

Registered retirement savings plan contributions, 2015

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Contributions to registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs) totalled \$39.2 billion in 2015, up 1.5% from 2014. Data are based on tax returns filed for 2015.

For most provinces and territories, contributions either increased or stayed the same. Prince Edward Island (+6.4%), Nunavut (+4.9%), and British Columbia (+4.3%) had the highest contributions increases, while the Northwest Territories (-3.7%) and Alberta (-3.1%) had the largest declines.

Just under 6 million taxfilers contributed to an RRSP in 2015. This number has remained virtually unchanged since 2009. The peak over the last decade occurred in 2007, when just under 6.3 million individuals contributed to an RRSP.

Regionally, the highest percent increases in the number of contributors to RRSPs occurred in Northwest Territories (+3.6%) and Prince Edward Island (+2.5%). Minor decreases were observed in Alberta (-0.6%), New Brunswick (-0.2%) and Saskatchewan (-0.2%).

The percentage of taxfilers who contributed to an RRSP edged downward, from 23.0% in 2014 to 22.9% in 2015. From 2013 to 2014, the percentage of taxfilers who contributed also edged down from 23.4% to 23.0%. This downward trend can be observed over the last 15 years—from 29.1% in 2000, to 26.3% in 2005 and to 24.3% in 2010.

Nationally, the median contribution in 2015 was \$3,000, unchanged from 2013 and 2014. In other words, half of the taxfilers reporting RRSP contributions reported more than \$3,000 and the other half reported less than \$3,000.

Nunavut had the lowest percentage of taxfilers who contributed to an RRSP (11.4%), but those taxfilers who did contribute made the highest median contribution to RRSPs (\$4,000). Alberta had the second highest median contribution to RRSPs (\$3,440), followed by British Columbia (\$3,330) and Yukon (\$3,300). Manitoba had the lowest median contribution at \$2,300.

Among census metropolitan areas (CMAs), Calgary had the highest median RRSP contribution (\$4,020), followed by Vancouver (\$3,760) and Toronto (\$3,620). Historically, these three CMAs have had the highest median RRSP contributions. The lowest median RRSP contributions were in Winnipeg (\$2,300), followed closely by Kingston (\$2,320).

To be eligible to contribute to an RRSP, a taxfiler must have unused room from earlier years or new room as a result of qualifying income from the previous year (generally employment income). The RRSP limit is based on 18% of the previous tax year's earned income up to a fixed maximum, less any pension adjustments and plus any unused room carried forward. The fixed maximum RRSP contribution in 2015 was \$24,930, up from \$24,270 in 2014.

Note to readers

All data in this release have been tabulated according to the 2011 Standard Geographical Classification used for the 2011 Census.

A census metropolitan area (CMA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (also known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more must live in the core.



Table 1
Registered retirement savings plan contributors - Canada, provinces and territories

	Contributors		All taxfilers	Contributions		Median contributions
	2015	2014 to 2015	2015	2015	2014 to 2015	2015
	number	% change	%	thousands of dollars	% change	dollars
Canada	5,989,810	0.3	22.9	39,185,200	1.5	3,000
Newfoundland and Labrador	69,510	0.8	16.8	488,475	3.5	3,060
Prince Edward Island	19,710	2.5	17.9	120,930	6.4	2,600
Nova Scotia	122,950	0.0	17.4	729,715	-0.1	2,480
New Brunswick	96,720	-0.2	16.5	584,840	0.0	2,600
Quebec	1,533,410	0.3	24.3	9,391,485	2.2	2,650
Ontario	2,203,670	0.3	22.3	14,875,160	2.3	3,000
Manitoba	198,950	0.3	21.5	1,054,950	0.0	2,300
Saskatchewan	192,650	-0.2	24.0	1,104,410	-1.7	2,700
Alberta	784,350	-0.6	27.0	5,560,630	-3.1	3,440
British Columbia	751,450	1.2	21.5	5,168,265	4.3	3,330
Yukon	6,910	1.5	26.7	44,505	-2.0	3,300
Northwest Territories	7,290	3.6	24.6	44,860	-3.7	3,000
Nunavut	2,260	1.8	11.4	16,970	4.9	4,000

Source(s): CANSIM table [111-0039](#).

