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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Releases

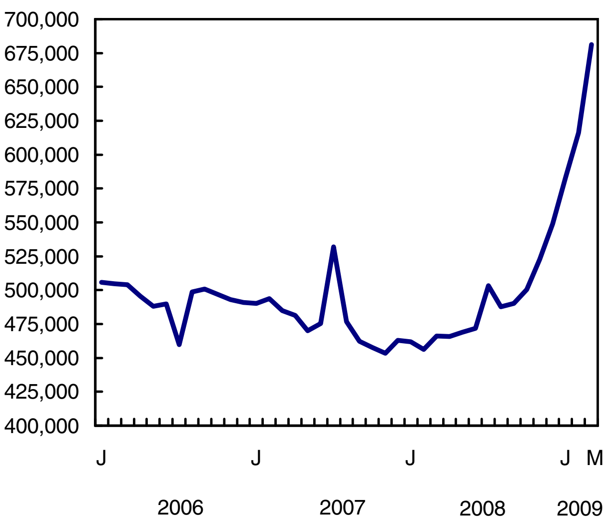
Employment Insurance

March 2009 (preliminary)

In March, 681,400 people were receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits, up by 65,300 or 10.6% from the previous month, with the strongest increases in Alberta and British Columbia. The increase in March was the largest since the labour market started to deteriorate last October.

While the number of people receiving benefits climbed in March, the number of initial and renewal claims received during that month edged down 1.9%.

The number of people receiving regular benefits continues to climb



From October to March, labour market conditions in Canada deteriorated significantly and employment fell sharply. In April, employment increased, boosted by a gain in self-employment.

Note to readers

Each month, Statistics Canada now provides enhanced analysis of the current labour market situation, using Employment Insurance (EI) statistics and other sources. Earlier in May 2009, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) provided a picture of overall labour market conditions, including unemployment, total employment and those affected by changes in the labour market. In this release, Statistics Canada provides additional regional detail through the EI statistics. Details by industry will follow with data from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours.

EI statistics are produced from an administrative data source from Human Resources and Social Development Canada. These statistics may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the Employment Insurance Act *or administrative procedures. The number of regular beneficiaries and the number of claims received for February and March 2009 are preliminary.*

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received EI benefits from the 15th to the 21st of March. This period coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey for March.

Regional EI data and data by sex and age are not seasonally adjusted and therefore should only be compared on a year-over-year basis. These comparisons can be influenced by unusual spikes or declines in the end points of the period.

EI statistics indicate the number of people who received EI benefits, and should not be confused with data coming from the Labour Force Survey, which provides information on the total number of unemployed.

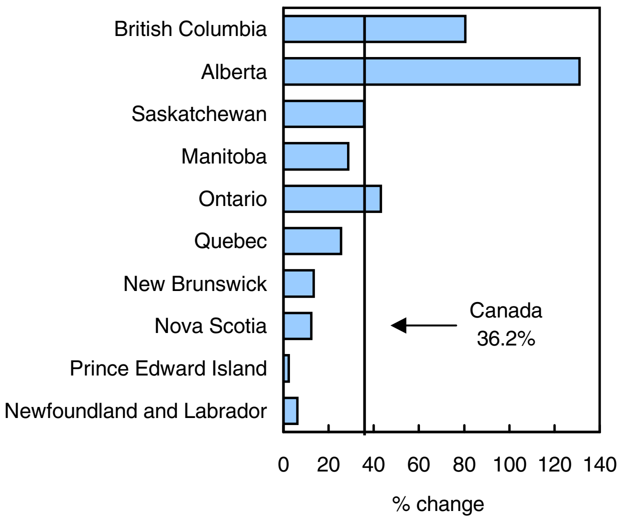
There is always a certain proportion of unemployed who do not qualify for benefits. Some unemployed people have not contributed to the program because they have not worked in the past 12 months or their employment is not insured. Other unemployed people have contributed to the program but do not meet the eligibility criteria, such as workers who left their job voluntarily or those who did not accumulate enough hours of work to receive benefits.

