every 10 Canadian households with a thermostat had one that could be programmed. The majority of these devices (83%) were programmed.

About 68% of these households used their programmable thermostats to lower the temperature during the night. On the other hand, only 46% of households with an unprogrammed, or non-programmable, thermostat lowered the heat.

Households in Saskatchewan and Alberta were most likely to use a programmable thermostat to lower the temperature at night, while those in Ontario and Manitoba were least likely.

Just over one-half of Canadian households (53%) with a thermostat reported that they lowered the temperature of their home during the night in 2006.

Most households reported that they set their home temperature between 20°C and 22°C when they were at home and awake. Temperatures varied between 16°C and 18°C when household members were asleep.

Among households with thermostats, the likelihood the temperature was lowered at night increased as household income and education levels increased. Similarly, households that owned their dwelling and those living in single-detached dwellings were more likely to lower home temperatures during the night.

Apartment dwellers and renters were less likely to have a thermostat in their unit. They were also less likely to lower the temperature when they were asleep.

Households headed by seniors were least likely to have a programmable thermostat. They did, however, take steps to conserve energy. They were among the most likely to lower the temperature while they slept by turning down the heat manually.

Note: This study examines home heating and temperature controlling behaviours based on data from the 2006 Households and the Environment Survey. The study only examined data for the heating season. Identification of the heating season was left to the respondent.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3881.

The article "Thermostat use in Canadian homes" is now available in *EnviroStats*, Fall 2008, Vol. 2, no. 3 (16-002-XWE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website. A more detailed report "Controlling the temperature in Canadian homes" (16-001-MWE2008006, free), is also now available from the *Publications* module of our website as part of the *Environment Accounts and Statistics Technical Paper Series*.

The articles "Conventional tillage: How conventional is it?" and "Who uses water-saving fixtures in the home?" are also released in this issue of *EnviroStats*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Information Officer (613-951-0297; environ@statcan.gc.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

Study: Use of water-saving fixtures

1994 and 2006

The proportion of Canadian households using reduced volume toilets more than doubled from 15% to 37% between 1994 and 2006. At the same time, the percentage of households with a low-flow shower head rose from 44% to 57%.

The use of water-saving fixtures is one way for municipalities and households to reduce water costs.

Environment Canada estimates that Canadians on average consumed 329 litres of water a day in 2004 on a per capita basis. Toilets and shower heads accounted for slightly more than half of the water consumed indoors.

Households in Eastern Canada were more likely to use low-flow showerheads while those in Ontario and the West were more likely to use reduced volume toilets.

Households with water meters were more likely to use reduced volume toilets than those paying a flat rate for their water, but the same trend was not found for low-flow shower heads.

Higher income, home ownership and living in a single-detached dwelling were also associated with greater use of water-saving fixtures.

Note: This study examines the use of water-saving toilets and shower heads using data from the 2006 Households and the Environment Survey. Any difference between results published in this study and in other Statistics Canada products are due to the exclusion of respondents who did not answer questions

on the use of water-saving shower heads and toilets when calculating percentages in the current study.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3881.

The article "Who uses water-saving fixtures in the home?" is now available in *EnviroStats*, Fall 2008, Vol. 2, no. 3 (16-002-XWE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

The articles "Conventional tillage: How conventional is it?" and "Thermostat use in Canadian homes" are also released in this issue of *EnviroStats*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Information Officer (613-951-0297; environ@statcan.gc.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review

July 2008 (preliminary)

Data from the July issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* are now available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3403, 3404, 3443, 3464, 3476 and 5046.

The July 2008 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review*, Vol. 31, no. 7 (22-007-XIB, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. The July issue contains an overview of August's market conditions.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Deliveries of major grains

August 2008

Data on August major grain deliveries are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404, 3443 and 5046.

The August 2008 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available in October.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division, ■

Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index

August 2008

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index (CMSPI) increased 1.0% to 147.0 (2003=100) in August. The courier portion rose 1.3%, while the local messengers component edged down 0.3%.

Note: The CMSPI is a monthly price index measuring the change over time in prices for courier and messenger services provided by long and short distance delivery companies to Canadian-based business clients.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 329-0053.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5064.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Prices Division. ■

Crushing statistics

August 2008

Oilseed processors crushed 303 277 metric tonnes of canola in August. Oil production in August totalled 126 328 tonnes while meal production amounted to 184 332 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.

The August 2008 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available in October.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; agriculture@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

New products

Environment Accounts and Statistics Technical Paper Series: "Controlling the temperature in Canadian homes", no. 6
Catalogue number 16-001-MWE2008006
(free).

EnviroStats, Fall 2008, Vol. 2, no. 3
Catalogue number 16-002-XWE
(free).

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, July 2008, Vol. 31, no. 7
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB
(free).

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire, July 2008, Vol. 4, no. 7
Catalogue number 41-019-XWE
(free).

The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Families of Children with Disabilities in Canada, no. 9
Catalogue number 89-628-XWE2008009
(free).

The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables (Part IV), no. 10
Catalogue number 89-628-XWE2008010
(free).

Matter of Fact: "Are women spending more time on unpaid domestic work than men in Canada?"
Catalogue number 89-630-XWE
(free).

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
Released at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 2
The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.5 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several export commodities combined with a lower import deficit. In the financial account, foreign investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the expansion-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

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2006 Census profiles

With the inclusion of the income and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profile is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions. To obtain these profiles in electronic format (links vary for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications and library Services Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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