

Households have been shrinking over the past two decades and it is no surprise why: fewer people are living in large families, and more people are living alone. Families comprising couples without children outnumber those with children, and the proportion of married couples has been on the decline. Most Canadians still own their home, increasingly a condominium.

Household size is shrinking

There were 12.4 million households in Canada in 2006: 27% consisted of one person, while 9% were made up of five or more people. That makes three times as many one-person households as large households with five or more people.

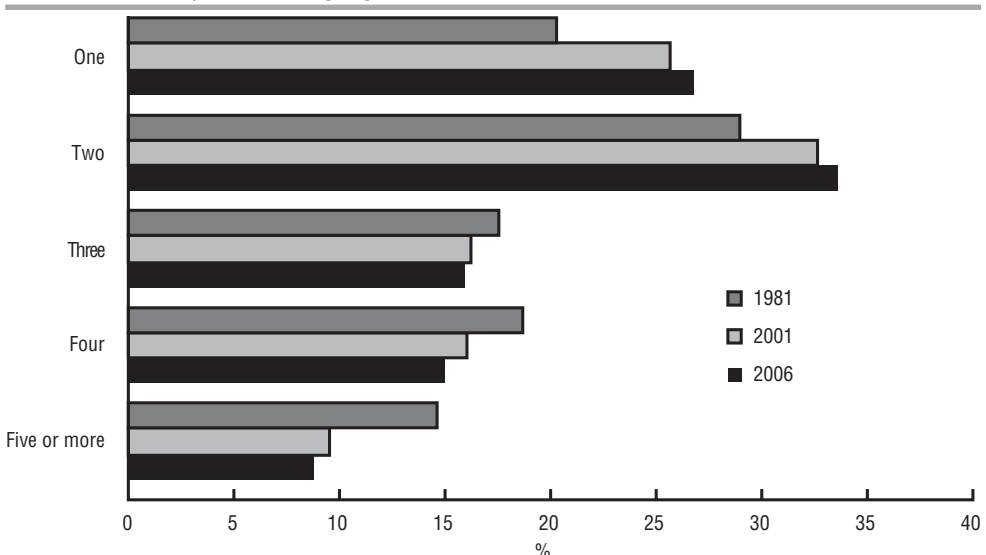
From 2001 to 2006, the number of one-person households increased 12%, to reach 3.3 million. This growth continues a trend: the proportion of one-person households first surpassed that of large households in 1981.

The shrinking size of households can be attributed to several reasons including the aging baby boomers, whose adult children may have moved out, and to Generation X who are fewer in number and have lower fertility rates. In addition, smaller households may also result from increased divorce and separation rates, as well as more seniors living alone. Seniors aged 65 and older represented 34% of people who lived alone in 2006.

In 2006, for the first time ever, census families comprising couples without children outnumbered those with children. (A census family is comprised of a married or a common-law couple with or without children, or a lone parent and at least one child in the home. Children in the home are defined as people younger than 25.)

Couples without children living at home accounted for 43% of census families in 2006, whereas couples with children accounted for 41%. In 1986,

Chart 14.1
Household size, by number of people



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population and Catalogue no. 96F0030X.

the proportions were 35% and 52%, respectively.

More than two out of three households owned their dwelling in 2006, the highest rate of home ownership since at least 1971. Of the 12.4 million households in Canada, 8.5 million owned their home.

Homeownership is rising

The increase from 2001 to 2007 continues the long-term trend of rising homeownership that began in 1991, after a period of low growth during the 1980s.

Households in the Atlantic provinces continue to have the highest homeownership rates in the country, with households in Newfoundland and Labrador ranking first, at 77%. Households in Quebec have the lowest, at 59%. This continues patterns in effect since at least 1971.

The homeownership rate for one-person households in 2006 was well below the national average but increased at a faster-than-average pace. Just under half (48%) of those who were living alone in 2006 owned their home, up from 44% in 2001.

