

The Daily

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Survey of Household Spending, 2010

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Survey of Household Spending, 2010

Canadian households spent an average of \$53,016 on all types of goods and services in 2010. Of this total, shelter accounted for 28.3% of spending, transportation for 20.7%, and food, 14.0%. Spending on clothing represented 6.5% of the total, health care, 4.1%, and communications, 3.3%.

On average, couples with children spent \$74,126 on goods and services, the highest total of all household types. The lowest spending was for one-person households, at \$30,563.

Provincially, the highest average spending on goods and services was by households in Alberta (\$61,134), followed by households in British Columbia (\$56,812). Households in Prince Edward Island (\$44,856) reported the lowest spending.

Shelter

Canadian households spent an average of \$14,997 on shelter in 2010. Homeowners spent an average of \$17,026, while renters spent about two-thirds of this amount, or \$10,874.

Provincially, households in Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest average shelter expense, at \$10,395. Alberta households reported the highest spending on shelter, at \$17,268.

The highest share of spending on shelter was for households in Ontario, at 30.4% of total spending on goods and services. This was followed by households in British Columbia, at 29.5%. The lowest share was for households in Newfoundland and Labrador, at 23.0%.

Spending on shelter was directly related to the size of a population centre. Households in rural areas spent an average of \$10,755 on shelter, compared with \$17,224 for those in centres with a population of one million or more.

Transportation

Households spent an average of \$10,999 on transportation in 2010.

This spending consisted of \$9,946 on average for private transportation (which includes cars, trucks and vans and their operating costs), while the remaining \$1,053 was for public transportation, which covered spending on public transit, taxis, air fares, buses and trains.

Total spending on transportation varied considerably by household type. On average, couples with children spent \$15,570 on transportation, nearly three times the \$5,577 spent by one-person households.

For private transportation, average spending was highest in rural areas (\$11,255) and lowest in population centres of one million or more (\$9,558).

Public transportation spending declined with age. In households headed by an individual under 30 years of age, average spending was highest at \$1,292. It was lowest for those headed by seniors aged 65 and over (\$578).

Food

Households reported spending an average of \$7,443 on food in 2010. This total consisted of \$5,377 on average spent on food from stores and the remaining \$2,066 for restaurant meals.

Households in Nova Scotia (\$6,888) reported the lowest average spending on food while those in Alberta (\$8,427) reported the highest.

Households headed by seniors reported the highest share of spending on food purchased from stores, at 12.0% of total spending, and the lowest share from restaurants, at 3.4% of total spending.

In contrast, households headed by a person under 30 years of age had the highest share of spending on restaurants, at 5.4% of total spending, and the lowest share on food from stores, at 8.6%.

The redesigned Survey of Household Spending collected data on food expenditures in a manner consistent with previous Food Expenditure Surveys. As a result, comparisons over time are possible for spending shares by type of food.

For example, the share of spending on meat has continued a long-term decline. In 1982, spending on meat (including processed) accounted for 27% of spending on food from stores, the largest share. By 2010, this proportion had declined to 18%.

During the same period, the share of spending on fruits and vegetables increased from 19% to 23%, surpassing meat as the largest category.

Health care

On average, households spent \$2,194 on out-of-pocket health care expenses in 2010. These include insurance premiums and health care expenses not reimbursed by a public or private health-care plan.

Average spending on health care was directly related to age. Households headed by an individual under 30 years of age reported spending an average of \$1,180, while those headed by a senior spent an average of \$2,610.

Households in British Columbia (\$2,680) reported the highest average health-care spending, while households in Ontario (\$1,816) reported the lowest.

Communications

Households spent an average of \$1,731 in 2010 on communications. This included an average spending of \$388 for Internet access, \$511 for landline telephones and \$731 for cellphone expenses.

More than three-quarters (78.2%) of Canadian households reported having at least one cellphone. Cellphone ownership was highest in Alberta (87.9%) and lowest in Quebec (67.3%).

In 2010, 1 in 10 households reported that they used only cellphones and had no landline.

Home Internet access was reported by 78.4% of households. Access was highest in Alberta (84.2%) and British Columbia (83.7%) and was lowest in New Brunswick (69.2%). Of all households, 5.7% used dial-up access.