The data on employment used in this analysis are drawn from the Labour Force Survey.

Since October 2008, the number of regular EI beneficiaries has climbed by 36.2%.

Over the October 2008 to March 2009 period, the number of regular EI beneficiaries has increased across all provinces and territories, with the largest percentage growth in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario.

The increase in the number of people receiving benefits from October 2008 to March 2009 was strongest in Alberta



Alberta and British Columbia particularly hard hit

In March, there was a notable increase in the number of beneficiaries in Alberta and British Columbia, both provinces having registered month-over-month increases that were well above the national average.

In Alberta, the number of regular beneficiaries climbed by 32.1% to 42,200 in March, marking the fastest monthly increase for that province since comparable data are available. The number of Albertans receiving benefits has risen at an increasing pace every month since October 2008, bringing the increase over the five months to 131.1%.

The number of people receiving regular benefits in British Columbia in March increased by 26.7% to 82,200, also marking the fastest monthly increase for that province. Since October 2008, the number has increased by 80.5%.

In March, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario all posted increases in the number of regular beneficiaries close to the national average.

Regional and demographic overview: The number of beneficiaries more than doubled in most large centres in Alberta and British Columbia

Regional data and data by sex and age on EI are not seasonally adjusted and therefore should only be compared on a year-over-year basis.

All census metropolitan areas in Canada (**map**) have seen an increase in the number of regular beneficiaries in the past year. In upcoming months, Statistics Canada will be expanding the number of EI maps it offers, providing additional regional labour market information.

Between March 2008 and March 2009, the number of beneficiaries more than doubled in almost every large centre in Alberta, and tripled in Wood Buffalo. In Calgary, the number of regular beneficiaries grew by 187.0% to 15,400, while in Edmonton, it was up 185.6% to 14,700.

In Alberta, the drop in employment in recent months has mostly hit construction, trade, manufacturing and professional, scientific and technical services.

Sharp increases in the number of people receiving regular benefits were also observed in British Columbia between March 2008 and March 2009. The number of beneficiaries tripled in Cranbrook and Kelowna, and more than doubled in 13 other census agglomerations. In Victoria, the number of beneficiaries increased 159.4%, while in Vancouver, the 20,400 additional beneficiaries represented an increase of 136.0% in one year. Abbotsford saw an increase of 125.7%.

During the same period, the decrease in employment in British Columbia affected a large number of sectors, including construction; manufacturing; trade; forestry and logging; and transportation and warehousing.

Between March 2008 and March 2009, notable increases in the number of regular beneficiaries were observed in Ontario in all census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations, ranging from 26.3% to 154.4%. The number of regular beneficiaries approximately doubled in London, Kitchener, Hamilton and Windsor. In Toronto, the number of regular beneficiaries rose 85.0%.

During the same period, the sectors of the Ontario economy experiencing steep declines in employment were manufacturing; business, building and other support services; educational services, construction and trade.

Largest increases for men and youth

There was a larger increase in the number of men receiving regular benefits (+54.8%) compared with women (+37.9%) between March 2008 and March 2009.

For both sexes, the increase in the number of regular beneficiaries was higher for youth under 25 years old, at 56.1%.

Claims still filed in large numbers in March

To receive EI benefits, individuals must first submit a claim. Statistics on claims cover the month and provide an indication of the number of people who could become beneficiaries.

The number of initial and renewal claims received in March edged down 1.9% from February to 318,900. Despite this modest decrease, the number of claims received in March was the second highest since the availability of comparable data starting in 1997.

The number of claims received varied across provinces. In March, seven provinces experienced a rise in claims compared with February, with the strongest increases in Alberta (+16.0%), Prince Edward Island (+8.6%), Saskatchewan (+8.5%) and Manitoba (+5.8%). British Columbia and Ontario received fewer claims in March, after having registered in February their highest number of claims since the availability of comparable data starting in 1997.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data tables are also now available online. From the *By subject* module of our website, choose *Labour*.

Data on Employment Insurance for April will be released on June 22.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.gc.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Dominique Pérusse (613-951-4064) or Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division.

