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Releases

Consumer Price Index

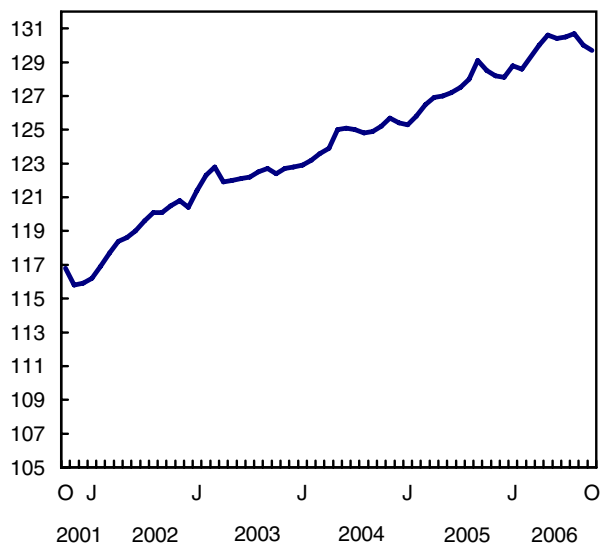
October 2006

Lower gasoline prices mitigated the upward pressure on consumer prices, driven mainly by owned accommodation. However, excluding energy, the index climbed over the 2.0% threshold for the first time since June 2003.

Consumer Price Index

Index (not seasonally adjusted)

(1992=100)



The All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.9% between October 2005 and October 2006, a slight increase from the 0.7% advance recorded in the previous month. The 12-month change in the All-items index, having remained below the 1.0% mark for two months, continued to advance at a moderate pace.

The All-items index excluding energy posted a 2.0% increase between October 2005 and October 2006, rising for the second consecutive month. Costs incurred by homeowners, such as replacement cost and mortgage interest cost, were largely responsible for the upswing in this index.

As announced last month, Statistics Canada now produces and disseminates the Core Consumer Price Index as defined by the Bank of Canada. This index, used by the Bank for the purpose of monitoring the inflation-control target, rose by 2.3% between October 2005 and October 2006.

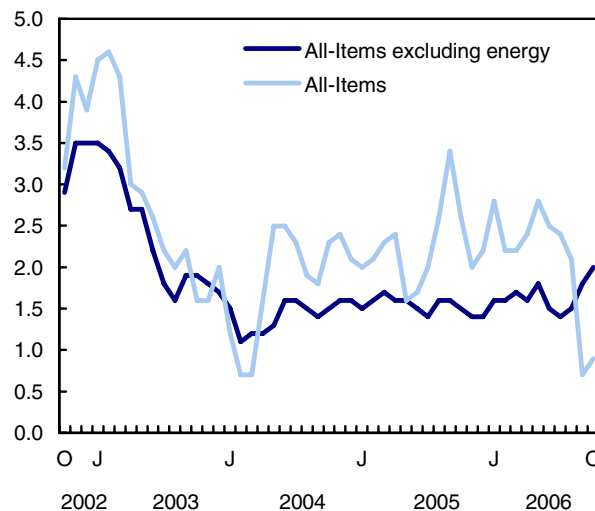
On a monthly basis, the All-items index fell for a second straight month. Consumer prices dropped 0.2% in October, following a decline of 0.5% in September. Once again, gasoline prices were a significant factor in the drop of the monthly CPI.

The All-items index excluding energy rose 0.2% in October, compared with 0.5% in September. Increased property taxes (including special fees) and higher mortgage interest costs were the main contributors to this increase.

The monthly Core CPI rose 0.1% in October.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year

% change



Gasoline slows the rise in consumer prices

In October 2006, prices paid by consumers increased 0.9% from October 2005, a slight increase compared to the 0.7% growth recorded in the previous month.

Over the past two months, the rise in consumer prices has remained relatively weak. Not since March 2004 has there been two straight months where the 12-month change was below 1.0%.

Homeowners' replacement cost, which represents the worn-out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices (excluding land), rose by 8.8% between October 2005 and October 2006.

Increases in replacement cost varied widely from province to province in October. Alberta again stood out sharply with a large increase of 48.3%, while other provinces experienced relatively modest increases.

Mortgage interest cost, which measures changes in mortgage interest owed by consumers, rose 4.0% between October 2005 and October 2006. This was the largest 12-month increase since May 2001.

