

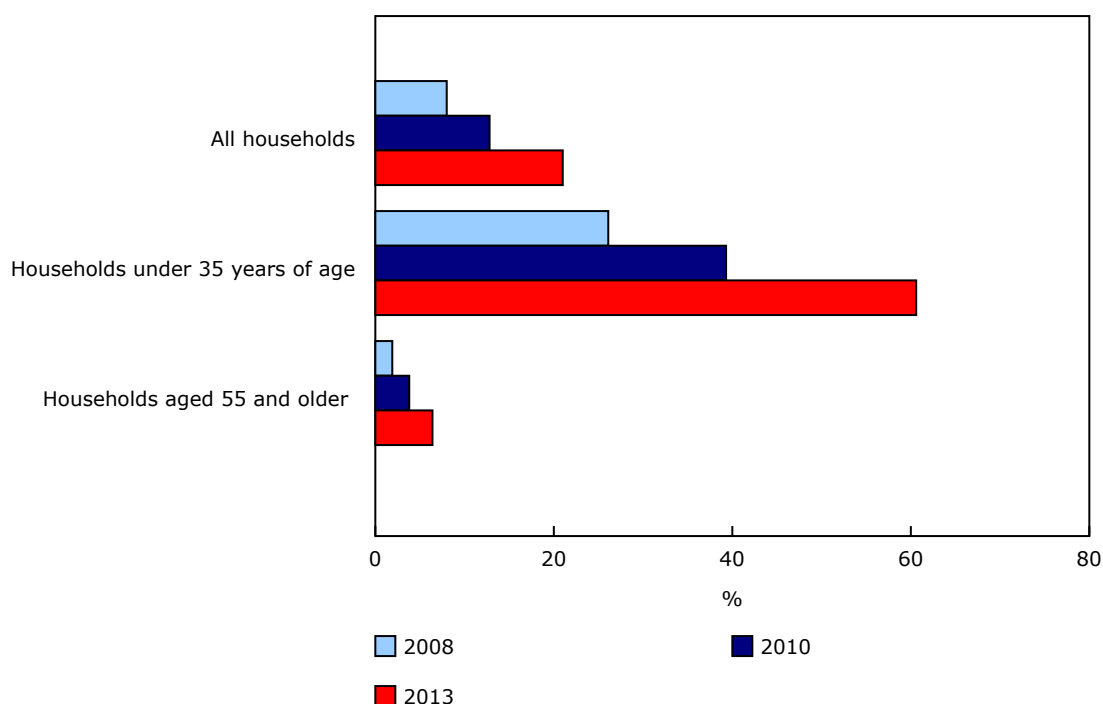
Residential Telephone Service Survey, 2013

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More than one in five households in Canada have cell phones as their only form of telephone service. In 2013, 21% of households reported using a cell phone exclusively, up from 13% in 2010.

Exclusive cell phone use is more pronounced in young households where all of the members are under 35 years of age. In 2013, 60% of these households reported using a cell phone exclusively, up from 39% in 2010 and 26% in 2008. Although exclusive cell phone use is less common in households composed only of those aged 55 and over, it is on the rise, up from 2% in 2008 to 6% in 2013.

Chart 1
Percentage of households that use a cell phone only



Total cell phone use, whether used exclusively or in combination with other types of phone service, continues to grow in popularity in Canada. In 2013, 83% of Canadian households had an active cell phone, up from 78% in 2010.

Differences in total cell phone use were observed across provinces. The proportion of households with an active cell phone was highest in Alberta (91%), Saskatchewan (86%), British Columbia (85%) and Ontario (85%). In each of the Atlantic provinces, the proportion of households with an active cell phone was 80%. The proportion was lowest in Quebec, at 76%.

The share of households with a traditional landline fell from 66% in 2010 to 56% in 2013. In Quebec (43%), the percentage of households with a landline was lower than in any other province, while the proportion using telephone service by cable modem (37%) was almost twice the overall Canadian rate (19%).



Telephone service from Internet providers (voice over Internet Protocol) was still relatively rare in 2013, with 3% of households reporting its use.

Note to readers

The Residential Telephone Service Survey measures residential phone use rates across all provinces in Canada. It surveyed about 19,000 households in December 2013 as a supplement of the Labour Force Survey.

Table 1
Percentage of households by type of telephone service, by province

	Households	Cellular phone	Traditional landline	Cable telephone
	thousands	% of households		
Canada	13,837	83	56	19
Newfoundland and Labrador	214	80	70	14
Prince Edward Island	58	80	63	13
Nova Scotia	400	80	59	19
New Brunswick	309	80	67	15
Quebec	3,474	76	43	37
Ontario	5,123	85	61	12
Manitoba	486	82	63	13
Saskatchewan	425	86	65	9
Alberta	1,464	91	58	13
British Columbia	1,883	85	57	14

Note(s): The fourth type of reported telephone service, "voice over Internet Protocol," is not included in this table. Overall, 3% of Canadians reported using this service. The percentages do not add to 100 as many respondents reported using multiple services.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4426.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).