Average total expenditures

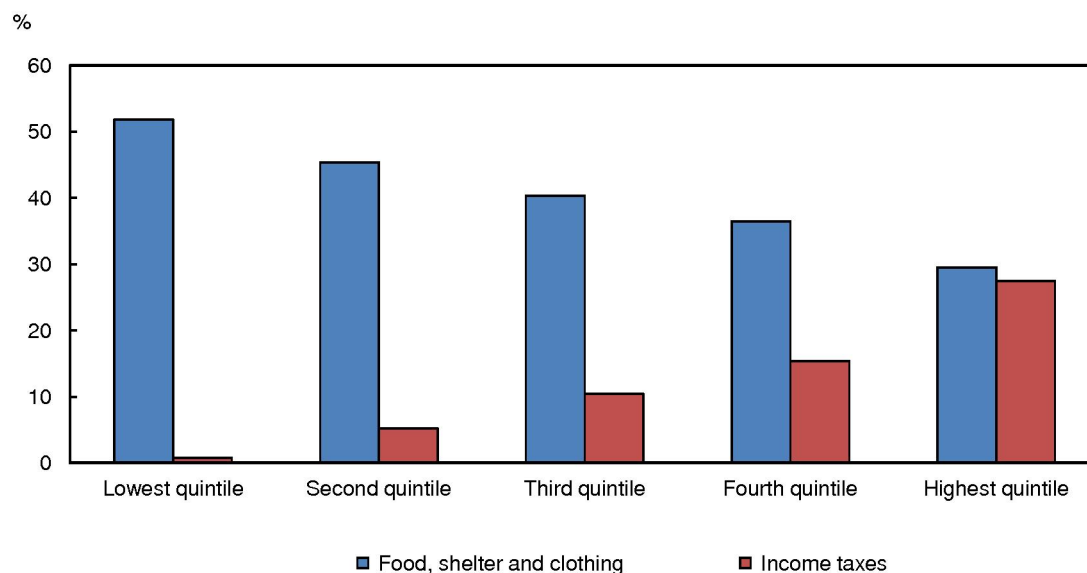
On average, Canadian households reported total expenditures of \$70,574 in 2010. This total includes spending on goods and services, plus expenditures on income taxes, pension contributions, insurance premiums and gifts of money.

The average spending of \$53,016 on goods and services represented 75.1% of total spending. Income taxes, gifts, insurance premiums and pension contributions accounted for the remaining 24.9%.

Average total spending allows improved analysis of spending by income group. For example, the one-fifth of households with the lowest income reported total spending of \$28,583 in 2010. Of this total, 51.8% went to shelter, food and clothing. Income taxes accounted for 0.8% of total expenditures.

In contrast, the one-fifth of households with the highest income reported average total expenditures of \$139,001. They allocated 29.5% of their budgets to food, shelter and clothing, while 27.5% went to income taxes.

Chart 1
Shares of total expenditure by income quintile, 2010



Note to readers

This is the first release of the redesigned Survey of Household Spending (SHS). The redesign was done to integrate new content such as detailed food expenditures, and to improve collection methods.

The new methodology combines a questionnaire with recall periods appropriate to an expenditure item and a diary of daily expenses that the household completes over two weeks following an interview. The diary provides more detailed information, particularly for spending on food. Use of administrative data is also integrated into the survey to improve income information while reducing response burden.

Expense categories in the redesigned SHS are similar to those of previous years. However, changes to data collection, processing and estimation methods have created a break in the data series. As a result, caution should be used in comparing the 2010 SHS data with previous years, unless otherwise noted.

The data cover all provinces, but do not include the territories, which will be included in the 2012 SHS.

Table 1
Budget shares of major spending categories by income quintile, 2010

	Lowest quintile	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Highest quintile
	dollars				
Average household expenditures	28,583	42,205	60,946	81,908	139,001
	shares of spending (%)				
Food	14.4	13.7	11.4	10.7	8.3
Shelter	32.3	26.3	23.8	20.7	16.7
Clothing and accessories	5.1	5.4	5.0	5.1	4.5
Transportation	15.6	17.6	17.2	16.5	13.7
Income taxes	0.8	5.2	10.4	15.4	27.5

Table 2
Average spending on goods and services and shares of spending of major categories by province, 2010

