

Canadian Income Survey, 2023

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The median after-tax income of Canadian families and unattached individuals was \$74,200 in 2023, increasing 1.2% from \$73,300 in 2022, after being adjusted for inflation. Canada's official poverty rate was 10.2% in 2023, which was not statistically different from the 2022 rate (9.9%) or the 2019 rate (10.3%) observed before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Median market income for Canadian families and unattached individuals was \$68,700 in 2023, a 1.5% increase from \$67,700 in 2022. Median government transfers declined from \$10,500 in 2022 to \$10,000 in 2023. Although median government transfers decreased for a third consecutive year, they were higher in 2023 than in 2019 (\$9,400), pre-pandemic.

Increases in after-tax income for seniors

In 2023, the median after-tax income was \$79,700 for senior families, up 3.4% from 2022, while it rose 4.3% to \$36,400 for unattached seniors. Increases in market income and government transfers contributed to the growth in median after-tax income for seniors. For senior families, median market income rose by 5.0% to \$52,100 in 2023, while government transfers increased by 1.4% to \$36,200. Unattached seniors saw their median market income rise by 9.3% to \$16,500, and government transfers rose by 3.2% to \$22,900.

Income across Canada

Provincially, families and unattached individuals in Alberta (\$88,500) and Ontario (\$78,600) had the highest median after-tax income in 2023, while those in Nova Scotia (\$62,900) and New Brunswick (\$62,700) had the lowest. Among the territories, the Northwest Territories (\$102,100) had the highest median after-tax income, followed by Nunavut (\$90,800) and Yukon (\$84,500).

These income differences between provinces and territories do not take into account regional factors, such as the cost of living and the age of the population.

The median after-tax income for families and unattached individuals grew in Nova Scotia (+3.5%), Alberta (+2.9%) and Ontario (+1.4%) in 2023, while it declined in Saskatchewan (-2.8%). It was relatively unchanged in the other provinces and the territories.

Diverging poverty trends for seniors and non-seniors

According to the Market Basket Measure, Canada's Official Poverty Line, 10.2% of the population—approximately 4 million Canadians—lived below the poverty line in 2023.

The poverty rate for seniors aged 65 years and older was 5.0% in 2023, down from 6.0% in 2022. Among individuals aged 18 to 64 years, the poverty rate was higher in 2023 (11.6%) compared with 2022 (11.1%). For children younger than 18 years, the rate was 10.7% in 2023, which was relatively unchanged from 2022.

Similarly, people in senior families saw a decrease in their poverty rate, going from 4.3% in 2022 to 3.6% in 2023. Over the same period, unattached seniors also experienced a decline in their poverty rate (from 13.8% to 11.5%). Conversely, people in non-senior families saw an increase (from 7.1% to 7.7%).

Poverty across Canada

Among the provinces, Quebec (7.4%) continued to have the lowest poverty rate in 2023, although it was up 0.8 percentage points from the previous year. Conversely, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan (12.9% each) had the highest rates. While Nova Scotia's poverty rate was relatively unchanged from 2022, Saskatchewan's increased 1.8 percentage points.



The poverty rate in the territories was relatively stable in 2023, at 22.8%. This rate was more than double the provincial average (10.2%), despite generally larger incomes in the territories, reflecting the higher cost of living in the North. People in Nunavut (43.4%) experienced the highest poverty rate, followed by those in the Northwest Territories (17.0%) and Yukon (9.9%).

The proposed methodology for the 2023-base Market Basket Measure of poverty

For close to two years, Statistics Canada, along with Employment and Social Development Canada, has been working towards updating or "rebasings" the Market Basket Measure (MBM). The [Poverty Reduction Act](#) stipulates that the MBM should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it keeps reflecting the up-to-date cost of a basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living in Canada. This is done through comprehensive reviews of the MBM, which include extensive consultations with the stakeholder community and ensure that the MBM always uses the latest available data and methods. A rebasing typically results in a change to the poverty thresholds. Therefore, the poverty rates generated by the new base year are not directly comparable with the poverty rates generated by the previous base year. For clarity, the rebased poverty measure is referred to as the "2023-base MBM," while the existing measure is referred to as the "2018-base MBM."

