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Releases

Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Employment

2006

Labour market performance was strong for people with activity limitations between 2001 and 2006, resulting in reduced gaps with Canadians without such limitations, in employment, labour force participation and unemployment.

People with activity limitations posted strong growth in their employment rate, from 49.3% in 2001 to 53.5% in 2006, narrowing the gap to the population without activity limitations with an employment rate of 75.1% in 2006.

Labour force participation for people with activity limitations rose from 56.9% in 2001 to 59.6% in 2006, again reducing the gap with people without activity limitations.

The unemployment rate for people with activity limitations dropped from 13.2% in 2001 to 10.4% in 2006, narrowing the gap by roughly one-third with those without activity limitations.

Labour force changes by the severity and type of activity limitation

People with severe or very severe activity limitations experienced solid growth in the employment rate between 2001 and 2006, from 31.8% to 38.3%.

In contrast, the gain in the employment rate among people with moderate activity limitations was comparatively smaller, rising from 54.0% to 56.6% during the same period.

Activity limitations can be experienced in various forms. The Participation Activity Limitation Survey examined 10 different types of activity limitations. These activity limitations included hearing, seeing,

Note to readers

This report is the fifth in a series of releases analyzing information from the Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (PALS). It contains the survey results on the employment situation for adults 15 to 64 with activity limitations. Activity limitation and disability are used interchangeably in this report. A person with an activity limitation is defined as a person whose everyday activities are limited because of a health-related condition or problem.

This report examines changes in the labour market for people with and without activity limitations between 2001 and 2006, barriers to employment for people with activity limitations and perceived workplace discrimination.

This report uses census data on employment to measure the labour market experience of people with and without activity limitations using the same labour market concepts and reference periods. The PALS survey data were used to determine the respondent's activity limitation status.

All data in this report have been age-standardized to remove the impact of substantial differences in age structures between the populations with and without activity limitations.

The PALS severity scale was derived using disability concepts from the World Health Organisation. For more information, see Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Technical and Methodological Report (89-628-XWE2007001, free).

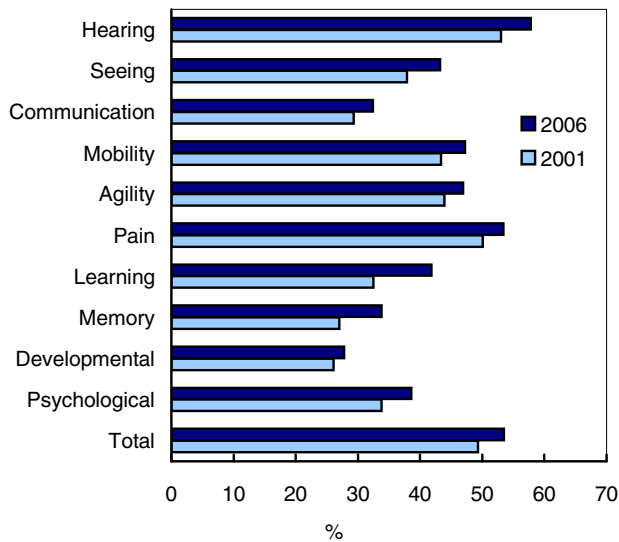
PALS was funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada and conducted by Statistics Canada. The survey provides essential information on the prevalence of different activity limitations, the types of support available to people with activity limitations, their employment profile, income and participation in social activities.

Reports dealing with issues such as income and family impact among people with activity limitations will be released later in 2008.

communication, mobility, agility, pain, learning, memory, developmental, and psychological.

Employment rates rose for all types of activity limitations, with the largest increase for those with learning limitations, from 32.5% in 2001 to 41.8% in 2006.

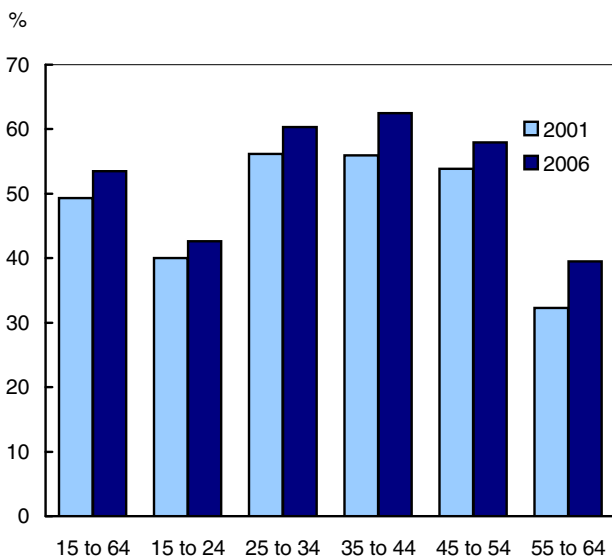
Employment rates by activity limitation type



Note: 2001 data are not available for the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Employment among people with activity limitations increased across all age groups between 2001 and 2006. The most growth occurred among those aged 55 to 64, at more than twice the growth rate of the population.

