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User Guide for the Survey of Household Spending, 2011

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Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

User information

Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
p	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published
*	significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Appendix

User Guide for the Survey of Household Spending, 2011

1 Introduction

This guide presents information of interest to users of data from the 2011 Survey of Household Spending (SHS). It includes descriptions of the survey methodology and data quality, and definitions of survey terms and variables. There is also a section describing various statistics that can be drawn from the survey data. The SHS is conducted annually.

The SHS combines a questionnaire with recall periods based on the type of expenditure (1, 3 or 12 months, last payment, four weeks) and a daily expenditure diary that the household completes for two weeks following the interview. As well, data collection is continuous throughout the year.

The 2011 SHS was conducted from January 2011 to December 2011 using a sample of 17,873 households in the 10 provinces (the territories were not included in the 2011 survey). Detailed spending information was collected, as well as limited information on dwelling characteristics and household equipment.

The method of adjusting for incomplete diaries has been refined with the 2011 SHS. As well, the age of household members is now defined to be at the time of the interview rather than as of December 31st of the survey year.

To ensure comparability of the data, the 2010 data have also been revised by incorporating these changes. The revised 2010 estimate of average household spending on all types of goods and services has increased by 1.3% when compared with the previously published 2010 estimate (April 2012).

Household expenditure estimates are available for the national and provincial levels and by household tenure, age of reference person, size of area of residence, type of household and household income quintile. Detailed estimates on food expenditures are also available.

For custom tabulations or more information on the SHS, please contact Client Services (613-951-7355, 1-888-297-7355 or *income@statcan.gc.ca*), Income Statistics Division.

2 Survey methodology

2.1 The target population

The target population of the 2011 SHS is the population of Canada's 10 provinces, excluding residents of institutions, members of the Canadian Forces living in military camps and people living on Indian reserves. In all, these exclusions make up about 2% of the population of the 10 provinces.

For operational reasons, people living in some remote areas where the rate of vacant dwellings is very high and where the collection cost would be exorbitant are excluded from collection. Also excluded, in addition to people living in institutions, are people living in other types of collective dwellings:

- people living in residences for dependent seniors; and
- people living permanently in school residences, hotels and motels, work camps, etc.; and
- members of religious and other communal colonies.

Collection exclusions make up less than 0.5% of the target population. However, these people are included in the population estimates to which the SHS estimates are adjusted (see section 2.6).

2.2 The survey content and reference periods

The SHS primarily collects detailed information on household expenditures. It also collects information about the annual income of household members, demographic characteristics of the household, certain dwelling characteristics (e.g., type, age and tenure) and certain information on household equipment (e.g., electronics and communications equipment).

For expenditure information collected with the questionnaire, the length of the reference period depends on the question (e.g., the past month, the past three months, or the past 12 months). The period covered also varies with the collection month (e.g., for households in the January 2011 sample, “the past 12 months” means the period from January 2010 to December 2010, while for households in the December 2011 sample, it refers to the months between December 2010 and November 2011). Expenditures collected in the daily expenditure diary are reported for a period of two weeks.

In general, longer reference periods are used for goods and services that are more expensive or purchased infrequently or irregularly. On the contrary, shorter reference periods are used for goods and services that are of less value or purchased frequently or at regular intervals.

For demographic characteristics, dwelling characteristics and household equipment, the reference period is the interview date. For income, the reference period is the calendar year preceding the survey year (i.e. 2010 for SHS 2011).

2.3 The sample design

The sample of the 2011 Survey of Household Spending consists of 17,873 households spread over the 10 provinces. A stratified, multi-stage sampling plan was used to select the sample. It is generally a two-stage plan, the first stage being a sample of geographic areas (referred to as clusters). Then a list of all the dwellings in the selected clusters is prepared, and a sample of dwellings is selected. The selected dwellings that are inhabited by members of the target population constitute the survey’s sample of households. The SHS uses a number of components of the Labour Force Survey’s (LFS) sample design to minimize operating costs, though the dwellings selected are different.

The national sample is first divided among the provinces on the basis of the variability of total household expenditures and, to a lesser extent, the number of households in each province. The goal is to obtain estimates of similar quality at the provincial level. The sample sizes for the provinces are shown in Table 1 in Section 3. The sample is then divided among the strata defined by grouping clusters with similar characteristics based on a number of socio-demographic variables. Some strata were defined to target specific subpopulations, such as the high-income household strata. To improve the quality of the estimates, the high-income household strata are allocated a larger share of the sample than the other strata, where an allocation proportional to stratum size is used.