Electricity prices rose 6.9% between October 2005 and October 2006, contributing again to the rise in the All-items index.

Downward pressure came from a decrease in fossil fuels prices, which mitigated the 12-month increase in the October All-items CPI.

In October 2006, consumers paid 14.3% less for gasoline than they did in October 2005. This follows the 12-month drop of 18.7% in September.

The natural gas index fell 16.4% between October 2005 and October 2006. Alberta (-37.7%) and Ontario (-9.7%) posted the most substantial reductions. The increase in world natural gas stocks has reduced the price on world markets, holding it below the \$5 US dollars per million BTU mark in recent months.

The 15.4% drop in the average price of heating oil and other fuels reflected price reductions in Quebec (-16.8%), Ontario (-12.0%) and Nova Scotia (-15.7%) between October 2005 and October 2006.

The price of computer equipment and supplies fell 19.9% between October 2005 and October 2006. While these durable goods are purchased only occasionally by consumers, they play an important role in reducing upward pressure on prices.

The Bank of Canada's Core Consumer Price Index increases

Statistics Canada now produces and disseminates the Core Consumer Price Index as defined by the Bank of Canada. This index is used by the Bank to guide monetary policy.

Although Statistics Canada will henceforth announce and publish the Core CPI, the underlying methodology for the index was established by the Bank of Canada and remains the latter's responsibility.

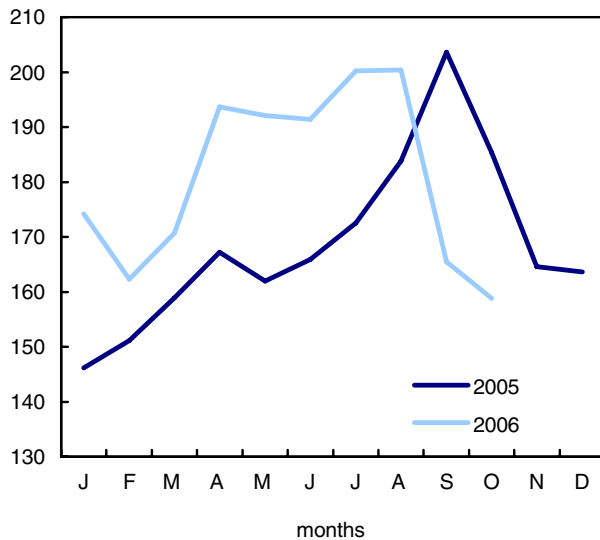
The measure of the Core CPI excludes from the All-items CPI the effect of the changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies.

The Core CPI as defined by the Bank of Canada was at 129.7 in October 2006.

The 12-month growth posted by this index was 2.3% between October 2005 and October 2006.

Gasoline

Index (1992=100)



Gasoline and natural gas push down the monthly CPI

The 0.2% reduction in the All-items CPI between September and October 2006 was due primarily to lower fossil fuel prices.

In October 2006, the 4.0% reduction in the price of gasoline was the main source of the drop in the monthly index. New Brunswick (-10.1%) posted the largest decline in gasoline prices in October, while Ontario (-1.8%) posted the smallest.

The monthly change in natural gas, which fell 11.4% in October 2006, was also a significant factor in the downward movement of the All-items CPI. This change was driven by the 30.3% reduction in prices in Alberta, a reversal from the previous month when the price of natural gas rose 31.9%.

Changes in property taxes (including special fees) are reflected in the CPI once a year, in October. This year, property taxes were up 3.0%, compared with an increase of 3.2% in October 2005. After rising steadily between 2000 and 2004, the growth in average property taxes has slowed over the past two years.

Except for residents of Newfoundland and Labrador (+0.5%) and British Columbia (+0.4%), those in other provinces saw more substantial increases in their property taxes, although with a large variation across provinces. Residents of Prince Edward Island (+7.0%) experienced the sharpest increase in the country, followed at some distance by those in New Brunswick (+5.6%), Nova Scotia (+4.9%) and Saskatchewan (+4.3%). The increases noted by residents of Alberta (+3.7%), Ontario (+3.4%), Quebec (+3.0%) and Manitoba (+2.6%) were moderately rapid.

Consumers had to pay slightly more for fresh vegetables (+7.4%) between September and October

2006. Vegetable prices normally increase in October because of seasonal effects marking the end of the harvest period for locally-grown vegetables.