Table 14.a
Family characteristics

	1986	2006
	number	
Families with no children at home	2,201,230	3,420,850
Families with children at home	4,532,610	5,475,990
One child at home	1,765,710	2,429,695
Two children at home	1,826,430	2,132,830
Three or more children at home	940,470	913,465
Total children at home	8,583,555	9,733,770
Average number of children at home	1.3	1.1

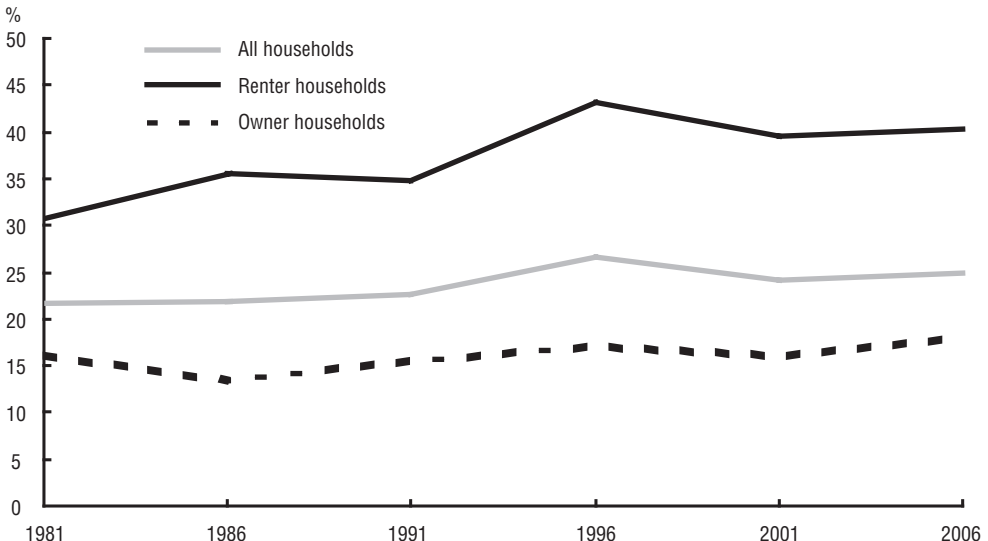
Note: Historical comparisons for census families must be interpreted with caution because of conceptual changes in 2001.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 97-553-X.

Nearly 6 out of 10 households (58%) that owned their home in 2006 had a mortgage. This is slightly higher than in 1981, when baby boomers were entering the housing market, and it marks an increase from 55% in 2001.

From 2001 to 2006, shelter costs for owner households climbed 22%, while shelter costs for renters rose 13% (both increases are based on current dollars).

Chart 14.2
Owner and renter households spending 30% or more of their income on shelter



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 97-554-X.

Condo ownership rising

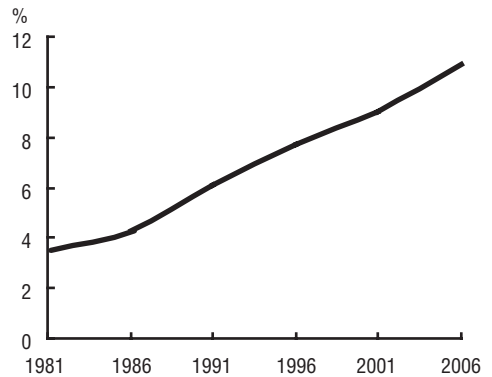
Condominium ownership is growing quickly among Canadians. In 1981, less than 4% of owner households were condominium owners. By 2006, it had reached a record 11%, so that 913,000 households owned a condominium, a 37% increase from five years earlier.

Most condominiums (91%) are located in census metropolitan areas (CMAs). The percentage of condominium ownership is highest in British Columbia's four CMAs, where 2006 rates ranged from 21% in Kelowna and Victoria to 24% in Abbotsford–Mission and 31% of owner households in Vancouver.

Of the 913,000 condominium owners, 60% or 554,000 had taken out a mortgage in 2006, compared with 59% five years earlier. Households with maintainers aged 35 and younger accounted for 25% of all condominium households with mortgages

Chart 14.3

Owner households living in a condominium



Source: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1981 to 2006.

in 2006, up from 22% in 2001. Over one-third (38%) of condominium owners with mortgages spent 30% or more of their household income on shelter, a substantial increase from 32% in 2001.