Since data are collected monthly, the sample is divided into 12 subsamples of similar size. During that process, the SHS sample is coordinated with the samples of the LFS and, to a lesser extent, the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), which use the same sampling frame and conduct personal interviews for part of their sample. Coordination means that, wherever possible, if a cluster is selected for more than one survey, collection for the surveys will take place in the same month. This will enable the interviewer to become familiar with the neighbourhood, collect the data and carry out the necessary follow-up for more than one survey at a time.

2.4 Data collection

The SHS is a voluntary survey. For the most part, the data are obtained directly from the respondent by combining two collection modes: a personal interview conducted by an interviewer using a questionnaire on a laptop, and a diary in

which the household is required to report its daily expenditures over a two-week period. The data were collected on a continuous basis from January to December 2011 from a sample of households spread over 12 monthly collection cycles.

First, households in the sample are asked to complete a questionnaire that, for the most part, collects regular expenditures (such as rent and electricity) and less frequent expenditures (such as furniture and dwelling repairs) for a reference period that varies in length depending on the type of expenditure. For regular expenditures, the last-payment method is usually used. It involves collecting the amount of the last payment and the period it covered. For the other types of expenditures collected in the interview, reference periods of one month, three months or twelve months are generally used. The periods are defined in terms of months preceding the month of the interview. For example, for a household in the June sample, "the past three months" means the period from March 1 to May 31, 2011. The demographic characteristics, dwelling characteristics and household equipment, which are also collected in the interview, relate to the household's situation at the time of the interview. In addition, respondents are asked to provide the income for the calendar year previous to the survey year for all household members aged 16 and over (at the time of the interview). However, respondents who give Statistics Canada permission to access their income tax returns are not required to answer the questions about personal income.

Following the interview, respondents are asked to record the expenditures of all household members in a daily expenditure diary for a period of two weeks starting the day after the interview. Households are required to include all their spending, except a few types of expenditures, such as rent, regular utilities payments and real estate and vehicle purchases. Households have the option of providing receipts to reduce the amount of information recorded in the diary. However, they are asked to write out additional information on the receipt if the description is incomplete.

Telephone follow-up is carried out a few days after the interview to find out if the respondent has any questions about the diary and to reiterate important information about how to complete it. At the end of the two-week period, the interviewer returns to the respondent's residence to pick up the diary and ask a few additional questions to help the respondent report expenditures that he or she might have forgotten.

The diaries and all receipts supplied by respondents are scanned and captured at Statistics Canada's Head Office. An expenditure classification code is assigned to each item from a list of more than 600 different codes.

2.5 Data processing and quality control

The computerized questionnaire contains many features designed to maximize the quality of the data collected. Many edits are built into the questionnaire to compare the reported data with unusual values and detect logical inconsistencies. When an edit fails, the interviewer is prompted to correct the information (with the respondent's help, if necessary). Once the data are transmitted to Head Office, a comprehensive series of processing steps is undertaken for the purpose of detailed verification of each questionnaire. Invalid responses are corrected or flagged for imputation.

A number of edits are also carried out on the diary data when the diaries are received at Head Office and throughout the capture and coding steps. For example, checks are carried out to ensure that the start and end dates of the reference period of the diary are indicated, that the reported expenditures were made during the specified reference period, and that there are no items that appear in both the data recorded in the diary and the receipts provided by the respondent. After validation, capture and coding, quality control procedures are applied. A sample of diaries is selected and completely rechecked to ensure that the diaries were captured and coded as specified in the procedures.

Then a series of detailed edits are performed on all diaries. Invalid responses are corrected or flagged for imputation. The final step is to assess whether the information reported in the diaries is of sufficient quality using parameters which differ according to the household characteristics. The reported expenditures and number of items are compared with minimum thresholds estimated for each geographic area (Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Ontario, Prairie Provinces and British Columbia), each household income class and each household size. Diaries that satisfy the conditions are deemed usable. The other diaries are examined. They will be deemed usable if there is a note explaining their low expenditures or their small number of reported items (for example a person living alone

who had few expenses to report because he/she was on a business trip during the diary recording period). Diaries that do not meet the usability criteria are treated the same as non-response diaries; they are excluded from the estimates. It should be noted that some of the usable diaries are incomplete and could have non-responded days.

To solve problems of missing or invalid information in interview questions, donor imputation by the nearest neighbour method is generally used. Data from another respondent with similar characteristics (the donor) are used to impute. The imputation is done on one group of variables at a time, with the groups formed on the basis of the relationships among the variables. The characteristics used to identify the donor are selected such that they are correlated with the variables to be imputed. Household income, dwelling type and number of adults and children are commonly used characteristics. For operational reasons, the income information from personal income tax returns is not available in time for imputation of the survey data. Consequently, the household income used for imputation is taken from an additional question on total household income that is asked during the interview exclusively for the purpose of data imputation.