Employment Insurance: Statistics by province and territory

	February 2009^p	March 2009^p	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
	Seasonally adjusted					
	number		change in number		% change	
Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits						
Canada	**616,120**	**681,410**	**65,290**	**215,090**	**10.6**	**46.1**
Newfoundland and Labrador	38,290	38,760	470	3,830	1.2	11.0
Prince Edward Island	7,950	8,160	210	560	2.6	7.4
Nova Scotia	30,230	31,420	1,190	4,830	3.9	18.2
New Brunswick	32,510	34,090	1,580	4,140	4.9	13.8
Quebec	184,260	198,650	14,390	36,870	7.8	22.8
Ontario	201,250	221,150	19,900	90,610	9.9	69.4
Manitoba	12,570	13,900	1,330	4,150	10.6	42.6
Saskatchewan	10,320	11,540	1,220	3,540	11.8	44.3
Alberta	31,920	42,160	10,240	26,100	32.1	162.5
British Columbia	64,910	82,210	17,300	43,770	26.7	113.9
Yukon	910	940	30	190	3.3	25.3
Northwest Territories	850	900	50	220	5.9	32.4
Nunavut	460	480	20	180	4.3	60.0
Initial and renewal claims received						
Canada	**325,170**	**318,870**	**-6,300**	**93,310**	**-1.9**	**41.4**
Newfoundland and Labrador	10,100	10,060	-40	-840	-0.4	-7.7
Prince Edward Island	2,560	2,780	220	170	8.6	6.5
Nova Scotia	10,630	10,930	300	1,070	2.8	10.9
New Brunswick	10,710	10,790	80	800	0.7	8.0
Quebec	83,410	84,670	1,260	14,230	1.5	20.2
Ontario	109,760	107,850	-1,910	34,690	-1.7	47.4
Manitoba	8,450	8,940	490	2,330	5.8	35.2
Saskatchewan	6,360	6,900	540	1,040	8.5	17.7
Alberta	28,010	32,490	4,480	17,060	16.0	110.6
British Columbia	41,770	40,150	-1,620	13,710	-3.9	51.9
Yukon	310	360	50	70	16.1	24.1
Northwest Territories	330	450	120	180	36.4	66.7
Nunavut	200	190	-10	50	-5.0	35.7

^{p} *preliminary*

Note: *The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.*

Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits by age group, sex, province and territory

	March 2008	March 2009p	March 2008 to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
	Unadjusted for seasonality			
	number		change in number	% change
Canada				
Both sexes	597,870	891,030	293,160	49.0
Under 25 years	64,900	101,330	36,430	56.1
25 to 54 years	424,160	630,920	206,760	48.7
55 years and over	108,810	158,780	49,970	45.9
Men	393,820	609,710	215,890	54.8
Under 25 years	50,450	80,100	29,650	58.8
25 to 54 years	270,270	421,140	150,870	55.8
55 years and over	73,110	108,470	35,360	48.4
Women	204,060	281,330	77,270	37.9
Under 25 years	14,460	21,230	6,770	46.8
25 to 54 years	153,900	209,790	55,890	36.3
55 years and over	35,700	50,310	14,610	40.9
Newfoundland and Labrador				
Both sexes	45,060	50,260	5,200	11.5
Under 25 years	4,290	4,840	550	12.8
25 to 54 years	31,400	34,420	3,020	9.6
55 years and over	9,370	11,000	1,630	17.4
Men	27,430	31,920	4,490	16.4
Women	17,630	18,350	720	4.1
Prince Edward Island				
Both sexes	10,820	11,610	790	7.3
Under 25 years	1,020	1,190	170	16.7
25 to 54 years	7,250	7,660	410	5.7
55 years and over	2,550	2,770	220	8.6
Men	6,730	7,390	660	9.8
Women	4,090	4,230	140	3.4
Nova Scotia				
Both sexes	35,350	42,020	6,670	18.9
Under 25 years	3,630	4,550	920	25.3
25 to 54 years	24,790	29,210	4,420	17.8
55 years and over	6,930	8,250	1,320	19.0
Men	22,260	27,560	5,300	23.8
Women	13,090	14,460	1,370	10.5
New Brunswick				
Both sexes	39,110	45,400	6,290	16.1
Under 25 years	3,690	4,410	720	19.5
25 to 54 years	27,530	31,320	3,790	13.8
55 years and over	7,890	9,670	1,780	22.6
Men	26,790	31,900	5,110	19.1
Women	12,320	13,500	1,180	9.6
Quebec				
Both sexes	206,160	257,700	51,540	25.0
Under 25 years	24,950	31,850	6,900	27.7
25 to 54 years	143,980	178,130	34,150	23.7
55 years and over	37,240	47,720	10,480	28.1
Men	142,670	181,710	39,040	27.4
Women	63,490	76,000	12,510	19.7
Ontario				
Both sexes	174,680	303,610	128,930	73.8
Under 25 years	18,170	31,280	13,110	72.2
25 to 54 years	128,170	223,820	95,650	74.6
55 years and over	28,340	48,510	20,170	71.2
Men	111,280	203,570	92,290	82.9
Women	63,400	100,040	36,640	57.8