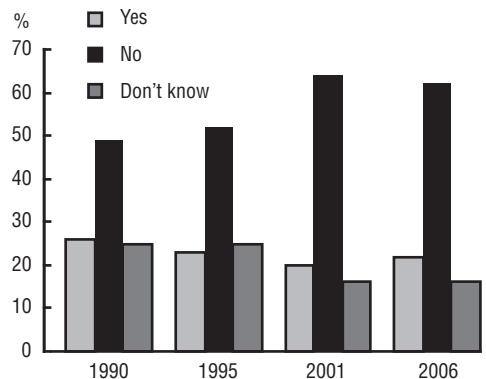
I do...take two?

Divorce rates have risen sharply over the last 40 years and common-law unions have become more popular throughout the country. In 2006, divorced Canadians represented 7% of the population aged 15 and older. However, divorce affects more people than that: In 2006, 13% of Canadians aged 15 and older had experienced at least one divorce during their conjugal life, and nearly half had remarried.

Intention to remarry is an indicator of how families are changing. From 1990 to 2006, the proportion of divorced people saying they intend to remarry dropped from 26% to 22%. In 2006, 6 out of 10 divorced Canadians said they do not wish to remarry, compared with 5 out of 10 in 1990. Divorced Quebecers had the least

Chart 14.4

Divorced Canadians' intentions to remarry



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-630-X.

desire to remarry in 2006: three out of four ruled out matrimony from their future relationships.

Table 14.1 Population, by marital status and sex, 2002 to 2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	number					
Total population	31,372,587	31,676,077	31,995,199	32,312,077	32,649,482	32,976,026
Males	15,538,572	15,688,977	15,846,832	16,003,804	16,170,723	16,332,277
Females	15,834,015	15,987,100	16,148,367	16,308,273	16,478,759	16,643,749
Never married	13,092,573	13,231,209	13,368,674	13,507,149	13,653,059	13,800,997
Males	6,999,555	7,078,089	7,155,622	7,233,428	7,314,611	7,396,835
Females	6,093,018	6,153,120	6,213,052	6,273,721	6,338,448	6,404,162
Married^{1,2}	15,340,377	15,438,972	15,558,054	15,675,089	15,802,300	15,916,860
Males	7,659,734	7,701,393	7,752,882	7,803,419	7,860,087	7,910,554
Females	7,680,643	7,737,579	7,805,172	7,871,670	7,942,213	8,006,306
Widowed	1,520,850	1,532,940	1,544,226	1,553,488	1,563,856	1,573,455
Males	282,218	288,816	295,446	301,404	307,050	312,357
Females	1,238,632	1,244,124	1,248,780	1,252,084	1,256,806	1,261,098
Divorced	1,418,787	1,472,956	1,524,245	1,576,351	1,630,267	1,684,714
Males	597,065	620,679	642,882	665,553	688,975	712,531
Females	821,722	852,277	881,363	910,798	941,292	972,183

Note: Population estimates as of July 1.

1. Population aged 15 and older.

2. Includes people who are separated and people in common-law unions.

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 051-0010.

Table 14.2 Marriages, by province and territory, 2003 to 2008

	2003	2004	2005 ^r	2006 ^r	2007 ^p	2008 ^p
	number					
Canada	147,391	148,585	148,439	149,792	151,695	150,423
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,876	2,850	2,806	2,752	2,698	2,797
Prince Edward Island	823	827	829	828	831	824
Nova Scotia	4,742	4,729	4,698	4,667	4,633	4,687
New Brunswick	3,724	3,708	3,686	3,646	3,622	3,669
Quebec	21,138	21,279	22,244	21,900	22,650	22,400
Ontario	63,485	64,114	64,677	65,170	65,483	64,959
Manitoba	5,659	5,710	5,732	5,746	5,796	5,767
Saskatchewan	4,977	5,011	5,000	4,995	5,080	5,080
Alberta	17,622	17,909	18,392	19,060	19,837	19,100
British Columbia	21,981	22,080	20,007	20,660	20,697	20,770
Yukon	158	160	159	160	158	161
Northwest Territories	139	141	140	138	139	138
Nunavut	67	67	69	70	71	71

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 053-0001.