The mortgage interest cost rose by 0.6% in October 2006. This was the fourth straight month that there has been an increase in this index equal to or greater than 0.6%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0001, 326-0002, 326-0009, 326-0012 and 326-0016 to 326-0018.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-XIB, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

Available at 7 a.m. online under *The Daily* module of our website.

The October 2006 issue of the *Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 85, no. 10 (62-001-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPB, \$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The November Consumer Price Index will be released on December 19.

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

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Consumer Price Index and major components
(1992=100)

	Relative importance ¹	October 2006	September 2006	October 2005	September to October 2006	October 2005 to October 2006
Unadjusted						
		% change				
All-items	100.00²	129.7	130.0	128.5	-0.2	0.9
Food	16.89	131.4	130.9	127.7	0.4	2.9
Shelter	26.75	129.9	129.8	126.0	0.1	3.1
Household operations and furnishings	10.58	116.3	116.1	115.7	0.2	0.5
Clothing and footwear	5.37	102.8	103.6	104.5	-0.8	-1.6
Transportation	19.79	150.1	151.6	153.3	-1.0	-2.1
Health and personal care	4.52	122.6	122.5	121.2	0.1	1.2
Recreation, education and reading	11.96	127.5	128.3	128.0	-0.6	-0.4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	4.13	151.0	150.8	147.9	0.1	2.1
All-items (1986=100)		166.1				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992		77.1	76.9	77.8		
Special aggregates						
Goods	48.84	122.2	123.1	123.8	-0.7	-1.3
Services	51.16	137.8	137.5	133.8	0.2	3.0
All-items excluding food and energy	74.27	126.3	126.2	124.1	0.1	1.8
Energy	8.84	160.5	166.9	175.8	-3.8	-8.7
Core CPI ³	82.75	129.7	129.6	126.8	0.1	2.3

- 2001 CPI basket weights at June 2004 prices, Canada: Effective July 2004. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm>).
- Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
- The measure of the Core Consumer Price Index (CPI) excludes from the all-items CPI the effect of changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest costs; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; tobacco products and smokers' supplies. For additional information, please consult the Bank of Canada website (<http://www.banqueofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm>).

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit¹
(1992=100)

	October 2006	September 2006	October 2005	September to October 2006	October 2005 to October 2006
Unadjusted					
	% change				
Newfoundland and Labrador	127.7	128.7	126.8	-0.8	0.7
Prince Edward Island	130.3	131.3	131.3	-0.8	-0.8
Nova Scotia	131.9	132.5	131.6	-0.5	0.2
New Brunswick	127.9	129.1	128.5	-0.9	-0.5
Québec	125.3	125.3	124.5	0.0	0.6
Ontario	130.2	130.3	129.4	-0.1	0.6
Manitoba	134.1	133.9	132.3	0.1	1.4
Saskatchewan	135.0	135.3	133.0	-0.2	1.5
Alberta	140.3	141.7	136.2	-1.0	3.0
British Columbia	127.7	127.8	126.3	-0.1	1.1
Whitehorse	125.0	126.1	125.6	-0.9	-0.5
Yellowknife ²	124.6	125.4	125.0	-0.6	-0.3
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	104.2	105.0	103.3	-0.8	0.9

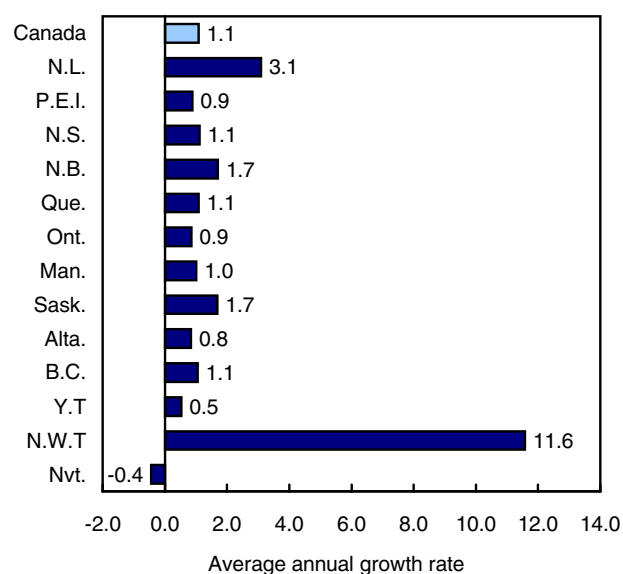
- View the geographical details for the city of Whitehorse, the city of Yellowknife and the town of Iqaluit.
- Part of the increase first recorded in the shelter index for Yellowknife for December 2004 inadvertently reflected rent increases that actually occurred earlier. As a result, the change in the shelter index was overstated in December 2004, and was understated in the previous two years. The shelter index series for Yellowknife has been corrected from December 2002. In addition, the Yellowknife All-items CPI and some Yellowknife special aggregate index series have also changed. Data for Canada and all other provinces and territories were not affected.