Today, Statistics Canada is releasing the discussion paper, "[The proposed methodology for the 2023-base Market Basket Measure of poverty](#)," which describes the proposed 2023-base changes for both the MBM and the Northern Market Basket Measure (MBM-N). It also compares the official 2018-base MBM and MBM-N poverty rates and thresholds with the preliminary 2023-base poverty rates and thresholds, and it prioritizes outstanding research topics. Following today's release, a short review period will be held to discuss the results with the public, as well as academic, non-governmental, provincial and territorial partners. This review will allow time for feedback and any final recommendations to be received, after which the proposed 2023-base methodology will be updated (if necessary) and will become final in fall 2025.

As the comprehensive review is not yet complete, these results should be treated as preliminary.

- At the Canada level, the proposed 2023-base poverty threshold would be 2.0% higher (in inflation-adjusted terms) than the 2018-base threshold. Levels in the new base are higher primarily because the cost of the basket was rebased using updated census and price data.
- The 2018-base poverty rate was 10.2% in 2023, while the 2023-base poverty rate would be 10.9% for the same year.
- In addition, 2023-base poverty thresholds are produced back to 2020, covering a period during which the poverty rate was increasing following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the 2018-base poverty line, the number of individuals in poverty increased by 1.614 million (+68%) from 2020 to 2023. Meanwhile, according to the preliminary 2023-base poverty line, this number increased by 1.696 million (+66%).

For more information regarding Canada's Official Poverty Line, refer to [Opportunity for All: Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy](#).

Racialized groups and Indigenous populations typically experience higher poverty rates

In 2023, the poverty rate for individuals who are members of racialized groups was 14.0%, up 1.0 percentage point from 2022 (13.0%), but it was relatively unchanged for non-racialized Canadians (8.5%).

In the provinces, 17.5% of the Indigenous population lived below the poverty line in 2023. Further, this population continued to be nearly twice as likely to be living in poverty compared with the non-Indigenous population (9.9%).

Persons with a disability are at a lower risk of poverty compared with pre-pandemic levels

In 2023, 12.0% of persons with a disability aged 15 years and older lived below the poverty line. This proportion was relatively unchanged from 2022, but it was down 1.7 percentage points from the pre-pandemic rate in 2019 (13.7%). Conversely, the poverty rate for persons without a disability aged 15 years and older in 2023 (7.7%) was virtually unchanged compared with 2019.

Seniors with a disability are less likely to be living in poverty compared with younger persons with a disability. For example, persons with a disability aged 65 years and older had a poverty rate of 6.5% in 2023, compared with a poverty rate of 14.4% for those with a disability aged 15 to 64 years.

Fewer seniors are in low income

Statistics Canada also reports low income based on the low-income measure, after tax (LIM-AT). The LIM-AT was virtually unchanged from 2022 to 2023 (12.0%). In 2023, the LIM-AT for seniors (13.8%) decreased by 1.6 percentage points compared with the previous year (15.4%). This trend reflects faster growth in income among lower-income seniors compared with all Canadians. Conversely, the LIM-AT for children increased by 1.2 percentage points in 2023 (13.2%) compared with 2022 (12.0%).

Food insecurity continues to increase

In 2023, approximately 10 million people, or 25.5% of the population in the provinces, lived in households that reported experiencing some form of food insecurity. This was an increase of almost 1.3 million people from the previous year and marked the third consecutive annual increase. The proportion of people who were marginally food insecure (6.4%) remained relatively stable, while the proportions of those who were moderately (12.4%) and severely (6.7%) food insecure increased.

Nearly half (47.8%) of people in one-parent families lived in food-insecure households in 2023. Unattached non-seniors (31.7%) were also at a higher risk of food insecurity.

People in senior families (12.6%), specifically senior couples (8.7%), were at a lower risk of experiencing food insecurity in 2023. Unattached seniors (14.3%) were also less likely to experience food insecurity.

In the territories, 37.4% of people lived in a household with some degree of food insecurity in 2023. Nunavut (58.1%) had the highest rate, followed by the Northwest Territories (34.2%) and Yukon (21.8%).

