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Employment Insurance Coverage Survey, 2008

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Releases

Employment Insurance Coverage Survey

2008

In 2008, 571,800 unemployed individuals had contributed to the Employment Insurance (EI) program and had had a valid job separation. Of those, 82.2% were eligible to receive regular EI benefits because they had worked enough hours. The remaining 17.8% had not worked enough hours to be able to receive regular EI benefits.

Coverage and eligibility of the unemployed for Employment Insurance (EI) benefits

	2008	
	number	% of unemployed
Unemployed¹	1,094,600	100.0
Contributors	767,100	70.1
Non-contributors	327,500	29.9
Potentially eligible ²	571,800	52.2
Not potentially eligible	522,800	47.8
Eligible as a proportion of EI contributors who had a job separation that met the program criteria ³	469,700	82.2

1. Average number of unemployed individuals for the months of March, June, October and December.
2. Individuals who contributed to EI and had a valid job separation.
3. Individuals who contributed to EI and had a valid job separation and enough hours of work to meet the EI program requirements.

The number of insured hours required to qualify for regular benefits varies across regions in Canada, ranging from 420 to 700 hours, depending on the unemployment rate of that region. The higher the unemployment rate, the lower the number of hours required to qualify for benefits.

The 571,800 unemployed individuals who had contributed to the EI program and had had a valid job separation are considered "potentially eligible" for regular employment insurance benefits. These accounted for 52.2% of the 1.1 million unemployed Canadians.

The remaining 47.8% of unemployed individuals were "not potentially eligible" for a variety of reasons, with the main reason being that they had not worked in the 12 months prior to unemployment. This group represented a little over one-quarter of the unemployed (25.5%). Another 17.9% of the unemployed had left their job for a reason not deemed valid by the EI program.

Note to readers

The Employment Insurance Coverage Survey sheds light on the coverage of the Employment Insurance (EI) program. It provides a picture of who does or does not have access to EI benefits as well as maternity, parental and adoption benefits.

To be potentially eligible to receive regular benefits, unemployed individuals have to contribute to the EI program and must meet the criteria for job separation. Job separations that are deemed invalid include quitting the job voluntarily (including to go to school), illness or disability, pregnancy, other family related issues, dissatisfaction with the job, and retirement. Contributors to the EI program with valid job separations who have accumulated enough hours are eligible to receive regular EI benefits.

The survey is administered to a sub-sample of respondents of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) four times a year, namely in April, July, November and January. The respondents are asked questions about their situation with respect to the LFS reference week in the month prior to being interviewed (March, June, October and December respectively).

In 2008, the total sample size was 11,673 people, composed of unemployed individuals (as defined by the LFS) and other individuals who, given their recent status in the labour market, were potentially eligible for EI. This sample included 2,005 respondents who were unemployed during the LFS reference week. In addition, 1,245 women who had a child of less than one year old were interviewed.

The survey is conducted on behalf of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Maternity and parental benefits

Nationally, the number of women who had a child up to a year old increased 2.6% to nearly 387,000 in 2008. Over three-quarters (77.0%) of these women had insurable employment, while 23.0% did not. More than half of the group that did not have insurable employment had not worked in the previous two years.

In all, 88.1% of mothers who had insurable employment received benefits in the form of maternity or parental benefits during their pregnancy, or after the birth or adoption of their child.

These benefits were from either the EI program or the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP). Slightly over two-thirds (67.8%) of mothers had received benefits, a proportion that remained relatively stable from 2003 to 2008.

The QPIP, which was introduced in 2006, continued to have a major impact on the number of fathers who claimed or intended to claim parental benefits. It included leave that applied exclusively to fathers. The proportion of fathers in Quebec who took or intended

to take parental leave has nearly tripled since the introduction of the plan.

Nationally, the proportion of fathers who took or intended to take parental leave increased from 26.8% in 2007 to 28.2% in 2008. In 2005, 15.0% had claimed this type of leave.

This increase mainly reflects the trend in Quebec. In 2008, 74.9% of Quebec fathers took advantage of the plan, compared with 73.6% in 2007. Prior to the plan's introduction, 27.8% of fathers took parental leave in 2005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4428.

To order custom tabulations, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527; ssd@statcan.gc.ca), Special Surveys Division.

Coverage and eligibility of the unemployed for Employment Insurance (EI) benefits

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	thousands					
Unemployed¹	1,224	1,188	1,123	1,039	1,030	1,095
	%					
Contributors	70.9	68.6	68.6	68.0	70.0	70.1
Non-contributors	29.1	31.4	31.4	32.0	30.0	29.9
Potentially eligible	57.1	53.5	55.2	52.6	54.3	52.2
Received or will receive EI benefits	44.8	40.9	43.3	40.3	41.0	39.7
Did not receive benefits but were eligible ²	3.2	2.2 ^E	2.7 ^E	3.1 ^E	3.7	3.2 ^E
Did not accumulate enough hours of work to be eligible to receive benefits	9.1	10.5	9.2	9.1	9.6	9.3
Not potentially eligible	42.9	46.5	44.8	47.4	45.7	47.8
Left their last job for reasons not deemed valid	13.9	15.1	13.4	15.4	15.7	17.9
Had no insurable employment	5.1	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.2	4.3 ^E
Had not worked in the previous 12 months	23.9	25.7	26.0	26.3	24.8	25.5
Eligible as a proportion of EI contributors who had a job separation that met the program criteria	84.0	80.4	83.4	82.7	82.3	82.2