Hours worked and labour productivity in the provinces and territories

2000 to 2005 (revised)

Over the 2000 to 2005 period, Alberta and Nunavut experienced the strongest growth in hours worked, while the Northwest Territories and Newfoundland and Labrador registered the highest gains in labour productivity.

Labour productivity growth by province and territory from 2000 to 2005



Construction industry has propelled growth in hours worked since 2000

Hours worked in Canada grew on average by 1.5% annually from 2000 to 2005, due in part to large increases in the construction and retail trade industries as well as the finance and insurance sectors. These industries alone accounted for 44% of the growth in hours worked, equal to the creation of some 120,000 jobs annually. Over the same period, the national average annual growth of labour productivity in the economy as a whole was 1.1%.

Construction ranked first in terms of growth in hours worked in Alberta, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, as well as the Yukon. It placed second in Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador, and third in Nova Scotia and Quebec.

Note to readers

This release reviews average annual increases in hours worked and labour productivity at the national, provincial and territorial levels from 2000 to 2005.

Labour productivity measures are usually limited to the business sector. However, in this provincial and territorial analysis, productivity measures cover the overall economy, including the rent for owner's occupied dwellings. Productivity estimates in this report were based on the Fisher chained real gross domestic product (GDP) at market prices because a provincial measure of real GDP for the business sector is not available at present.

Economic performance as measured by labour productivity must be interpreted carefully, since these estimates reflect changes in other inputs (particularly capital) in addition to the growth in productive efficiency. Labour productivity growth is often affected by changes in industrial structure over time.

This update of labour statistics is consistent with the revised provincial and territorial economic accounts for 2005 that were released in The Daily on November 8, but also includes revisions to hours worked estimates for the 1997 to 2005 period to incorporate the Labour Force Survey revisions published in January 2006.

Retail trade was the prime contributor to the growth in hours worked in Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec, whereas it stood second in New Brunswick and the three Prairie provinces and third in Ontario and the Yukon.

Three other industries, administrative and support services; professional, scientific and technical services; and health care and social assistance, also experienced substantial growth in hours worked over the period. They added over 127 million hours per year on average, equivalent to 76,000 jobs annually, to the Canadian work force.

Growth in hours worked in Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba was primarily due to gains in administrative and support services. This industry ranked second in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

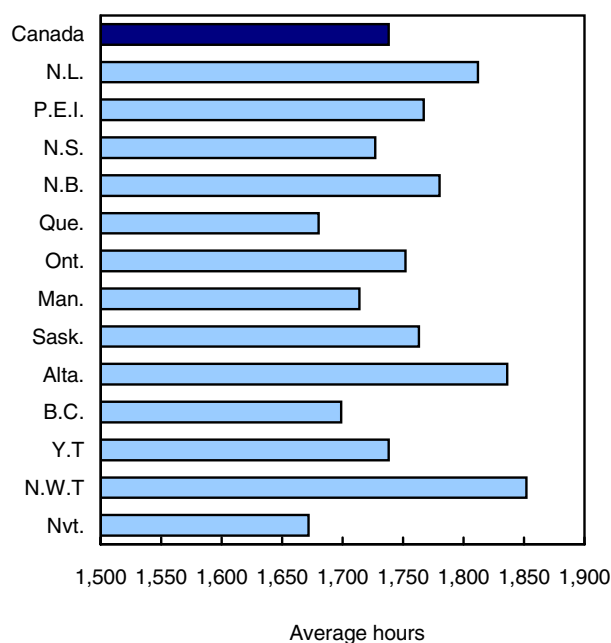
At the other end of the scale, agriculture continued its downward trend with an average loss exceeding 8,000 jobs per year, a figure which translates into nearly 18 million hours. Losses were particularly severe in Prince Edward Island and in the three Prairies provinces.

