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Releases

Study: Changes in parental work time and earnings, 1980 to 2005	2
Scheduled air passenger origin and destination: Canada-United States, 2008	3
Computer and peripherals price indexes, September 2009	3
Commercial Software Price Index, September 2009	3

New products	4
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Release dates: October 26 to 30, 2009	5
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Study: Changes in parental work time and earnings

1980 to 2005

Between 1980 and 2005, the time parents spent on the job rose substantially for families with children, mostly because of the rising labour market participation of mothers.

During this period, the proportion of families with two parents working on a full-time, full-year basis more than doubled from 15% to 32%.

Single-parent families, particularly single mothers, also increased their work time by substantial margins. Over that period, the proportion of single mothers with a full-time and full-year schedule rose from 43% to 51%.

The article "Changes in parental work time and earnings" uses census data to examine changes in parental work hours among families with children. Families were categorized into low, medium and high earnings groups. Parents with low earnings were defined as those with less than two-thirds (or less than 66%) of the national median in any census year. Parents with high earnings were defined as earning more than four-thirds (or more than 133%) of the median. The median was \$70,100 among two-parent families in 2005.

Two-parent families in all earnings groups saw increases in their work time but increases were greatest in the low and middle earnings groups. For example, the proportion of parents working full year and full time in the middle earnings group (comprising families who earned between \$46,700 and \$93,400 in 2005) tripled over the period, from 11% to 32%.

Single parents with low earnings also recorded significant increases in their work hours, especially lone mothers. Between 1980 and 2005, the proportion of single mothers with low earnings working on a full-year and full-time basis rose from 8% to 20%.

The study also examines the extent to which the rise in parental work time translated into higher annual earnings for families. Increases in earnings were divided into two parts: the part due to increases in parental work time, and the part due to increases in rates of pay.

Among two-parent families, increases in parental work time accounted for nearly one-half (45%) of the overall growth in earnings, with low and middle earnings families contributing more than two-thirds.

The rest of the growth (55%) was due to an increase in rates of pay, in large part because of rising wages among top earnings families. This helps explain the growing gap between top and bottom earnings families documented in other studies.

Among single mothers, increasing work hours contributed to one-third of the overall increase in annual earnings. These gains were mostly associated with the rising work hours of single mothers with low earnings.

Conversely, because single fathers increased their work time by much smaller amounts, most of the changes in their annual earnings were driven by changing rates of pay.

Note: This article used census data for the years 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2006 to study changes in parental work hours among families with children under 16 years of age. The census provides detailed information on family work patterns and income for the year preceding the census year. Changes in work hours were assessed by combining the number of weeks worked with work status, that is, full-time or part-time. "Rates of pay" refers to the average earnings within fixed categories of work time: full year, full time; part year, full time; etc.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3901.

The article "Changes in parental work time and earnings" is now available in the October 2009 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, vol. 10, no. 10 (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 article, contact Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté (613-951-0803; sebastien.larochelle-cote@statcan.gc.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

Scheduled air passenger origin and destination: Canada-United States

2008

In 2008, more than 16.4 million passengers travelled on scheduled air services between Canada and the United States, down 3.5% compared with 2007.

The distribution of transborder traffic varied slightly from province to province compared with 2007. Half of the provinces showed losses in traffic in 2008 while half showed gains in passengers travelling on scheduled passenger air services between Canada and the United States.

Variations ranged from a decline of 6.0% in both Ontario and Quebec to an increase in transborder traffic of 22.8% in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Alberta experienced the largest gain in passenger traffic (+97,330 passengers) while Ontario experienced the largest traffic loss (-594,210 passengers). Nevertheless, 40.6% of all traffic still went through Ontario, down 6.0% compared with 2007.

Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0039 and 401-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2703.

The 2008 issue of the *Air Passenger Origin and Destination, Canada-United States Report* (51-205-X, free), is now available 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 (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Computer and peripherals price indexes

September 2009

From August to September, the price index for commercial computers decreased 0.45% and the index for consumer computers declined 3.35%.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices decreased 1.06% and printer prices increased 0.25% from a month earlier.

Note: These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 331-0004 and 331-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5032.

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

Commercial Software Price Index

September 2009

The Commercial Software Price Index (CSPI) increased 0.53% in September from the previous month.

Year over year, the CSPI rose by 3.76%.

Note: The Commercial Software Price Index is a monthly series measuring the change in the purchase price of pre-packaged software typically bought by businesses and governments.

This index is available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: table 331-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5068.

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

New products

**Air Passenger Origin and Destination,
Canada-United States Report, 2008**
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Retail Trade, August 2009, Vol. 81, no. 8
Catalogue number 63-005-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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**Perspectives on Labour and Income, October 2009,
Vol. 10, no. 10**
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Release dates: October 26 to 30, 2009

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
27	Employment Insurance	August 2009
28	Juristat	October 2009
29	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	September 2009
29	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	August 2009
30	Gross domestic product by industry	August 2009