p *preliminary*

Note: *The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.*

Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits by age group, sex, province and territory

	March 2008	March 2009p	March 2008 to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
	Unadjusted for seasonality			
	number		change in number	% change
Manitoba				
Both sexes	12,010	17,520	5,510	45.9
Under 25 years	1,560	2,490	930	59.6
25 to 54 years	8,270	11,970	3,700	44.7
55 years and over	2,180	3,060	880	40.4
Men	8,810	13,150	4,340	49.3
Women	3,200	4,370	1,170	36.6
Saskatchewan				
Both sexes	10,340	14,780	4,440	42.9
Under 25 years	1,110	1,920	810	73.0
25 to 54 years	6,950	9,830	2,880	41.4
55 years and over	2,280	3,030	750	32.9
Men	7,700	11,350	3,650	47.4
Women	2,640	3,440	800	30.3
Alberta				
Both sexes	18,480	49,200	30,720	166.2
Under 25 years	1,920	6,380	4,460	232.3
25 to 54 years	13,260	35,050	21,790	164.3
55 years and over	3,310	7,770	4,460	134.7
Men	11,970	34,820	22,850	190.9
Women	6,510	14,390	7,880	121.0
British Columbia				
Both sexes	43,660	95,930	52,270	119.7
Under 25 years	4,370	12,100	7,730	176.9
25 to 54 years	30,930	67,310	36,380	117.6
55 years and over	8,360	16,520	8,160	97.6
Men	26,710	64,350	37,640	140.9
Women	16,950	31,590	14,640	86.4
Yukon				
Both sexes	1,040	1,320	280	26.9
Under 25 years	90	150	60	66.7
25 to 54 years	730	890	160	21.9
55 years and over	230	290	60	26.1
Men	700	890	190	27.1
Women	350	430	80	22.9
Northwest Territories				
Both sexes	710	950	240	33.8
Under 25 years	60	110	50	83.3
25 to 54 years	540	710	170	31.5
55 years and over	110	130	20	18.2
Men	500	660	160	32.0
Women	210	290	80	38.1
Nunavut				
Both sexes	330	530	200	60.6
Under 25 years	40	50	10	25.0
25 to 54 years	260	420	160	61.5
55 years and over	30	50	20	66.7
Men	250	390	140	56.0
Women	80	130	50	62.5

p *preliminary*

Note: *The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.*

Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits by census metropolitan areas