Donor imputation is also used when information is missing from the daily expenditure diary. A respondent may have reported a particular expenditure item without its cost or given the total amount spent (on groceries, for example) without listing the individual items. Imputation is also used to enhance the level of detail in coding the items reported. For example, the information provided by the respondent may simply indicate that a bakery product was purchased, but a more detailed code is required to meet the survey's needs. In this case, donor imputation is used to impute the type of bakery product (bread, crackers, cookies, cakes and other pastries, etc.). Diary imputation is carried out at the reported item level, and the characteristics most often used to identify the donor are cost, available partial code, household income and household size. Imputation is done by province and quarter to control for provincial differences and seasonality of expenditures.

Expenditure imputation is performed primarily with Statistics Canada's Canadian Census Edit and Imputation System (CANCEIS).

For personal income, people who give their consent are matched to the tax data file. Missing or invalid tax data are generally donor imputed.

2.6 Estimation

The estimation of population characteristics from a sample survey is based on the premise that each sampled household represents a certain number of other households in addition to itself. This number is referred to as the survey weight, and the weighting process involves computing the weight assigned to each household. There are a number of steps in that process.

First, each household is given an initial weight equal to the inverse of its selection probability. This weight is then adjusted to compensate for non-respondent households. Since a number of households answer the questionnaire but refuse to complete the diary, different weights are computed for the interview questionnaire and the diary.

The interview weights are then adjusted so that selected survey estimates agree with aggregates or estimates from independent auxiliary sources.

The first source is the number of persons by age group and the number of households by household size from population estimates produced by the Demography Division using data from the 2006 Census. Annual estimates of the number of persons in eight age groups (0–6, 7–17, 18–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45–54, 55–64 and 65+) are used at the provincial level and two age groups (0–17 and 18+) at the census metropolitan area level. For the number of households, the weights are calibrated to the annual provincial estimates for three household size categories (one, two, and three or more persons) and to quarterly provincial estimates of the total number of households. Quarterly estimates are used to ensure that each sub-annual period is adequately represented in the survey estimates.

The second source is the Statement of Remuneration Paid (T4) data from the Canada Revenue Agency, which ensure that the survey's weighted distribution of income (on the basis of wages and salaries) agree with the income distribution of the Canadian population. Interview weights are therefore calibrated to the T4 accounts of

the number of persons per province in six categories of wages and salaries on the basis of provincial percentiles (0th–25th, 25th–50th, 50th–65th, 65th–75th, 75th–95th and 95th–100th).

The diary weights are adjusted to population estimates in the same way as the interview weights. They are also calibrated to the estimated number of households per income group by province calculated from the interview data. Specifically, the estimated number of households for each provincial quintile of total household income is used. The adjustment to the interview estimates ensures that the weighted income distribution of diary-respondent households is consistent with the weighted income distribution of interview-respondent households.

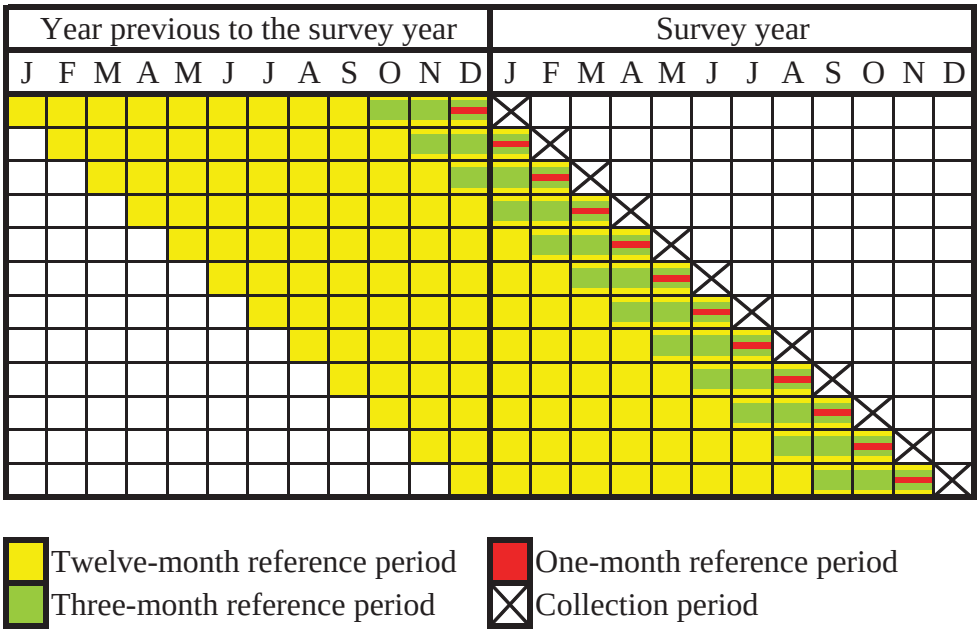
All expenditure variables in the interview and diary are annualized by multiplying them by a factor appropriate for the reference period. For the diary, this factor includes as well an adjustment for the non-responded days. The estimates for a given expenditure category collected from the interview are therefore the weighted sums (using interview weights) of the annualized amounts. The estimates of an expenditure category derived from diary data are calculated in a similar manner using diary weights. Lastly, summary expenditure category estimates that include components from both collection methods are produced by taking the sum of the estimates of the diary and the interview components. This approach is used not only for aggregate spending estimates, but also for average expenditure per household (see section 5.2).