Employment rates by age group for people with activity limitations



Note: 2001 data are not available for the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Barriers to labour force participation for people with activity limitations

In 2006, nearly two-thirds of people 15 to 64 with an activity limitation and not working self-reported that they were completely prevented from working by their activity limitation. It is interesting to note that some with severe limitations reported they could work while others with less severe limitations reported they could not because of their limitation. The severity of the activity limitation had a major impact on a person's ability to participate in the labour force. Nevertheless, more than one-quarter of people with severe or very severe disabilities self-reported that their activity limitation did not completely prevent them from working. On the other hand, nearly one-quarter of people with mild activity limitations self-reported that they were not able to work.

About 700,000 Canadians with an activity limitation reported that their condition limited the amount or kind of work they could do. About three-quarters of employed people with a severe activity limitation reported they were limited at work, three times the proportion of those with a mild limitation.

Workplace accommodations

The most common accommodation required for employed people with activity limitations was a modification to working hours or days, or reduced work hours. This was reported by one-fifth of employed people with activity limitations. About 1 in 6 required a special chair or back support or a job redesign, while about 1 in 10 required a modified or ergonomic workstation.

Perceived discrimination

In 2006, people with activity limitations who were already employed generally reported the least discrimination, followed by those who were not in the labour force and then the unemployed.

The reporting of perceived discrimination also increased with the severity of the activity limitation: 2.2% of people with a mild limitation, 5.0% with a moderate activity limitation and 11.2% with a severe or very severe activity limitation reported they had been refused a promotion.

Young people with an activity limitation were more likely to report instances of perceived discrimination than older age groups.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3251.

The article "Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Labour force experience of people with

disabilities in Canada" is now available as part of *The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Disability in Canada* (89-628-XWE2008007, free) series. A set of tables entitled "Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables (Part III)" is also available from the same series (89-628-XWE2008008, free) under the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Andrew MacKenzie (613-951-2544), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Employment Insurance Coverage Survey

2007

The number of Canadians who received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in 2007 hit its lowest level since 2000.

The decline in beneficiaries has been due mainly to a drop in unemployment, rather than a change in the makeup of the unemployed.

In 2007, roughly 452,000 Canadians received regular EI benefits during the reference week of the survey, down 5.0% from 2006 and the fifth year of decline in a row. The level was 16.5% below the post-millennium peak of 540,800 in 2003.

Of the 452,000 recipients, 304,000, or 67.3%, were unemployed. This was a 23.8% decline from 2003. The regular benefits program is designed primarily for the unemployed. Other recipients included those employed less than 30 hours; not in the labour force or working full time with an interruption in the three months prior to the reference period; and mothers of infants that were working.

During the reference week, about two-thirds (67.7%) of EI claimants received regular benefits, and just over one-quarter (25.7%) received maternity or parental benefits.

On average, there were just over one million unemployed people nationally in 2007, down 16.0% from 2003.

Composition of unemployed remained relatively unchanged

The decline in the number of beneficiaries between 2003 and 2007 was not due to substantial changes in the composition of the unemployed. Eligibility rates among the unemployed remained relatively stable during this five-year period.

In 2007, roughly 70% of the one million unemployed Canadians contributed to the Employment Insurance program. In all, 54.0% were potentially eligible to receive benefits, regular or other, compared with 57.1% five years earlier.

Furthermore, of the unemployed Canadians, 41.0% either received or were to have received benefits; 3.7% did not receive benefits, but were eligible based on reported hours worked; and 9.6% were not eligible based on reported hours worked.

The most common reason for not being covered by the Employment Insurance program was lack of paid employment during the 12 months prior to the survey. In 2007, an estimated 25% of unemployed individuals were not covered for this reason, a slight decrease from 2006.

Note to readers

The Employment Insurance Coverage Survey (EICS) provides information on the coverage of the Employment Insurance program. It provides a meaningful picture of who does or does not have access to Employment Insurance benefits among the jobless. The survey also covers access to maternity and parental benefits.

In 2007, the EICS interviewed 1,938 unemployed and 1,233 mothers of a child less than one year old.

The survey has been conducted for Human Resources and Social Development Canada since 1997. The survey is administered to a sub-sample of individuals in the Labour Force Survey and is conducted in April, July, November and January each year.

The Employment Insurance program is an income replacement program to help Canadians face situations such as job loss or work stoppage. Canadians receive mainly two types of benefits: regular benefits, which are for individuals who have lost their employment, or benefits for the birth or adoption of a child, which include maternity and parental benefits.

There is always a certain proportion of unemployed who do not qualify for benefits. The first are those who have not contributed to the program because they have not worked in the past 12 months or their employment is not insurable. This group includes self-employed workers. The second are those who have contributed to the program, but who have left their employment for reasons that do not meet the eligibility criteria, such as workers who left their job voluntarily.