Table 1
Income statistics by selected family type, Canada¹, 2019, 2022 and 2023

	After-tax income			Market income			Government transfers		
	2019	2022	2023	2019	2022	2023	2019	2022	2023
	median (2023 constant dollars)								
Economic families and persons not in an economic family	71,500	73,300	74,200	66,100	67,700	68,700	9,400	10,500	10,000
Economic families	100,300	103,700	104,800	99,300	102,300	103,600	11,400	14,300	13,800
Senior families	73,500	77,100	79,700	44,200	49,600	52,100	34,600	35,700	36,200
Non-senior families	108,500	113,800	113,900	114,800	120,100	119,900	7,100	8,900	8,200
Couples without children or other relatives	93,500	100,500	101,800	103,800	113,600	115,200	900	2,100	1,500
Two-parent families with children	121,300	126,700	126,700	128,400	134,800	134,600	9,200	11,100	10,800
Lone-parent families	67,500	65,600	65,400	51,600	50,300	51,100	15,500	16,300	15,600
Persons not in an economic family	36,900	39,300	40,000	30,700	34,100	35,200	3,300	3,300	2,500
Seniors	33,900	34,900	36,400	14,200	15,100	16,500	22,000	22,200	22,900
Non-seniors	38,800	41,700	41,600	40,000	43,200	43,500	1,100	1,400	1,300

1. Estimates at the Canada level do not include the territories.

Source(s): Table 11-10-0190-01.

Table 2
Median after-tax income of families and unattached individuals, Canada, provinces and territories, 2019 to 2023 (2023 constant dollars)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	2023 constant dollars				
Canada¹	71,500	76,600	75,900	73,300	74,200
Newfoundland and Labrador	64,100	68,000	68,900	65,600	65,700
Prince Edward Island	65,600	68,200	69,300	65,700	64,500
Nova Scotia	61,100	65,900	66,800	60,800	62,900
New Brunswick	62,900	65,200	66,600	62,000	62,700
Quebec	63,500	68,500	68,100	67,100	66,800
Ontario	74,600	80,400	81,000	77,500	78,600
Manitoba	69,500	72,300	71,800	69,600	70,100
Saskatchewan	73,900	77,600	75,600	74,900	72,800
Alberta	85,400	89,100	85,500	86,000	88,500
British Columbia	72,300	77,300	76,000	73,300	73,900
Yukon	89,900	94,400	86,300	87,800	84,500
Northwest Territories	107,600	109,500	107,200	104,400	102,100
Nunavut	108,400	105,800	93,600	89,600	90,800

1. Estimates at the Canada level do not include the territories.

Source(s): Table [11-10-0190-01](#).

Table 3
Persons living below the poverty line (Market Basket Measure, 2018 base), Canada¹, 2019 to 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	thousands					% of population				
All persons	3,793	2,357	2,762	3,772	3,971	10.3	6.4	7.4	9.9	10.2
Persons under 18 years ²	665	333	462	735	802	9.4	4.7	6.4	9.9	10.7
In two-parent families	408	178	248	403	451	7.0	3.0	4.2	6.8	7.5
In female lone-parent families	204	124	142	252	281	28.6	16.9	18.4	26.9	29.3
Persons 18 to 64 years	2,760	1,817	1,917	2,607	2,795	11.8	7.8	8.2	11.1	11.6
In economic families	1,355	672	821	1,192	1,307	7.1	3.5	4.3	6.3	6.7
Not in an economic family	1,405	1,145	1,096	1,415	1,488	33.6	27.1	25.8	30.8	31.3
Persons 65 years and over	369	207	383	430	373	5.7	3.1	5.6	6.0	5.0
In economic families	135	59	115	173	151	3.0	1.3	2.4	3.3	2.7
Not in an economic family	234	148	268	256	222	12.0	7.4	13.0	13.8	11.5

1. Estimates at the Canada level do not include the territories.
2. Data do not add up to the total, as some components have been excluded.
Source(s): Table [11-10-0135-01](#).

Table 4
Persons living in a household that experienced food insecurity¹ by selected family type, Canada², 2019 to 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	thousands					% of population				
All persons	5,844	5,839	6,906	8,689	9,957	15.9	15.7	18.4	22.9	25.5
Persons in economic families	4,630	4,666	5,629	7,038	8,172	15.1	15.1	18.1	22.3	25.2
Persons in senior families	335	359	398	577	691	7.6	7.8	8.3	10.8	12.6
Persons in non-senior families	4,295	4,308	5,232	6,461	7,481	16.3	16.4	19.8	24.6	27.8
Persons in couples without children or other relatives	492	485	527	744	896	10.9	10.8	11.9	17.9	21.1
Persons in two-parent families with children	2,122	2,117	2,800	3,329	3,931	16.4	16.4	21.1	24.7	28.6
Persons in lone-parent families	649	576	695	891	1,023	38.7	33.7	38.8	43.4	47.8
Persons in male lone-parent families	114	69	86	128	129	32.1	21.0	23.9	32.3	30.3
Persons in female lone-parent families	535	507	609	763	894	40.5	36.7	42.6	46.0	52.1
Persons not in an economic family	1,214	1,173	1,277	1,651	1,785	19.8	18.9	20.2	25.6	26.7
Seniors	194	223	253	249	275	10.0	11.2	12.3	13.4	14.3
Non-seniors	1,020	950	1,023	1,402	1,510	24.3	22.4	24.0	30.5	31.7