Table 14.3 Divorces, by province and territory, 2000 to 2005

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	number					
Canada	71,144	71,110	70,155	70,828	69,644	71,269
Newfoundland and Labrador	913	755	842	662	837	789
Prince Edward Island	272	246	258	281	293	283
Nova Scotia	2,054	1,945	1,990	1,907	2,000	1,961
New Brunswick	1,717	1,570	1,461	1,450	1,415	1,444
Quebec	17,054	17,094	16,499	16,738	15,999	15,423
Ontario	26,148	26,516	26,170	27,513	26,374	28,805
Manitoba	2,430	2,480	2,396	2,352	2,333	2,429
Saskatchewan	2,194	1,955	1,959	1,992	1,875	1,922
Alberta	8,176	8,252	8,291	7,960	8,317	8,075
British Columbia	10,017	10,115	10,125	9,820	10,049	9,954
Yukon	68	91	90	87	66	109
Northwest Territories	94	83	68	62	71	65
Nunavut	7	8	6	4	15	10

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM tables 053-0002 and 101-6501.

Table 14.4 Structure of census families, selected years from 1981 to 2006

	All families		Couple families		Lone-parent families	
	number	average number of children at home	number	average number of children at home	number	average number of children at home
1981	6,325,315	1.4	5,611,495	1.3	713,815	1.7
1986	6,733,845	1.3	5,880,550	1.2	853,295	1.6
1991	7,355,730	1.2	6,402,090	1.1	953,640	1.6
1996	7,837,865	1.2	6,700,355	1.1	1,137,505	1.6
2001	8,371,020	1.1	7,059,830	1.1	1,311,190	1.5
2006	8,896,840	1.1	7,482,775	1.0	1,414,060	1.5

Note: Historical comparisons for census families must be interpreted with caution because of conceptual changes in 2001.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue nos. 97F0005X and 97-553-X.

Table 14.5 Family structure, by census metropolitan area, 2006

	All families			Families of married couples		
	Total	No children at home	Children at home	All married couples	No children at home	Children at home
	number					
St. John's	52,525	18,105	34,420	36,695	14,250	22,445
Halifax	105,200	42,445	62,755	72,885	32,335	40,550
Moncton	37,130	15,930	21,205	25,310	11,970	13,335
Saint John	35,565	13,740	21,825	25,010	11,395	13,615
Saguenay	44,540	19,065	25,470	24,780	12,890	11,890
Québec	200,960	86,955	114,000	100,390	51,280	49,110
Sherbrooke	51,405	22,345	29,055	25,795	13,650	12,140
Trois-Rivières	39,685	17,400	22,285	20,040	11,190	8,850
Montréal	994,960	366,990	627,970	562,050	237,350	324,705
Ottawa-Gatineau	314,310	115,535	198,770	211,590	85,020	126,570
Kingston	42,995	18,105	24,890	30,595	14,435	16,165
Peterborough	33,505	14,690	18,810	24,185	12,035	12,150
Oshawa	94,575	30,615	63,955	67,970	24,545	43,430
Toronto	1,405,845	418,550	987,295	1,059,125	349,135	709,990
Hamilton	195,905	70,425	125,475	144,150	58,375	85,775
St. Catharines-Niagara	112,550	45,170	67,380	81,640	38,515	43,125
Kitchener	126,205	44,365	81,840	93,250	36,255	56,995
Brantford	35,680	13,370	22,315	25,360	11,105	14,260
Guelph	35,735	13,160	22,575	25,800	10,400	15,395
London	127,795	49,055	78,740	91,330	39,685	51,650
Windsor	90,350	31,075	59,280	66,410	26,390	40,025
Barrie	50,095	17,400	32,700	35,580	13,680	21,905
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	46,340	18,625	27,715	32,115	15,235	16,880
Thunder Bay	35,055	13,580	21,475	24,345	11,070	13,275
Winnipeg	189,785	69,515	120,275	134,455	57,005	77,445
Regina	53,720	20,455	33,260	37,530	16,875	20,660
Saskatoon	63,205	24,465	38,745	45,135	20,215	24,915
Calgary	295,345	109,215	186,125	217,520	84,850	132,670
Edmonton	284,400	106,890	177,510	203,790	84,555	119,230
Kelowna	48,280	23,570	24,710	35,545	19,895	15,650
Abbotsford-Mission	44,365	16,820	27,545	33,795	14,410	19,385
Vancouver	580,120	207,650	372,470	433,180	166,040	267,140
Victoria	91,935	42,660	49,275	64,185	33,580	30,600

Notes: Census families in private households.