The food and apparel industries also lost ground and were down over 20 million hours of work or over 4,000 jobs per year. This decrease was concentrated in Quebec and Ontario. Apparel outpaced all others in terms of lost hours. Aircraft manufacturing has lost nearly 16,000 jobs since 2001.

Alberta leads all other regions in terms of annual hours of work per job

In 2005, the two regions with the highest annual level of hours per job were the Northwest Territories (1,852 hours) and Alberta (1,836 hours). In contrast, the two regions where hours worked per job were the lowest were in Quebec (1,680 hours) and British Columbia (1,699 hours).

Regional disparity in hours worked per job, 2005



From 2000 to 2005, Alberta experienced the largest increase in total hours worked with an annual average rate of 2.5%. In fact, Alberta is the only province where annual hours worked per job grew over this period.

All of the other provinces and two territories experienced a decrease in average hours worked over the same period, with the largest decline in the Northwest Territories (-1.2%) while there was no change in the Yukon.

Second only to the Northwest Territories, Quebec saw its average hours worked fall by 0.7% annually from 2000 to 2005. However, whereas Northwest Territories work patterns drew closer to the Canadian

average, Quebec figures showed a drift in the opposite direction.

All provinces have shown productivity gains on average since 2000

At the national level, labour productivity in the total economy grew on average by 1.1% per year over the 2000 to 2005 period. During this period, the growth rate in real gross domestic product averaged 2.6%, while the growth in hours worked averaged 1.5%.

Since the start of the decade, labour productivity increased on average in all provinces, with the fastest growth in Newfoundland and Labrador. Saskatchewan and New Brunswick also posted average annual growth rates above the national average.

Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia enjoyed a growth rate at par with the national average.

Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Alberta trailed the national average.

Labour productivity jumped 11.6% in the Northwest Territories as diamond mines in the region were brought into production. Productivity growth was more modest in the Yukon (+0.5%) and declined in Nunavut (-0.4%).

Newfoundland and Labrador takes the lead as oil production come on stream

Over the past six years, the productivity levels of Newfoundland and Labrador outpaced that of all the other provinces, mostly due to the coming on stream of offshore oil production. The launch of this new, highly capital-intensive industry has transformed the province's industrial structure. Labour productivity in Newfoundland and Labrador grew at the yearly average rate of 3.1% from 2000 to 2005.

Available on CANSIM: tables 383-0009 and 383-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5103.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-3292; productivity@statcan.ca), Microeconomic Analysis Division.

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Some labour market components by province and territory, 2005

	Demography and employment				Annual average hours			
	Working age population	Jobs	Ratio job / population	Fraction of jobs in full-time	per population 15+	per worker	per job	per full-time job
	thousands	thousands	%	%				
Canada	26,605	16,459	61.9	78.0	1,075	1,830	1,738	2,058
Newfoundland and Labrador	434	207	47.7	82.1	866	1,848	1,812	2,083
Prince Edward Island	114	68	59.8	78.5	1,064	1,867	1,767	2,112
Nova Scotia	784	453	57.8	77.9	997	1,804	1,727	2,045
New Brunswick	630	354	56.2	80.6	1,001	1,853	1,780	2,076
Quebec	6,339	3,678	58.0	79.0	975	1,724	1,680	1,984
Ontario	10,276	6,535	63.6	78.3	1,114	1,856	1,752	2,057
Manitoba	944	603	63.9	75.4	1,096	1,832	1,714	2,111
Saskatchewan	796	502	63.1	74.8	1,111	1,893	1,763	2,207
Alberta	2,650	1,842	69.5	78.3	1,277	1,970	1,836	2,162
British Columbia	3,562	2,159	60.6	75.6	1,030	1,800	1,699	2,037
Yukon	25	19	74.9	..	1,276	1,777	1,738	..
Northwest Territories	32	23	71.5	..	1,304	1,921	1,852	..
Nunavut	20	12	61.0	..	1,027	1,772	1,672	..

.. not available for a specific reference period

Note: The number of jobs is based on the National Accounts concept. The fact that certain individuals hold more than one job or do not work in their province of residence is taken into account. Absent or idle workers are included in the universe only if they have earnings.

