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Releases

Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Education experiences of children with disabilities

2006

More than 40% of Canadian children with disabilities aged 5 to 14 received some form of special education during the 2005/2006 school year, roughly the same proportion as reported in 2000/2001, according to a new report.

The report, based on data from the 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS), assessed the educational experiences of children aged 5 to 14 with activity limitations ranging from learning disabilities to mobility activity limitations.

Survey data showed that 163,730 children with disabilities attended school in 2005/2006. Of this group, 43.1%, or 70,600, were attending special education classes. The majority, 62.4%, attended these classes on a part-time basis, while the remainder attended on a full-time basis.

The vast majority of parents reported learning disabilities as the most common condition requiring special education for their children.

Some children had more than one activity limitation that required such accommodation. For example, more than half required accommodations due to speech or language difficulties, developmental disabilities, or emotional, psychological or behavioural conditions.

The survey found that the prevalence of disability among children has increased during the past five years. In 2006, roughly 4.6% of Canadian children aged 5 to 14 had one or more disabilities, up from 4.0% in 2001. The rate was higher among boys.

The survey gathered information on these children through interviews with their parents or guardians. The respondents' answers to the questions on disability represented their perception of the situation and were, therefore, subjective.

Met and unmet needs: Special education

In 2006, almost 60% of parents of children with disabilities attending either regular or special classes at a regular school believed that their child required special education services. The majority of these children were already receiving special education, but not all children aged 5 to 14 with disabilities received special education

Note to readers

The Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS) is a national survey designed to collect information on adults and children who have a disability, that is, whose everyday activities are limited because of a condition or health problem. It is funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada and conducted by Statistics Canada.

PALS provides essential information on the prevalence of various disabilities, support for persons with disabilities, their employment profile, their income and their participation in society.

Data on people with disabilities were last collected in 2001, when the previous PALS survey was conducted. The 2006 PALS provides information on trends in the numbers and situations of persons with disabilities over the previous five years. As well, some new content has been introduced to the survey to reflect changing technology and emerging policy and program needs.

For the purpose of PALS, persons with disabilities are those who reported difficulties with daily living activities, or who indicated that a physical or mental condition or a health problem reduced the kind or amount of activities that they could do.

The survey sampled about 48,000 individuals, of whom about 39,000 were adults and 9,000 children. The population covered by the survey consisted of people living in private and some collective households in all provinces and territories. People living in institutions and on First Nation reserves were excluded.

when they needed it, in the opinion of their parents, the survey found.

Survey data showed that about 36,600 children with disabilities, whose parents believed that there was a need for special education, did not in fact receive this type of schooling. This was roughly one-quarter (24.3%) of children with disabilities who were attending school.

Nearly half of the children in this group that did not receive special education had severe or very severe disabilities, and nearly two-thirds had undergone a professional assessment of their educational needs.

A small proportion of children were receiving special education even though their parents considered it to be unnecessary. They may have been following recommendations from school staff or health care professionals, but believed that their child's needs could still be met without the aid of special education services.

Accessibility of special education services

Among children who required special education or who attended a special school, nearly half (49.0%) had

parents who reported experiencing difficulty obtaining special education services.

The proportions were similar among children enrolled in special education classes or in regular classes.

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of parents of children with very severe disabilities reported challenges in obtaining special education for their child. This proportion decreased as the severity of disability lessened from severe to moderate.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, less than one-third of children with mild disabilities had parents who experienced difficulty obtaining these services.

Parents of children with psychological, emotional or behavioural conditions were more likely to report difficulty obtaining special education for their child.

For most parents, difficulties were related to a lack of available special education services and staff. More than one-half reported problems having their child tested for special education services.

Met and unmet needs: Educational aids

Educational supports or services that assist the child with learning and classroom participation include tutors, teacher's aides, special software, and attendant care services. Children who require additional educational aids, regardless of whether they currently use other aids, are considered to have unmet needs for these services or devices.

The majority of children with disabilities had their educational needs met to some degree. Among children aged 5 to 14 with disabilities who were in special classes in 2005/2006, 90% or nearly 62,400 were using one or more educational aids.

However, many did not have the aids that they required at school. More than one in five children who attended special education classes, over 14,700, needed one or more educational aids.

The proportion of children entirely without educational aids, but in need of them, was quite small in 2006, only 3.4%. Nonetheless, this represented nearly 5,500 children in Canada who were not receiving

any supports, in the form of educational aids, necessary for their full involvement in the educational system.

On average, children with very severe disabilities used more than twice as many aids as children with mild and moderate disabilities, and nearly 50% more aids than children with severe disabilities. The fact that children with more severe disabilities tend to require a greater number of aids may explain the higher rate of unmet needs for this group.

Three-quarters of parents (75.3%) cited a lack of funding within the school system as a reason that their child did not receive the necessary educational aids.