'Children at home' comprises all children regardless of age.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Families of common-law couples			Lone-parent families		
All common-law couples	No children at home	Children at home	All lone-parent families	Male parent	Female parent
number					
6,060	3,860	2,200	9,775	1,650	8,125
14,950	10,110	4,835	17,365	2,900	14,470
6,010	3,955	2,055	5,815	975	4,845
3,795	2,345	1,445	6,765	1,135	5,625
13,120	6,175	6,945	6,635	1,500	5,135
69,275	35,675	33,605	31,290	7,700	23,585
17,010	8,695	8,315	8,600	2,325	6,275
12,875	6,210	6,665	6,770	1,360	5,410
252,685	129,645	123,040	180,220	35,490	144,735
51,105	30,515	20,590	51,610	10,205	41,405
5,855	3,670	2,185	6,545	1,250	5,295
4,205	2,655	1,550	5,115	880	4,235
11,020	6,075	4,945	15,585	3,065	12,515
109,290	69,420	39,870	237,430	39,835	197,595
19,570	12,055	7,515	32,185	5,630	26,545
11,835	6,650	5,185	19,070	3,705	15,365
14,175	8,105	6,070	18,775	3,625	15,150
4,440	2,265	2,175	5,875	1,150	4,730
4,585	2,760	1,825	5,350	1,135	4,215
15,300	9,370	5,925	21,170	3,880	17,290
8,275	4,680	3,595	15,665	2,900	12,760
6,910	3,720	3,195	7,600	1,535	6,065
6,410	3,390	3,015	7,820	1,450	6,370
4,330	2,505	1,820	6,380	1,215	5,160
20,325	12,510	7,815	35,010	6,125	28,885
5,905	3,585	2,320	10,280	1,890	8,390
6,795	4,250	2,550	11,275	2,250	9,025
35,605	24,370	11,235	42,220	8,610	33,610
34,520	22,330	12,185	46,085	9,285	36,800
5,660	3,670	1,990	7,070	1,350	5,720
4,110	2,415	1,695	6,460	1,145	5,315
58,825	41,610	17,215	88,115	16,870	71,250
13,110	9,080	4,030	14,635	2,960	11,675

Table 14.6 Family structure, by province and territory, 2006

	All families			Families of married couples		
	Total	No children at home	Children at home	All married couples	No children at home	Children at home
	number					
Canada	8,896,840	3,420,850	5,475,990	6,105,910	2,662,135	3,443,775
Newfoundland and Labrador	155,730	61,950	93,775	114,635	53,165	61,465
Prince Edward Island	39,185	15,315	23,870	28,695	12,935	15,765
Nova Scotia	267,415	112,190	155,230	187,420	91,125	96,295
New Brunswick	217,795	91,300	126,490	151,210	73,435	77,775
Quebec	2,121,610	853,895	1,267,720	1,156,930	555,885	601,040
Ontario	3,422,320	1,217,845	2,204,470	2,530,560	1,008,550	1,522,015
Manitoba	312,805	119,575	193,230	225,880	100,490	125,385
Saskatchewan	267,455	110,835	156,620	194,160	95,415	98,750
Alberta	904,850	351,300	553,550	658,900	278,990	379,910
British Columbia	1,161,420	479,400	682,025	844,430	387,780	456,650
Yukon	8,335	3,075	5,260	4,640	2,005	2,635
Northwest Territories	7,035	3,130	7,750	5,555	1,830	3,725
Nunavut	1,040	1,040	5,995	2,890	525	2,365

Note: Census families in private households.
Children at home comprises all children regardless of age.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Table 14.7 Population, by living arrangements and by province and territory, 2006

	Total population in private households	Persons in family households	Spouses, common-law partners or lone parents	Children in census families
		number		
Canada	31,074,405	26,727,405	16,379,620	9,733,765
Newfoundland and Labrador	499,060	447,535	287,300	150,655
Prince Edward Island	133,330	116,675	71,965	42,595
Nova Scotia	899,755	767,785	489,540	262,000
New Brunswick	716,870	621,700	400,000	209,190
Quebec	7,396,275	6,168,355	3,890,395	2,173,525
Ontario	11,981,235	10,542,660	6,303,925	3,977,010
Manitoba	1,119,530	956,425	572,400	364,255
Saskatchewan	945,890	802,985	490,470	297,165
Alberta	3,228,065	2,768,210	1,679,435	1,016,850
British Columbia	4,054,605	3,447,325	2,147,675	1,202,140
Yukon	29,855	24,750	14,940	9,130
Northwest Territories	40,725	35,905	19,430	15,160
Nunavut	29,200	27,085	12,130	14,085

Note: Population in private households.