1. Marginal, moderate and severe food insecurity are included.

2. Estimates at the Canada level do not include the territories.

Source(s): Table [13-10-0834-01](#).

Table 5
Income statistics by territory for families and unattached individuals, 2019 to 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	median (2023 constant dollars)				
Market income					
All territories	101,100	100,700	91,100	93,200	91,500
Yukon	92,000	82,300	86,900	88,300	84,700
Northwest Territories	117,000	113,300	113,800	111,200	107,500
Nunavut	99,700	92,200	83,700	78,900	80,900
Government transfers					
All territories	6,100	14,300	8,200 ^E	7,600	8,400
Yukon	3,800 ^E	14,200	7,700 ^E	4,900 ^E	7,200
Northwest Territories	7,000	13,600	F	7,500 ^E	7,600
Nunavut	8,900	17,000 ^E	12,900 ^E	10,300	10,700
Total income					
All territories	112,100	114,700	106,100	105,100	102,600
Yukon	103,100	104,200	98,900	99,100	96,600
Northwest Territories	128,300	130,000	118,700	118,200	113,700
Nunavut	122,800	119,100	104,300	98,200	98,600
Income tax					
All territories	13,000	12,900	11,700	11,500	11,500
Yukon	10,400	10,100	10,400	10,900	11,300
Northwest Territories	16,700	17,700	14,500	14,500	14,100
Nunavut	12,100	12,900	9,900	7,600 ^E	8,100
After-tax income					
All territories	100,100	100,500	94,700	93,000	92,700
Yukon	89,900	94,400	86,300	87,800	84,500
Northwest Territories	107,600	109,500	107,200	104,400	102,100
Nunavut	108,400	105,800	93,600	89,600	90,800

^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

Source(s): Canadian Income Survey (5200), custom tabulation.

Table 6
Median after-tax income by territory and selected family types, 2019 to 2023 (2023 constant dollars)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	2023 constant dollars				
All territories					
Economic families	125,300	123,000	120,400	121,300	117,500
Senior families	90,200	104,800	96,100	103,600	104,400
Non-senior families	129,900	129,400	129,700	121,900	118,500
Couples	118,900	130,200	137,800	126,300	146,600
Couples with children	156,300	151,900	160,800	141,100	138,800
Lone-parent families	73,200	90,700	54,700 ^E	82,700	78,000
Persons not in an economic family	57,500	57,800	63,100	58,100	57,900
Yukon					
Economic families	115,800	115,300	119,700	113,600	118,300
Senior families	101,900	104,800	86,400 ^E	108,200	104,400
Non-senior families	116,500	116,700	128,800	114,200	118,800
Couples	116,500	106,900	119,700	113,600	140,900
Couples with children	136,600	136,100	141,000	140,700	146,300
Lone-parent families	75,400	F	F	F	F
Persons not in an economic family	54,800	50,400	58,800	58,600	50,000
Northwest Territories					
Economic families	147,600	135,500	132,500	135,000	126,300
Senior families	90,200 ^E	105,400 ^E	F	151,200	128,800 ^E
Non-senior families	150,900	148,000	137,800	135,000	125,700
Couples	146,700	132,700	149,000	130,500	142,300
Couples with children	169,000	160,400	180,900	158,500	157,400
Lone-parent families	67,800 ^E	F	F	F	F
Persons not in an economic family	60,100	63,000	69,100	65,100	69,000
Nunavut					
Economic families	119,300	129,400	114,200	101,500	103,200
Senior families	F	F	F	F	F
Non-senior families	123,800	138,500	119,400	108,300	103,600
Couples	140,300 ^E	156,700 ^E	F	F	F
Couples with children	133,300	145,600	152,100 ^E	122,400	113,800
Lone-parent families	F	F	F	64,400	78,000 ^E
Persons not in an economic family	57,600 ^E	F	F	45,800 ^E	60,500

^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

Source(s): Canadian Income Survey (5200), custom tabulation.