Trends for the provinces and territories

Nearly one-half (48.7%) of children aged 5 to 14 with disabilities in Ontario received some form of special education service during the 2005/2006 school year, the highest proportion among the provinces and territories. This was above the national average of 43.1%.

Four provinces were below the national average: Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba.

About 34% of children with disabilities in Quebec did not receive special education, but needed special education in the opinion of their parents. This was also above the national average of 24.3%.

Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba had proportions of children whose parents reported unmet needs for special education that were significantly below the national average.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3251.

The publication *The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Disability in Canada*, no. 4 (89-628-XWE, 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 Krista Kowalchuk (613-951-0784), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Employment Insurance

March 2008 (preliminary)

An estimated 462,760 Canadians received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in March, up 9,870 from the previous month. The number of persons receiving regular EI benefits increased in eight provinces, with the largest advances in Saskatchewan (+6.7%) and Ontario (+3.8%). Regular benefit payments in March totalled \$783.2 million.

Compared with March 2007, the number of Canadians receiving regular benefits has declined 4.3%. Provincially, the largest year-over-year percentage declines in regular beneficiaries were in Saskatchewan (-13.1%) and Quebec (-6.6%).

Over the last year, the number of regular beneficiaries has decreased in most of the census metropolitan areas (CMA), most notably in Saskatoon, where the number of regular EI beneficiaries has fallen 34%. The number of regular beneficiaries increased in a handful of CMAs, including Oshawa (+56.0%) and St. Catharines–Niagara (+6.7%).

The number of Canadians receiving regular benefits declined for both men (-4.7%) and women (-5.3%) compared with March 2007.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits from the 9th to the 15th of the month. This coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. The regular benefit payments figure measures the total of all monies paid to individuals from the 1st to the end of the month.

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 on Employment Insurance for April 2008 will be released on June 24.

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

Employment Insurance statistics

	March 2008	February 2008	March 2007	February to March 2008	March 2007 to March 2008
Seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	462,760 ^P	452,890 ^r	483,440	2.2	-4.3
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	783.2 ^P	701.3 ^r	695.5	11.7	12.6
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	245.2 ^P	213.2 ^r	222.3	15.0	10.3
Unadjusted					
All beneficiaries (thousands) ¹	862.5 ^P	869.6 ^P	889.8		
Regular beneficiaries (thousands)	592.0 ^P	596.9 ^P	622.4		-4.9
Men (thousands)	391.4 ^P	400.5 ^P	410.6		-4.7
Women (thousands)	200.6 ^P	196.4 ^P	211.8		-5.3
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	207.6	158.4	190.6		
Payments (\$ millions)	1,557.4	1,336.5	1,271.7		
Year-to-date (January to March)					
			2008	2007	2007 to 2008
					% change
Claims received (thousands)			671.8	704.5	-4.7
Payments (\$ millions)			4,332.8	4,329.4	0.1

^r revised

^P preliminary

1. "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week which is usually the week containing the 15th of the month.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	March 2008 ^P	February to March 2008	March 2007 to March 2008
Seasonally adjusted			
		% change	
Canada	462,760	2.2	-4.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	34,710	1.1	-4.2
Prince Edward Island	7,560	0.0	-2.2
Nova Scotia	26,480	-0.8	-3.9
New Brunswick	29,900	0.2	-3.7
Quebec	162,100	2.1	-6.6
Ontario	127,410	3.8	-2.2
Manitoba	9,750	1.5	-4.9
Saskatchewan	8,160	6.7	-13.1
Alberta	16,070	2.6	-4.7
British Columbia	38,360	0.9	1.8
Yukon	730	-3.9	-8.8
Northwest Territories	690	3.0	-2.8
Nunavut	300	-3.2	-21.1

^P preliminary

Note: The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.

Machinery and equipment price indexes

First quarter 2008

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (MEPI) stood at 85.2 (1997=100) in the first quarter, up 1.7% from the fourth quarter 2007. The import component index rose 2.8%, while the domestic index edged up 0.1%. Compared with the first quarter 2007, the total MEPI was down 8.6%, as the import index decreased 12.4%, while the domestic index fell 1.7%.

In the first quarter, all industries recorded increases in prices of machinery and equipment purchased. The manufacturing sector (+2.4%) contributed the most to the total MEPI quarterly increase. Among the sector's subcomponents, the largest contributors to the quarterly increase were transportation equipment manufacturing (+2.3%), primary metal and fabricated metal product manufacturing (+2.2%) and paper manufacturing (+2.0%). The second largest contributor to the total quarterly increase was other services, excluding public administration (+1.4%), with its sub-component, information and cultural industries, rising 1.2%.

Among commodities, price increases for construction machinery (+3.4%) and other industry specific machinery (+3.1%) were the largest contributors to the quarterly increase.

The US dollar increased 2.3% against its Canadian counterpart in the first quarter of 2008.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0041 and 327-0042.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2312.