Average annual growth of labour productivity and other related variables, 2000 to 2005

	Real gross domestic product	All jobs	Average hours	Hours worked	Labour productivity	Total compensation	Hourly compensation	Unit labour cost
Canada	2.6	1.8	-0.3	1.5	1.1	4.7	3.2	2.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	4.4	1.5	-0.2	1.3	3.1	4.4	3.1	0.0
Prince Edward Island	2.0	1.6	-0.5	1.1	0.9	4.7	3.6	2.6
Nova Scotia	2.1	1.5	-0.5	1.0	1.1	3.9	2.9	1.8
New Brunswick	2.3	1.0	-0.4	0.6	1.7	3.5	2.9	1.1
Quebec	2.0	1.7	-0.7	0.9	1.1	4.1	3.1	2.0
Ontario	2.4	1.9	-0.4	1.6	0.9	4.2	2.6	1.7
Manitoba	1.8	1.1	-0.3	0.8	1.0	4.2	3.4	2.4
Saskatchewan	1.8	0.3	-0.2	0.1	1.7	4.8	4.7	3.0
Alberta	3.4	2.3	0.2	2.5	0.8	8.1	5.5	4.6
British Columbia	3.1	2.1	-0.1	2.0	1.1	4.6	2.5	1.5
Yukon	2.4	1.8	0.0	1.8	0.5	4.1	2.3	1.7
Northwest Territories	10.8	0.5	-1.2	-0.7	11.6	7.8	8.5	-2.7
Nunavut	1.8	2.4	-0.1	2.3	-0.4	8.9	6.5	7.0

Study: Balancing career and care 2002

Just as they are finishing off the task of raising children, many Canadians face a new challenge in life — providing care to aging parents, relatives or friends, according to a new study.

In 2002, more than 1.7 million adults aged 45 to 64 provided informal care to almost 2.3 million seniors with long-term disabilities or physical limitations.

Most of these caregivers were also in the work force, with 7 out of every 10 caregivers in this age range were employed, and many were women.

The study, published today in the online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, used the General Social survey on aging and social support to examine the prevalence and impact of caregiving among middle-aged Canadians. It examined the hours they spent in both paid work and the informal care of seniors.

Caregiving had some significant job-related consequences. Individuals providing four hours or more of care per week were more likely to reduce their work hours, change their work patterns or turn down a job offer or promotion. Among this group, 65% of women and 47% of men who were working over 40 hours were substantially affected.

Caregiving also influenced retirement decisions. Some 21% of women caregivers reported that the need to provide care to a family member would be a likely reason for retirement, compared with 13% of women who were not providing care.

When asked what would be most useful in letting them continue to help others, most caregivers replied that they would like occasional relief, especially those who combined longer hours of work with a high-intensity of caregiving.

The study shows how the intensity of juggling a career and the pressure of looking after the elderly can pull a person in two directions.

For example, a substantial number of people had feelings of guilt because they felt they should be doing more to help, or they felt they should be doing a better job.

Over 40% of women who provided over one hour of care a week reported substantial feelings of guilt. These feelings intensified as their hours of paid work increased.

In general, working longer hours was associated with increased guilt feelings among both men and women, but on average, men felt guilty to a lesser degree.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4502.

The article "Balancing career and care" is now available in the November 2006 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 7, no. 11 (75-001-XIE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Wendy Pyper (613-951-0381, wendy.pyper@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

Study: Measuring housing affordability 2004

Although the vast majority of Canadian households live in suitable and adequate housing, 1.7 million spent 30% or more of their budget on shelter costs in 2004, according to a new study released today in *Perspectives on Labour and Income*.

While rental and housing prices undoubtedly affect affordability, their impact will be tempered by many other factors. In 2004, about 14% of households spent 30% or more of their budget on shelter costs. Of these, 12% spent between 30% and 50%, and 2% spent 50% or more.

Traditionally, the concept of affordability has been based on a ratio of housing costs to total household income. A household paying 30% or more of its pre-tax income for housing is considered to have affordability problems.

This study highlights an alternative measure of housing affordability that is based on household expenditure, using data from the Survey of Household Spending.

The study found that people who rented were more likely to experience affordability problems. Although the majority live in affordable housing, 31% of people who rented spent 30% or more of their budget on shelter. This compares with only 6% of people who owned their shelter.