	March 2008	March 2009p	March 2008 to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
	Unadjusted for seasonality			
	number		change in number	% change
Newfoundland and Labrador				
St. John's	5,120	5,870	750	14.6
Nova Scotia				
Halifax	5,350	7,770	2,420	45.2
New Brunswick				
Saint John	2,140	2,920	780	36.4
Quebec				
Saguenay	6,010	6,550	540	9.0
Québec	11,430	15,830	4,400	38.5
Sherbrooke	3,490	4,950	1,460	41.8
Trois-Rivières	4,190	4,810	620	14.8
Montréal	60,590	84,040	23,450	38.7
Ottawa–Gatineau, Gatineau part	3,570	4,780	1,210	33.9
Ontario				
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ottawa part	6,220	8,990	2,770	44.5
Kingston	1,740	2,250	510	29.3
Oshawa	6,030	8,200	2,170	36.0
Toronto	58,950	109,060	50,110	85.0
Hamilton	8,060	15,870	7,810	96.9
St. Catharines–Niagara	8,050	12,800	4,750	59.0
Kitchener	5,970	12,410	6,440	107.9
London	6,000	12,720	6,720	112.0
Windsor	6,530	12,550	6,020	92.2
Greater Sudbury	2,580	4,220	1,640	63.6
Thunder Bay	2,640	3,360	720	27.3
Manitoba				
Winnipeg	5,140	8,210	3,070	59.7
Saskatchewan				
Regina	1,140	1,510	370	32.5
Saskatoon	1,370	2,330	960	70.1
Alberta				
Calgary	5,370	15,410	10,040	187.0
Edmonton	5,130	14,650	9,520	185.6
British Columbia				
Abbotsford	1,830	4,130	2,300	125.7
Vancouver	15,030	35,470	20,440	136.0
Victoria	1,600	4,150	2,550	159.4

p *preliminary*

Note: *The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.*

■

Study: Employment among the disabled

1999 to 2004

When it comes to persons with a disability, the tendency is to think that they are affected their entire life. This may not be the case, since of all the persons who reported having a disability at some point between 1999 and 2004, only 13% were affected for the entire 6 years, while 36% were affected for only 1 year.

As the number of years of disability increases, the more the profile of those with activity limitations differs from those without such limitations. Persons affected for only 1 year are only slightly different from those with no reported limitations.

On the other hand, persons affected during the 6-year observation period are less likely to be university graduates, and more likely to be between 55 and 64 years of age, to be women, to live alone, not to have children, and to have fair or poor health.

Persons with a disability work, on average, fewer hours per year than persons with no disability. This gap persists even when socio-demographic characteristics are taken into account, and widens as the disability period increases.

For men, the adjusted work hour gap increased from 0% for those affected for only 1 year to 8% and to 13% for those affected for 2 to 3 years and 4 to 5 years, respectively. This gap reached 30% for men affected during the 6-year observation period. For women, the gap varied from 0% to 11%, 19% and 41% for those affected for 1 year, 2 to 3 years, 4 to 5 years and 6 years, respectively.

The effects of a disability are felt beyond the reported disability period. Persons with a disability have lower activity rates and work fewer annual hours than those with no disability, not only during disability years but also during years with no reported disability.

In 2004, the adjusted earnings gap went from 0% for persons with 1 year of disability to 19% and 17% for men and women with 6 years of disability. This gap persists even after socio-demographic characteristics are taken into consideration.

Persons with a disability do not appear more likely than those with no disability to experience work interruptions. Work interruption rates were 17% for men with no disability and varied between 16% and 20% for men with a disability. For women with no disability, the rate was 18%, and varied between 19% and 24% for women with a disability. Interruptions for health reasons were significantly more frequent for persons with a disability.

Since persons with a disability are less likely to be active in the labour market, they are more at risk of low income, and this higher risk persists even after socio-demographic characteristics are taken into account.

Furthermore, this risk is relatively higher for men: when they are affected by a disability for 6 years, they are 8 times more at risk of low income that those without a disability, while women are 4 times more at risk.

Note: The Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS) remains the national point of reference on disabilities, but contains no information on the longitudinal nature of disabilities or on the labour market activity of persons with a disability.

For this reason, this article is based on the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID), which allows longitudinal analysis of disabilities. SLID covers approximately 97% of the Canadian population, except residents of the territories, and those living in institutions, on First Nations reserves and in military barracks.

The first part of this article is based on the cross-sectional sample from SLID examining the hours worked by persons with and without activity limitations in 2006. The second part is based on the longitudinal sample. Each panel of respondents, about 15,000 households or 30,000 adults, is surveyed for six consecutive years.