The first quarter 2008 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in July.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.ca) or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612; adrian.fisher@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Machinery and equipment price indexes (1997=100)

	Relative importance	First quarter 2008 ^P	Fourth quarter 2007 to first quarter 2008 % change	First quarter 2007 to first quarter 2008 % change
Total machinery and equipment price index	100.00	85.2	1.7	-8.6
Domestic	32.03	103.3	0.1	-1.7
Imported	67.97	76.7	2.8	-12.4
Crop and animal production	4.07	95.0	2.5	-8.7
Forestry and logging	0.27	94.0	2.5	-9.3
Fishing, hunting and trapping	0.08	106.1	2.5	-3.5
Support activities for agriculture and forestry	0.10	92.7	2.0	-8.4
Mines, quarries and oil wells	4.26	98.4	2.8	-7.6
Utilities	3.55	90.3	3.0	-8.6
Construction	3.54	90.0	2.0	-9.8
All manufacturing	22.34	91.1	2.4	-8.9
Trade	8.38	83.7	1.2	-6.9
Transportation (excluding pipeline transportation)	7.66	98.0	1.7	-8.6
Pipeline transportation	1.18	97.4	1.9	-7.9
Warehousing and storage	0.26	98.2	1.8	-6.3
Finance, insurance and real estate	19.90	78.1	0.8	-9.6
Private education services	0.12	70.8	2.2	-9.9
Education services (excluding private), health care and social assistance	2.09	80.9	1.9	-8.0
Other services (excluding public administration)	16.39	74.3	1.4	-8.0
Public administration	5.81	78.8	1.4	-7.5

^P preliminary

Cereals and oilseeds review

March 2008

In the August to December 2007 period, direct feed grain purchases by Western Canadian feed mills totalled 427 000 metric tonnes, up 14.0% from the same five months a year earlier.

Reduced purchases of barley, oats and peas, were overshadowed by increased purchases of corn and, to a much lesser extent, of wheat.

Direct corn purchases in the first five months of the 2007/2008 crop year surged to 191 000 tonnes from 110 000 a year earlier. Corn imports by feed mills grew 32.7% to 123 000 tonnes from 93 000 tonnes, supported by a lower US exchange rate. Purchases of Manitoba corn were also significantly higher, the result of expanded production and lower prices relative to other feed grain alternatives.

Direct wheat purchases from Saskatchewan declined because of lower purchases by Manitoba mills that were substituting corn. Wheat purchases from the other western provinces rose in the early part of the 2007/2008 crop year prior to the major surge in wheat prices.

Feed mills' direct purchases of barley fell 27.2% over the period, with reductions in purchases from Saskatchewan and Alberta, as feeders turned to lower-priced corn.

Pea purchases decreased for a second year as a result of strong food demand from India and high prices, which priced peas out of the domestic feed market.

Note: Statistics Canada surveyed feed mills in Western Canada to obtain data on direct purchases of feed grains from farmers and grain dealers by province of origin. These data represent grain deliveries in addition to the licensed deliveries currently reported to the Canadian Grain Commission. Feed lots were not included in the initial phase of this project. The purpose of this on-going, semi-annual survey is to identify the amount of grain delivered by these direct methods and to identify inter-provincial movement of grain. This will lead to improvements in grain delivery data, which are important in the verification of farm stocks and production as well as in the calculation of farm cash receipts.

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

The March 2008 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review*, Vol. 31, no. 3 (22-007-XIB, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. This issue contains the "Feed grains supplement."

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.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Crushing statistics

April 2008

Oilseed processors crushed 323 250 metric tonnes of canola in April. Oil production totalled 137 049 tonnes in April while meal production amounted to 194 800 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.

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

For general 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.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Deliveries of major grains

April 2008

Data on April grain deliveries are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.

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

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

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.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Domestic travel

Second quarter 2007 (preliminary)

The preliminary estimates of domestic travel from the Travel Survey of Residents of Canada are now available for the second quarter of 2007.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3810.

For general information or to obtain data, contact Client Services (613-951-9169; toll-free 1-800-307-3382; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism, and the Centre for Education Statistics. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-951-1672; fax: 613-951-2909; gervliz@statcan.ca), Tourism Statistics Program. ■

Cancellation of the Construction Type Plywood Survey

The Construction Type Plywood Survey has been cancelled, effective immediately.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2138.

For more information, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, March 2008, Vol. 31,
no. 3
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB
(free).

**The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation
Survey: Disability in Canada**, no. 4
Catalogue number 89-628-XWE
(free).

**Report on Regional Discussions on Aboriginal
Identification Questions**
Catalogue number 89-629-XWE
(free).

**The General Social Survey: New Data
Overview**, 2006
Catalogue number 89-631-XWE
(free).

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Thursday, June 5, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
MAJOR RELEASES	
Urban transit, 1995 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 25 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses also noticeably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4
OTHER RELEASES	
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Short-term Expectations Survey	9
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