Not everyone who left their work for a reason that meets eligibility criteria is entitled to benefits. An unemployed person is also required to have accumulated a certain number of hours of paid employment to receive benefits. In 2007, 9.6% of unemployed individuals were otherwise potentially eligible, but had not accumulated enough hours of work to receive benefits.

In 2007, four out of every five of potentially eligible people (82.3%) had accumulated enough hours to receive benefits, a proportion that has remained stable over the past five years.

Maternity and parental benefits

The EI program is also designed to assist individuals who experience a job separation due to the birth or adoption of a child. A key change occurred on January 1, 2006, with implementation of the new Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP).

It replaced the maternity benefits, parental benefits and adoption benefits previously available to Quebec parents under the Federal Employment Insurance Plan. Individuals can only be covered by one plan at a time. Moreover, the plans differ in terms of the individuals involved and eligibility conditions. The QPIP operates in a similar way to the federal EI plan in that it is an income replacement plan. This means that applicants must have received insurable income to qualify for benefits.

At the Canada level, the number of mothers with a child up to 12 months of age rose 3.3% to nearly 377,000, after declining slightly in 2006. More than three-quarters of these mothers (77.2%) had insurable income. In all, 85.9% of them had received benefits in the form of maternity or parental benefits during their pregnancy or since the birth or adoption of their child.

These benefits were from either the EI program or the QPIP. Two-thirds (66.3%) of mothers had received benefits, a proportion which remained relatively stable from 2003 to 2007.

About 23% of all mothers with a child one year old or younger did not have insurable employment. More than half of them had not worked in the previous two years.

Increase in parental leave for fathers

The introduction of the new QPIP in 2006 has had a major impact on the number of fathers who claimed or intended to claim parental benefits.

Nationally, the proportion of fathers who took or intended to take parental leave increased from 20.0%

in 2006 to 26.8% in 2007. In comparison, only 15.0% claimed this type of leave in 2005. This increase mainly reflects the trend in Quebec as 73.6% of fathers took advantage of the plan in 2007, compared with 48.4% in 2006 and 27.8% in 2005. This change was likely due to one of the provisions in the QPIP plan, which includes leave that applies exclusively to fathers.

Between 2005 and 2007, the number of fathers either taking this leave, or planning to take it, increased by about 46%.

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.ca), Special Surveys Division.

□

Coverage and eligibility of the unemployed for Employment Insurance benefits

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

E use with caution

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

2. Based on number of hours worked.

Coverage and eligibility of mothers for maternity or parental benefits

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

... not applicable

E use with caution

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

■

2006 Community Profiles

Health Regions have now been added to the publication *2006 Community Profiles*, allowing users to view the 2006 Census data by the 124 Health Regions in Canada. Health Regions refer to the various administrative areas defined by provincial ministries of health and are used to monitor the health of the population, as well as plan and deliver health services. The boundaries for the Health Regions released today are those in effect as of December 2007.

The publication *2006 Community Profiles* (92-591-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 Client Services (613-951-1746; hd-ds@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

2011 Census Content Consultation Report

Consultation with data users continues to shape the census questionnaire, its relevance and its importance to users and respondents alike. This report presents the findings generated during the 2011 Census content consultation period (April through November 2007).

The *2011 Census Content Consultation Report* (92-137-XWE, free) is available 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 1-800-263-1136; fax: 613-951-1134; censusconsultation@statcan.ca), Client Services Division. ■

Capital expenditures by type of asset 2006

Capital expenditures by type of asset for building and engineering construction are now available for 2006.

Available on CANSIM: tables 029-0039 and 029-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2803.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Shinder (613-951-2030; les.shinder@stacan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

New products

Canadian Economic Observer, July 2008, Vol. 21, no. 7

Catalogue number 11-010-XPB (\$25/\$243).

Canadian Economic Observer: Historical Statistical Supplement, 2007/2008

Catalogue number 11-210-XPB (\$28).

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire, May 2008, Vol. 4, no. 5

Catalogue number 41-019-XWE
(free).

The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Disability in Canada: "Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Labour force experience of people with disabilities in Canada", no. 7

Catalogue number 89-628-XWE2008007
(free).

The 2006 Participation and Activity Limitation Survey: Disability in Canada: "Participation and Activity Limitation Survey 2006: Tables (Part III)", no. 8

Catalogue number 89-628-XWE2008008
(free).

GSS Matter of Fact: "What are the trends in self-reported spousal violence in Canada?", no. 6
Catalogue number 89-630-XWE
(free).

2011 Census Content Consultation Report, Census year 2011

Catalogue number 92-137-XWE
(free).

2006 Community Profiles, Census year 2006 (update)

Catalogue number 92-591-XWE
(free).

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