Table 2
Registered retirement savings plan contributions - Census metropolitan areas

	Contributors		All taxfilers	Contributions		Median contributions
	2015	2014 to 2015	2015	2015	2014 to 2015	2015
	number	% change	%	thousands of dollars	% change	dollars
Canada	5,989,810	0.3	22.9	39,185,200	1.5	3,000
St. John's	35,710	0.9	23.2	260,590	1.9	3,250
Halifax	64,600	0.5	22.1	397,715	-1.1	2,620
Moncton	21,330	-0.6	19.5	124,645	-5.0	2,560
Saint John	20,460	0.2	21.6	130,245	0.2	3,000
Saguenay	29,500	-1.3	22.9	188,070	-0.7	2,500
Québec	185,220	-0.1	29.6	1,136,710	1.8	2,600
Sherbrooke	38,780	1.2	23.6	225,770	3.9	2,450
Trois-Rivières	28,560	-0.3	22.9	192,325	1.7	2,500
Montréal	759,490	0.6	25.2	4,909,255	2.5	3,000
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	231,900	-1.3	24.9	1,547,435	-2.4	3,000
Ottawa part	176,890	-1.2	25.5	1,256,710	-2.6	3,270
Gatineau part	55,010	-1.6	23.1	290,720	-1.7	2,580
Kingston	24,700	-1.2	21.7	139,020	-6.4	2,320
Peterborough	18,370	0.5	20.1	112,950	-1.7	2,400
Oshawa	62,420	0.6	23.4	399,690	9.9	2,500
Toronto	1,001,830	0.2	23.1	7,336,595	2.9	3,620
Hamilton	125,870	0.7	23.2	837,270	3.5	2,890
St. Catharines–Niagara	59,240	1.1	19.3	359,990	4.7	2,400
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	92,340	0.9	25.4	600,660	3.9	3,000
Brantford	21,740	0.5	21.9	121,015	0.6	2,500
Guelph	29,120	0.4	26.2	188,745	3.1	2,950
London	81,370	0.9	22.7	498,185	3.3	2,600
Windsor	49,500	2.2	20.1	297,030	5.4	2,600
Barrie	31,930	2.1	22.7	184,995	4.1	2,400
Greater Sudbury	25,230	-1.1	20.9	150,550	0.3	2,590
Thunder Bay	20,300	-2.9	22.3	120,940	-1.5	2,500
Winnipeg	137,600	0.1	23.9	729,660	-0.1	2,300
Regina	48,740	0.0	28.2	270,675	-3.2	2,600
Saskatoon	56,190	1.1	26.7	325,470	0.8	2,750
Calgary	295,080	-0.4	29.8	2,404,125	-1.8	4,020
Edmonton	260,430	1.0	27.6	1,693,530	-1.3	3,250
Kelowna	29,290	2.2	19.8	202,125	7.2	3,000
Abbotsford–Mission	23,710	2.6	18.3	132,610	0.6	2,600
Vancouver	431,180	1.1	23.4	3,128,100	5.7	3,760
Victoria	61,680	1.5	22.6	398,160	4.8	2,960

Note(s): Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the [census metropolitan areas](#), according to the 2011 Standard Geographic Classification.

Source(s): CANSIM table [111-0039](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [111-0039](#) and [111-0040](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [4106](#).

The data on *RRSP Contributors* ([17C0006](#), various prices), *RRSP Contribution Limits* ([17C0011](#), various prices) and *Canadian Taxfilers* ([17C0010](#), various prices) are now available for Canada, provinces and territories, economic regions, census divisions, census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations, census tracts, and postal-based geographies. These custom services are available upon request. CANSIM tables for this release are available for Canada, the provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations.

The following table is also available: CANSIM table [111-0041](#): Summary characteristics of Canadian taxfilers.

The technical reference guide "Investment Income, RRSP Contributions and Charitable Donations, [T1 Family File, Preliminary Estimates](#)" ([72-211-X](#)), presents information about the methodology, concepts and data quality for the data available in this release.

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; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).