These rental households consisted mostly of individuals living alone, those relying on government assistance, and those in low income.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, basic shelter costs consist of rent or regular mortgage payments, condo fees, utilities (water, heat and electricity), and property taxes. The average shelter cost in 2004 was \$9,400, about 15% of the average household budget.

People living in large metropolitan areas, particularly Toronto and Vancouver, incurred the highest spending on rents.

About one-third of renters in Toronto spent 30% or more of their budget on shelter. On the other hand, about 46% of households in Montréal were renters. But only 28% had shelter affordability problems, slightly less likely than average.

Although shelter costs vary considerably across Canada, household income was the major factor affecting affordability.

Renters with income of less than \$19,190 a year were 18 times more likely to be cost-burdened, compared with those in the top one-half of the income distribution. The odds were five times for those with income of between \$19,190 and \$32,500.

A number of other factors may be at play, including the major source of household income.

Renters with housing affordability problems who had to rely on government transfer payments as their main source of income were almost six times more likely to be cost-burdened compared with wage and salary earners.

Having two earners in the household compared with no earners reduced the odds of affordability problems significantly.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3508.

The article "Measuring housing affordability" is now available in the November 2006 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 7, no. 11 (75-001-XIE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For further information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jacqueline Luffman (613-951-1563, jacqueline.luffman@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

Study: Children with disabilities and chronic conditions and parental health 1994 to 2000

This study used data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth to examine the implications for the health of parents who have children with a disability or chronic condition.

It compared their health status to that of parents of healthy children between 1994 and 2000.

The study found that mothers of chronically sick or disabled children were twice as likely to report being in "poor" or "fair" health than those without chronically sick or disabled children.

Nearly 11% of these mothers said they were in poor or fair health, compared to just over 5% of

mothers without sick or disabled children. There was no observed difference among fathers.

The study tracked children aged 6 to 15 in 2000 who had lived with the same married couple throughout the study period. Health was assessed by the "person most knowledgeable of the child" who in 98% of cases was the mother.

The study found that mothers parenting chronically sick or disabled children were more likely to report being in poor or fair health than those who smoked daily. This was the case even after taking into account differences in mothers' health at the start of the study as well as their age, education, family income, presence and age of other children and smoking habits.

Mothers with disabled or chronically sick children were 1.5 times as likely to report poor or fair health as mothers with healthy children who reported smoking daily.

The study also found that among couples parenting chronically sick or disabled children, the mother's health declined more relative to the father's.

Among couples with a chronically sick or disabled child in 2000, 35% reported that the mother's health deteriorated more than the father's. Almost 31% reported that the father's health had deteriorated more than the mother's.

In contrast, 31% of couples with healthy children reported the father's health declined more than the mother's, while 25% reported the mother's health declined more over the six-year period.

Note: This study focused on couples who remained married through out the period studied. Though divorce is often a consequence of the stress of parenting sick and disabled children, the study focused on the impact on both mothers and fathers, and on the population of parents who remained married.

The study "Children with disabilities and chronic conditions and longer-term parental health" was prepared by Peter Burton, Lynn Lethbridge and Shelly Phipps (Dalhousie University) and is now available free at (<http://atlanticresearchdatacentre.dal.ca>).

The study was prepared as part of the New Realities in Gender Facing Canadian Society Project organized by Family and Labour Studies Division, which features work conducted in Statistics Canada's Research Data Centres.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4450.

For information about this study, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release,

contact Gustave Goldmann (613-951-1472), Research Data Centre program. ■

Registered retirement savings plan contributions 2005

Canadian taxfilers increased their contributions to Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) in 2005 for the third year in a row.

At the same time, the number of contributors rose to its highest level in four years.

Contributions totalled nearly \$30.6 billion, up 6.2% from 2004. This was the highest total ever. Data came from income tax returns filed in the spring of 2006.

Over 6.1 million taxfilers contributed to an RRSP in 2005, up 2.2% from 2004. This was the highest level since 2001 when more than 6.2 million people contributed to an RRSP.

To be eligible to contribute to an RRSP, a taxfiler must have either new room as a result of qualifying income from the previous year (generally employment income), or unused room from earlier years.

As in recent years, almost 86% of taxfilers were eligible to contribute for the 2005 tax year. Of these, about 31% actually made contributions.

The \$30.6 billion represented only about 7% of the total room available to eligible taxfilers.

Total contributions rose in all provinces and the Yukon but fell in Nunavut (-1.9%) and the Northwest Territories (-1.2%).