This article is based on the third SLID panel, which followed respondents from 1999 to 2004. Starting with this panel, the question on disability was modified to correspond with the filter questions from the 2001 and 2006 censuses. The differences between persons with and those without a disability are significant at the 5% threshold or better following the use of Bootstrap weights.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3889.

The article "Employment among the disabled" is now available in the May 2009 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, vol. 10, no. 5 (75-001-X, 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 Diane Galarneau (613-951-4626; *diane.galarneau@statcan.gc.ca*), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

Study: Shifting pensions

1991 to 2006

In 2006, defined-benefit pension plans remained the predominant type of employer-sponsored plan but another type of plan has been gaining ground since 1991, especially in the private sector.

In 1991, defined-contribution plans covered 14% of members in private-sector plans. But by 2006, this proportion had nearly doubled to 27%. During this time span, defined-contribution private pension plans added 381,900 members.

At the same time, membership in defined-benefit plans in the private sector decreased by 279,200, bringing their share to 73% in that sector, down from 86% in 1991.

The situation was much different in the public sector. Membership in defined-contribution plans increased slightly, but they remained a small minority.

Analysis indicates that changes in industrial structure, plan size, and the distribution of participants by sex and province did not appear to have a role to play in the increased prevalence of defined-contribution plans. In fact, these factors should have encouraged the growth, albeit slight, of defined-benefit plans.

Note: A defined-benefit plan sets 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.

A defined-contribution plan specifies the contributions made by the employer, as well as by the employee if the plan is contributory. Although defined-contribution plans have some advantages for employees, their increased prevalence suggests a transfer of risk from employers to workers since 1991.

This report is based on an annual census of all registered pension plans in Canada, the Pension Plans in Canada Survey. Although the coverage of all plans decreased by about 19% between 1991 and 2006, other studies suggest that group Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP) coverage, which is not included in this survey, increased over this period. Defined-contribution plans and group RRSP provide similar levels of investment risk and portability.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2609.

The article "Shifting pensions" is now available in the May 2009 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, vol. 10, no. 5 (75-001-X, 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 (613-951-4660), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

Energy use and greenhouse gas emissions

1990 to 2004 (revised) and 2005 (preliminary)

Data from the Material and Energy Flow Accounts on energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by industries, governments and households are now available. The Material and Energy Flow Accounts describe the annual flows of materials and energy between the Canadian environment and economy. These data are available at the national level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 153-0031 to 153-0034 and 153-0046.

Tables are available upon request.

Two studies have recently been published using data from Statistics Canada's Material and Energy Flow Accounts. The article "Greenhouse gas emissions: A focus on Canadian households" is available in *EnviroStats*, Winter 2008, Vol. 2, no. 4 (16-002-X, free); and the study "A demand perspective on greenhouse gas emissions" is available in *EnviroStats*, Fall 2007, Vol. 1, no. 2 (16-002-X, free); both available from the *Publications* module of our website.

The publication *Concepts, Sources and Methods of the Canadian System of Environmental and Resource Accounts* (16-505-G, free) describes in detail the conceptual framework, data sources and empirical methods used to compile the Canadian System of Environmental and Resource Accounts. This publication was originally released in 1997 (16-505-G, $27) and is available for free in pdf format.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-0297; fax: 613-951-0634; *environ@statcan.gc.ca*), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

Heritage institutions

2007

Data on the heritage institutions industry are now available for 2007.

Available on CANSIM: table 361-0008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3107.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Meredith Thomas (613-951-6877; fax: 613-951-6696; *meredith.thomas@statcan.gc.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

New products

Perspectives on Labour and Income, May 2009, Vol. 10, no. 5
Catalogue number 75-001-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS): Public Use Microdata File and Documentation, 2006
Catalogue number 82M0023X (CD-ROM $1,000)

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Profile Series: "Criminal Victimization and Health: A Profile of Victimization Among Persons with Activity Limitations or Other Health Problems", 2004, no. 21
Catalogue number 85F0033M2009021 (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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