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Note to readers

Although estimates for the territories are available and presented, the Canadian Income Survey (CIS) estimates at the Canada level currently only include the provinces.

The CIS estimates are based on probability samples and are therefore subject to sampling variability, especially for smaller groups and geographies. As a result, year-to-year estimates will show more variability than trends observed over longer periods. For example, because the sample sizes in the three territories are relatively small, territorial estimates tend to have a high sampling variability, which can lead to larger year-over-year changes than those that would be observed if the samples were larger. For this reason, caution should be used when comparing year-over-year territorial estimates.

In this release, differences between estimates are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level unless otherwise noted.

Definitions

An **economic family** refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law union, adoption or a foster relationship. This concept differs from the census family concept used in the Annual Income Estimates for Census Families and Individuals.

Senior families refer to families in which the highest income earner is aged 65 years or older.

Non-senior families refer to families in which the highest income earner is younger than 65 years.

Indigenous population refers to persons who self-identified as First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit). Persons living on reserves and other Indigenous settlements in the provinces are excluded from the CIS.

Racialized group is derived directly from the concept of **visible minority**. A **visible minority** refers to whether a person is a visible minority or not, as defined by the Employment Equity Act. This act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Indigenous peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour." The visible minority population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Arab, Latin American, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese. Measurement for population groups designated as visible minorities started in 2020.

Persons with a disability refers to persons aged 15 years and older (persons aged 16 years and older for years prior to 2022) who met the disability screening questions criteria.

This release analyzes income on the basis of medians. The **median** is the level of income at which half the population had higher income and half had lower income. Income estimates are expressed in 2023 constant dollars to factor in inflation and enable comparisons across time in real terms.

After-tax income is the total of market income and government transfers, less income tax.

Market income consists of employment income and private pensions, as well as income from investments and other market sources.

Government transfers include benefits such as Old Age Security, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, the Canada Pension Plan and the Quebec Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, social assistance, the goods and services tax credit, provincial tax credits, and child benefits.

For 2020, 2021 and part of 2022, government transfers included emergency response and recovery benefits in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The **low-income measure** defines an individual as having low income if their household's adjusted after-tax income falls below 50% of the median adjusted after-tax income.

The **Market Basket Measure** is based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living. It includes the costs of food, clothing, footwear, transportation, shelter and other expenses for a reference family. These costs are compared with the disposable income of families to determine whether they fall below the poverty line. The poverty estimates, unless noted otherwise, are derived using the 2018-base methodology. For more information, please see, [Report on the second comprehensive review of the Market Basket Measure](#).

Food insecurity in this release refers to persons living in households that experienced marginal, moderate or severe food insecurity.

Food insecurity data were collected during the CIS interview, which was conducted from January to June 2024, and are being released with the reference year 2023 income estimates. Food insecurity is the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints and refers to the 12-month period prior to the interview. Statistics Canada refers to these as 2023 estimates, but some users may prefer to use the more precise timing of January to June 2024.

Available tables: [11-10-0066-01](#), [11-10-0080-01](#), [11-10-0087-01](#) to [11-10-0091-01](#) , [11-10-0093-01](#), [11-10-0102-01](#) to [11-10-0104-01](#) , [11-10-0134-01](#) to [11-10-0136-01](#) , [11-10-0190-01](#) to [11-10-0193-01](#) , [11-10-0195-01](#), [11-10-0232-01](#), [11-10-0237-01](#) to [11-10-0241-01](#) , [13-10-0834-01](#) to [13-10-0836-01](#) and [14-10-0324-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: [survey number 5200](#).

The infographics "[Income of Canadians, 2023](#)," and "[Canada's Official Poverty Dashboard of Indicators: Trends, May 2025](#)," are now available.

"[The proposed methodology for the 2023-base Market Basket Measure of poverty](#)" paper is now available.

Three new tables related to the Market Basket Measure are now available: [Average basket coefficient by after-tax income decile](#), [Aggregate and average components of after-tax income according to the Market Basket Measure threshold, by after-tax income decile](#), and [Market Basket Measure thresholds by Market Basket Measure region and family size, in current dollars](#).

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 (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).