E use with caution

1. Average number of unemployed individuals for the months of March, June, October and December.

2. Based on the number of hours worked.

Coverage and eligibility of mothers for maternity or parental benefits

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	number					
Mothers with a child aged 12 months or less	326,800	350,200	376,000	364,800	376,800	386,900
	%					
With insurable employment	74.3	74.3	75.0	76.5	77.2	77.0
Received maternity or parental benefits	64.7	65.9	64.2	63.9	66.3	67.8
From the Employment Insurance program	...	...	...	52.2	45.8	47.3
From the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan	...	...	...	11.7	20.5	20.5
Did not claim or receive maternity or parental benefits	9.6 ^E	8.4	10.8	12.7	10.9	9.2
Without insurable employment	25.7	25.7	25.0	23.5	22.8	23.0
Had not worked in the previous two years	16.0	16.6	12.7	14.7	14.6	15.5
Other (includes self-employed) ¹	9.6	9.1 ^E	12.3 ^E	8.8 ^E	8.2 ^E	7.5 ^E

... not applicable

E use with caution

1. Unlike for the Employment Insurance program, self-employed workers are eligible for benefits under the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan.

Farm Product Price Index

May 2009

Prices farmers received for their commodities fell 4.8% in May compared with May a year earlier, as the crops index fell, offsetting an increase in the total livestock and animal products index.

The prices producers received for crops in May were 14.4% lower compared with May 2008. Higher prices for potatoes, fruit and vegetables were unable to compensate for lower prices for grains, oilseeds and specialty crops. Total Canadian stocks for all major grains and oilseeds increased in the first quarter of 2009 compared with the same quarter of 2008, the result of strong production in 2008.

Prices producers received for livestock and animal products in May increased 2.0% compared with May 2008, continuing the growth in year-over-year prices observed since June 2008. Increases were recorded for all commodities except hogs and eggs. Higher cattle prices have been supported by lower input costs and reduced inventory.

On a month-over-month basis, the total index decreased from 118.4 (1997=100) in April to 117.8 in May.

The total crops index rose 1.5% in May compared with the April index, as oilseeds and potatoes recorded increases. Weather in western Canada had an impact on crop development and delayed seeding for some producers.

In May, the overall livestock and animal products index stood at 107.7, down from the April level of 111.4.

Decreases were recorded for all commodities except dairy. The hogs index fell 8.3%, the second consecutive month-over-month decrease since July 2008. Hog prices were affected by the H1N1 virus and the resulting border restrictions placed on North American pork.

Note: The growth rate of the total Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) is not a weighted average of the growth rates of its crop and livestock components. The growth rate of the total FPPI is derived from a weighted average of the component indices using a different set of weights in consecutive months. Given this, the growth rate of the composite FPPI can lie outside the growth rate of the components.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The May 2009 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 9, no. 5 (21-007-X, free), is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *All subjects*, choose *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nickeisha Patterson (613-951-3249; fax: 613-951-3868; nickeisha.patterson@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division.

Farm Product Price Index

	May 2008 ^r	April 2009 ^r	May 2009 ^p	May 2008 to May 2009	April to May 2009
	(1997=100)			% change	
Farm Product Price Index	123.7	118.4	117.8	-4.8	-0.5
Crops	150.0	126.5	128.4	-14.4	1.5
Grains	187.1	118.8	118.2	-36.8	-0.5
Oilseeds	148.0	120.9	123.9	-16.3	2.5
Specialty crops	198.7	170.7	169.9	-14.5	-0.5
Fruit	130.6	154.5	148.7	13.9	-3.8
Vegetables	114.6	122.2	122.0	6.5	-0.2
Potatoes	133.2	182.8	190.1	42.7	4.0
Livestock and animal products	105.6	111.4	107.7	2.0	-3.3
Cattle and calves	99.9	111.4	104.0	4.1	-6.6
Hogs	76.5	79.2	72.6	-5.1	-8.3
Poultry	112.2	116.0	115.7	3.1	-0.3
Eggs	106.8	103.4	102.3	-4.2	-1.1
Dairy	138.5	140.2	144.3	4.2	2.9

^r revised

^p preliminary

Crushing statistics

June 2009

Oilseed processors crushed 334 646 metric tonnes of canola in June. Oil production in June totalled 144 342 metric tonnes, while meal production amounted to 194 272 metric tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.

The June 2009 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-X, free) will be available in August.

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. ■

Multifactor productivity growth estimates 2008

Multifactor productivity growth estimates in 2008 are now available for the Canadian business sector and its major sub-sectors. Data include multifactor productivity, value-added, capital input and labour input in the aggregate business sector and major sub-sectors.

These data reflect revisions of investment and gross domestic product from 2005 to 2008, published in *The Daily* on June 1, 2009, and revisions of hours worked for the last four years, published in *The Daily* on June 16, 2009.

Note: Multifactor productivity measures at Statistics Canada are derived from a growth accounting framework that allows analysts to isolate the effects of increases in capital intensity and skills upgrading on the growth in labour productivity.

The residual portion of labour productivity growth that is not accounted for by increased capital intensity

and skills upgrading is called "growth in multifactor productivity." It measures the efficiency with which capital and labour are used in production. Growth in this area is often associated with technological change, organizational change or economies of scale.

Available on CANSIM: table 383-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1402.

A description of the method used to derive productivity measures can be found in the "User guide for Statistics Canada's annual multifactor productivity program," as part of *The Canadian Productivity Review* (15-206-X2007014, free) series, as well as in *The Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts: Industry Productivity Database*, Vol. 7, no. 5 (13-605-X, free), available from the *Analytical studies* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Wulong Gu (613-951-0754), Economic Analysis Division. ■

Deliveries of major grains

June 2009

Data on June 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 June 2009 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-X, free) will be available in August.

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

Farm Product Price Index, May 2009, Vol. 9, no. 5
Catalogue number **21-007-X** (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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