1. Non-relatives may be present.

2. These non-relatives must constitute a census family.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Families of common-law couples			Lone-parent families		
All common-law couples	No children at home	Children at home	All lone-parent families	Male parent	Female parent
number					
1,376,870	758,715	618,150	1,414,060	281,775	1,132,290
16,935	8,785	8,150	24,160	4,420	19,740
4,085	2,380	1,705	6,405	1,135	5,265
34,700	21,060	13,645	45,290	8,010	37,280
31,000	17,865	13,130	35,585	6,435	29,150
611,850	298,005	313,845	352,825	77,940	274,890
351,040	209,300	141,745	540,715	99,605	441,105
33,715	19,080	14,635	53,210	10,275	42,930
28,855	15,425	13,430	44,445	9,270	35,170
115,685	72,310	43,370	130,265	27,715	102,555
141,830	91,620	50,205	175,160	35,390	139,770
1,970	1,065	900	1,725	445	1,280
2,990	1,300	1,690	2,330	635	1,695
2,205	515	1,690	1,940	495	1,445

Persons not in a census family, living with relatives ¹	Persons not in a census family, living with non-relatives ²	Persons in non-family households	Living with relatives ¹	Living with non-relatives only	Living alone
number					
393,350	220,665	4,347,000	250,670	769,285	3,327,050
6,610	2,970	51,525	3,540	8,150	39,830
1,250	855	16,655	1,025	2,810	12,825
10,140	6,105	131,970	7,125	24,900	99,945
7,580	4,925	95,165	4,955	18,270	71,945
67,630	36,805	1,227,920	64,820	182,765	980,340
174,355	87,375	1,438,570	84,560	249,145	1,104,865
13,800	5,975	163,100	11,050	23,750	128,295
9,355	5,990	142,910	8,850	22,745	111,315
40,375	31,555	459,855	33,640	117,525	308,690
60,275	37,220	607,280	30,060	116,640	460,580
420	255	5,105	245	960	3,900
860	450	4,820	545	1,195	3,080
695	170	2,115	250	425	1,435

Table 14.8 Household equipment, 1997 to 2007

	1997	1998	1999	2000
	%			
Washing machine	80.9	81.2	80.3	80.6
Clothes dryer	77.2	78.9	77.7	78.2
Dishwasher	49.0	51.3	50.0	51.4
Refrigerator	99.8	99.8	99.7	99.8
Freezer	59.1	59.0	57.6	57.9
Microwave oven	88.1	88.7	89.6	90.8
Air conditioning	32.2	33.2	34.5	34.6
Telephone (land line or cellular)	98.5	98.6	98.8	98.8
Cellular telephone	22.0	26.5	32.5	42.0
Compact disc (CD) player	64.2	66.3	70.5	74.3
Cablevision	74.7	72.9	73.0	72.4
Satellite dish	..	..	..	..
Digital video disc (DVD) player	..	..	..	..
Compact disc (CD) writer	..	..	..	..
Digital video disc (DVD) writer	..	..	..	..
Video cassette recorders	87.2	88.0	88.7	89.9
Home computer	39.8	45.2	50.0	55.2
Internet use from home	17.4	25.0	33.4	42.6
Colour televisions	98.5	98.7	98.8	98.9
Vehicle (owned or leased)	..	82.9	83.0	83.6
Owned vehicles (automobiles, trucks, vans)	79.1	79.0	78.6	79.4
Leased vehicles (automobiles, trucks, vans)	..	8.7	8.9	9.0

Notes: All data are as of December 31 of the reference year.

In every second year starting with 2001, statistics for Canada include the territories. For the other years, Canada-level statistics include only the 10 provinces.

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 203-0020.