	Average spending on goods and services	Shelter	Transportation	Food	Clothing and accessories
	dollars	shares of spending on goods and services (%)			
Canada	53,016	28.3	20.7	14.0	6.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	45,236	23.0	21.9	15.4	8.6
Prince Edward Island	44,856	25.7	20.6	15.6	6.7
Nova Scotia	46,261	25.6	20.7	14.9	6.4
New Brunswick	45,802	23.7	23.1	15.1	6.6
Quebec	47,109	25.5	21.0	15.1	6.7
Ontario	55,161	30.4	20.9	13.3	6.6
Manitoba	48,909	26.0	21.4	14.5	7.1
Saskatchewan	51,974	26.7	22.1	13.5	5.8
Alberta	61,134	28.2	20.2	13.8	6.6
British Columbia	56,812	29.5	19.5	14.3	5.6

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 203-0021 to 203-0029.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3508.

[Data tables](#) are also now available from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

The report "User Guide for the Survey of Household Spending, 2010," which is part of the *Household Expenditures Research Paper Series* (62F0026M2012001, free), presents information about the redesigned survey methodology, concepts and data quality. It is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website. Under *Publications*, choose *Publications by subject*, then *Income, pensions, spending and wealth*, then *Household spending and savings*.

The article "Note to Users of Data from the 2010 Survey of Household Spending" (62F0026M2012002, free) is also available.

Custom tabulations are also available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Railway carloadings, February 2012 (preliminary data)

Canadian rail freight traffic from both domestic and international operations rose 13.1% from February 2011 to 25.4 million tonnes in February.

On the domestic front, the industry's core transportation systems, non-intermodal and intermodal, saw their combined freight loadings rise 11.7% to 22.3 million tonnes over the same 12-month period.

Non-intermodal cargo loadings, which are typically carried in bulk or loaded in box cars, advanced 12.0% to 20.0 million tonnes. The gain was the result of increased traffic in more than two-thirds of the commodity classifications carried by the railways. The commodity groups with the largest increases in tonnage were coal, wheat and colza seeds (canola).

Intermodal freight loadings of containers and trailers loaded onto flat cars grew 8.6% to 2.2 million tonnes. The increase occurred solely on the strength of containerized cargo shipments as trailers loaded onto flat cars declined.

At an international level, traffic received from the United States increased 24.5% to 3.1 million tonnes. The increase was driven by both non-intermodal and intermodal traffic.

Geographically, 61.0% of the freight traffic originating in Canada was in the Western Division of Canada, with the remainder loaded in the Eastern Division. For statistical purposes, the Eastern and Western Divisions are separated by an imaginary line running from Thunder Bay to Armstrong, Ontario. Freight loaded at Thunder Bay is included in the Western Division while loadings at Armstrong are reported in the Eastern Division.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The February 2012 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 89, no. 2 (52-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Refined petroleum products, March 2012 (preliminary data)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for March. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults, March 2012 (preliminary data)

Data on placements of hatchery chicks and turkey poults are now available for March.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 003-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre
(toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Emily Makosky
(613-951-2442), Agriculture Division.

New products and studies

New products

Monthly Railway Carloadings, February 2012, Vol. 89, no. 2
Catalogue number 52-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Detailed Average Household Expenditure by Age of Reference Person for Canada
Catalogue number 62-203-X (Database, free)

Detailed Average Household Food Expenditure for Canada and Provinces
Catalogue number 62-204-X (Database, free)

Household Expenditures Research Paper Series: "User Guide for the Survey of Household Spending, 2010", No. 1
Catalogue number 62F0026M2012001 (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Household Expenditures Research Paper Series: "Note to Users of Data from the 2010 Survey of Household Spending", No. 2
Catalogue number 62F0026M2012002 (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Detailed Average Household Expenditure for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2010
Catalogue number 62F0031X (Diskette, free)

Detailed Average Household Expenditure by Household Income Quintile for Canada and Provinces, 2010
Catalogue number 62F0032X (Diskette, free)

Detailed Average Household Expenditure by Housing Tenure for Canada, 2010
Catalogue number 62F0033X (Diskette, free)

Detailed Average Household Expenditure by Household Type for Canada, 2010
Catalogue number 62F0034X (Diskette, free)

Detailed Average Household Expenditure by Size of Area of Residence for Canada, 2010
Catalogue number 62F0035X (Diskette, free)

Dwelling Characteristics and Household Equipment for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2010
Catalogue number 62F0041X (Diskette, free)

Retail Trade, February 2012, Vol. 84, no. 2
Catalogue number 63-005-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)



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