

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Study: Caring for seniors, 2007

2

In 2007, about 2.7 million Canadians aged 45 and over, or approximately one-fifth of the total in this age group, provided some form of unpaid care to seniors (people 65 years of age or older) who had long-term health problems.

New products

3



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Study: Caring for seniors

2007

In 2007, about 2.7 million Canadians aged 45 and over, or approximately one-fifth of the total in this age group, provided some form of unpaid care to seniors (people 65 years of age or older) who had long-term health problems.

Between 2002 and 2007, the number of people providing care to seniors increased by more than 670,000.

A factor that will impact caregiving for seniors is the aging of the population. According to census data, the population of seniors surpassed 4.3 million in 2006, up 11.5% from 2001. Population projections suggest that the proportion of seniors in the general population will increase from 13% in 2006 to 21% in 2026.

In 2007, the majority of caregivers, 54%, reported that they were coping "very well" with their caregiving responsibilities. Another 42% said they were "generally okay" with this role.

Many people giving care to seniors are balancing this with other responsibilities, such as jobs and care for their own children. About 43% of caregivers were aged between 45 and 54, when many Canadians still have children living at home. Caregivers were more likely to be women who were employed and married.

In 2007, one in four caregivers, or about 675,000 people, were themselves seniors, and one-third of these senior caregivers were over the age of 75.

Caregiving does not disappear for some family and friends when their care receiver moves from a private

Note to readers

Seniors require assistance for many different long-term health problems. These health problems range from chronic conditions such as arthritis, to cataracts or Alzheimer's disease. Caregivers perform various tasks in caring for seniors such as personal care, medical care (assistance with medical treatments or procedures), care management (scheduling or coordinating caregiving tasks), transportation, as well as housekeeping.

Caregivers provide care for seniors in care facilities for various reasons. These may include maintaining some continuity of family care; reducing costs for additional services; and increasing the amount of care provided.

home into an institution. This was evidenced by the fact that in 2007, more than one in five caregivers provided care to a senior living in a care facility such as supportive housing, a hospital or a nursing home.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4502.

The article, "Eldercare: What we know today," is now available in *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 86 (11-008-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website. Additional tables related to this article are also available in *2007 General Social Survey: Care Tables* (89-633-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

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.gc.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

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Statistics Canada

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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 exported commodities compared with a lower level of imports. In the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada showed a significant increase from the negative value of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

Payroll employment, earnings and hours, March 2008 7

Study: The year to review for adolescent health, 2007 9

Public sector employment, first quarter 2008 10

Consumer and Mortgage Services Price Index, April 2008 11

Placement of fishery, choice and turkey profits, April 2008 12

Health indicators, 2008 12

New products 13

2006 Census profiles

Within the releases of the census 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

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