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
			%			
80.4	80.5	81.2	81.9	82.2	81.3	82.2
79.3	78.4	78.8	79.5	80.4	80.8	81.8
52.1	54.6	55.0	56.0	57.2	57.7	59.4
99.7	99.9	99.7	99.8	99.7	99.8	99.9
56.1	56.8	56.1	55.2	56.3	53.9	53.0
91.3	92.4	93.0	93.8	94.1	93.9	93.5
35.8	37.5	39.6	41.7	44.2	48.1	48.4
98.6	98.7	98.8	98.9	98.9	99.2	99.1
47.6	51.7	54.0	58.9	64.2	67.7	71.4
71.1	73.9	76.2	79.7	80.4	81.6	81.6
68.1	66.1	64.8	66.3	65.4	65.2	64.9
18.4	21.4	22.8	22.0	22.6	24.1	23.8
19.8	35.7	51.7	68.3	77.1	83.0	85.3
19.4	27.8	32.4	38.3	43.5	47.9	51.8
..	..	..	16.0	24.5	31.7	39.4
91.6	92.1	90.2	90.0	89.1	82.0	79.0
59.8	64.1	66.6	68.7	72.0	75.4	78.4
49.9	54.5	56.9	59.8	64.3	68.1	72.7
99.2	99.1	99.0	99.2	99.0	99.0	98.9
83.0	84.0	83.1	83.8	83.6	82.5	83.1
78.2	79.3	78.2	79.1	79.0	77.3	77.6
9.8	9.8	9.8	9.9	10.1	10.8	10.8

Table 14.9 Owned dwellings, by province and territory, from 2002 to 2007

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	%					
Canada	64.8	65.6	65.8	67.1	65.7	67.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	76.5	77.0	76.6	79.6	78.9	77.1
Prince Edward Island	69.8	73.2	72.7	68.5	70.5	72.3
Nova Scotia	69.5	69.9	71.1	71.2	69.2	72.3
New Brunswick	71.7	73.8	76.9	76.8	76.6	75.5
Quebec	56.8	57.1	56.6	59.2	56.8	58.7
Ontario	66.7	68.0	67.6	68.8	66.7	69.3
Manitoba	68.7	70.6	68.9	73.0	69.2	71.2
Saskatchewan	73.1	72.5	73.9	74.5	72.5	74.8
Alberta	71.1	72.1	72.2	74.0	74.1	72.9
British Columbia	63.3	64.0	66.6	65.3	66.9	67.8
Yukon	..	62.2	..	62.1	..	62.1
Northwest Territories	..	51.9	..	60.9	..	59.1
Nunavut	..	26.9	..	F	..	23.2

Notes: All data are as of December 31 of the reference year.

In every second year starting with 2001, statistics for Canada include the territories. For the other years, Canada-level statistics include only the 10 provinces.

Includes owned dwellings with or without a mortgage.

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 203-0019.

Table 14.10 Average number of rooms per dwelling, by household size, 2006

	All households	One person	Two people	Three people	Four people	Five people	Six people or more
	number						
Canada	6.4	4.8	6.3	6.9	7.7	8.1	8.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	7.2	5.8	7.0	7.6	8.2	8.5	8.9
Prince Edward Island	6.8	5.3	6.7	7.1	7.8	8.5	8.9
Nova Scotia	6.7	5.3	6.6	7.3	7.9	8.4	9.0
New Brunswick	6.7	5.4	6.6	7.1	7.8	8.4	8.8
Quebec	5.8	4.4	5.8	6.4	7.2	7.7	7.9
Ontario	6.6	5.0	6.5	7.0	7.7	8.1	8.1
Manitoba	6.3	4.8	6.3	6.9	7.6	7.8	7.7
Saskatchewan	6.8	5.3	7.0	7.5	8.1	8.4	7.9
Alberta	6.8	5.2	6.7	7.3	8.0	8.3	8.5
British Columbia	6.4	4.7	6.4	7.0	7.8	8.3	8.6
Yukon	5.9	4.5	5.9	6.6	7.4	7.7	8.0
Northwest Territories	5.6	4.3	5.3	5.9	6.6	6.6	6.6
Nunavut	5.0	3.9	4.7	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.8

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population and Catalogue no. 97-554-X.