Taxfilers in Prince Edward Island recorded the largest percentage increase in total contributions at 21.8%, followed by those in Yukon (+13.3%) and Alberta (+12.8%).

The number of contributors fell marginally in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, but there were increases in all the other provinces and Yukon. The largest percentage increase was in Alberta, where the number of contributors rose 6.0%.

The growing number of contributors and the continuing increase in contributions may have been

the result of increases in the maximum annual RRSP contribution limit.

The limit is based on 18% of the previous tax year's earned income, to a fixed maximum, less any pension adjustment, plus any unused room carried forward. The fixed maximum in 2005 was \$16,500, up from \$15,500 in 2004 and \$14,500 in 2003.

Nationally, the median contribution increased slightly to \$2,630. In other words, one-half of those contributing to an RRSP contributed more than \$2,630 and half contributed less.

As in previous years, the median contribution in the three territories exceeded those in all the provinces. The highest median was in Nunavut at \$4,300, followed by the Northwest Territories at \$3,490 and Yukon at \$3,170.

Among census metropolitan areas, the highest median contribution occurred in Calgary where it was \$3,270, followed by Toronto at \$3,190 and Vancouver, where it was \$3,160.

Calgary and Edmonton posted the largest percentage growth in the number of contributors, with 5.9% more people in each of these two census metropolitan areas making a contribution in 2005 than the previous year.

Total contributions in Calgary increased 12.6% over 2004, followed by Edmonton with 11.9%, the largest gains among census metropolitan areas.

Available on CANSIM: tables 111-0039 to 111-0041.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4106.

The databanks *RRSP Contributors* (17C0006, various prices), *RRSP Contribution Limits* (17C0011, various prices) and *Canadian Taxfilers* (17C0010, various prices) are available for Canada, the provinces and territories, cities, towns, census metropolitan areas, census divisions, federal electoral districts, and areas as small as forward sortation areas (the first three characters of the postal code), and letter carrier routes.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720; fax: 1-866-652-8444 or 613-951-4745; saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division. □

RRSP contributors, 2005

	Number of contributors	2004 to 2005 % change	Contributions \$ thousands	2004 to 2005 % change	Median contribution \$
Canada	6,135,980	2.2	30,581,252	6.2	2,630
Newfoundland and Labrador	60,600	-0.2	289,043	6.5	2,230
Prince Edward Island	19,290	1.1	94,568	21.8	2,050
Nova Scotia	133,110	1.3	608,457	6.3	2,160
New Brunswick	102,390	1.0	471,483	10.5	2,070
Quebec	1,549,330	1.0	6,960,750	4.6	2,430
Ontario	2,392,350	2.1	12,518,005	4.9	2,800
Manitoba	206,110	0.8	864,548	4.1	2,130
Saskatchewan	169,780	1.5	732,084	5.0	2,380
Alberta	702,900	6.0	3,793,826	12.8	3,000
British Columbia	784,550	2.7	4,162,816	7.5	3,000
Yukon	6,020	4.9	31,916	13.3	3,170
Northwest Territories	7,360	-0.5	40,773	-1.2	3,490
Nunavut	2,200	-2.7	12,983	-1.9	4,300

Shipments of solid fuel burning heating products

Third quarter 2006

Data on shipments of solid fuel burning heating products are now available for the third quarter.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2189.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0063.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

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The Consumer Price Index, October 2006, Vol. 85, no. 10
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Retail Trade, September 2006, Vol. 78, no. 9
Catalogue number 63-005-XIE
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Perspectives on Labour and Income, Vol. 7, no. 11
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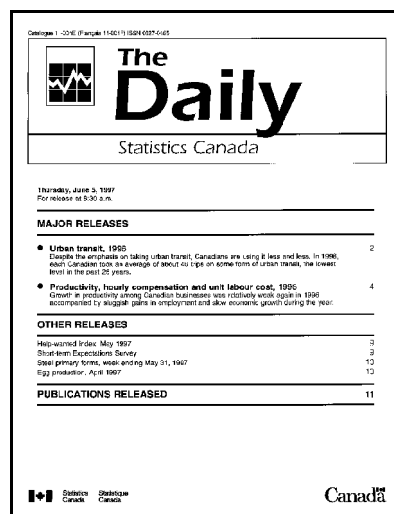
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