2.7 Reference period of the estimates

With continuous monthly collection, the reference period of the data differs from one month to the other, as illustrated in Figure 1. For example, for an expenditure item with a three-month reference period, the data from the July sample covers expenditures made between April 1 and June 30, whereas the data from the December sample covers expenditures made between September 1 and November 30.

Figure 1

Monthly sample reference periods of three different lengths



SHS estimates are produced by combining the data from the 12 monthly collection cycles and by annualizing the expenditures collected over various reference periods in order to standardize them. The period covered by the estimates is therefore a function of the length of reference period and of the collection months considered.

When combining the data of the 12 collection cycles to generate estimates for expenditure items with short reference periods (e.g., one month), the expenditures that are covered occur mostly in the survey year. That is also true for all expenditure data collected with the diary. As for expenditure items with a 12-month reference period, the data collected include expenses occurring between January of the year before the survey year and November of the survey year, depending on the collection month.

The hypothesis that the estimates produced from the SHS cover a single period when the data from 12 collection cycles has been combined assumes that expenditures made during the survey year and during the previous year are similar for items collected using a 12 month reference period. Thus, the validity of this hypothesis affects the interpretation of comparisons between expenditures collected over short periods and expenditures collected over a 12 month period.

The “limits” of the collection model in producing expenditure estimates covering the same period (or the same year) are known since the majority of countries use this methodology. Despite any limitations, continuous collection with reference periods adapted to the ability of the respondent to provide the information is considered preferable in order to obtain data that reflects households’ true expenditures.

2.8 Historical revisions

The method of adjusting for incomplete diaries has been refined with the 2011 SHS. As well, the age of household members is now defined to be at the time of the interview rather than as of December 31st of the survey year.

To ensure comparability of the data, the 2010 data have also been revised by incorporating these changes. The revised 2010 estimate of average household spending on all types of goods and services has increased by 1.3% when compared with the previously published 2010 estimate (April 2012).

The 2011 SHS estimates were computed with weights adjusted to 2011 population estimates. These population estimates were based on 2006 Census data and more recent information from administrative sources such as birth, death and migration registers.

SHS estimates prior to 2010 (2001-2009) are based on weights calibrated to population estimates produced using data from the 2001 Census. There is no plan to revise theses estimates (based on the 2006 Census data) due to the break in the data series starting with the 2010 SHS (see section 2.9).

2.9 Comparability over time

The SHS has been conducted each year since 1997. This survey includes most of the content of its predecessors, the periodic Family Expenditure Survey and the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey. Some changes to the methodology and definitions were made between 1997 and 2009, but the SHS was primarily based on an interview during the first quarter of the year in which households reported expenditures incurred in the preceding calendar year.

A new methodology which combines a questionnaire and a diary to collect the household expenditures was introduced for the 2010 survey. The reference periods have been reduced for many expenditure items and collection is continuous throughout the year. Although the expenditure data collected since 2010 are similar to those of previous years, the 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 SHS data since 2010 with previous years, unless otherwise noted.

Since 2010, the SHS incorporates a significant amount of content from the Food Expenditure Survey (FES), last conducted in 2001. Although there are some differences between the SHS and FES methodologies, food expenditure data in both surveys have been collected using a daily expenditure diary that households are asked to fill in for a period of two weeks. The content of the SHS diary is slightly less detailed than that of the FES diary (e.g., the weight and quantity of foods are not collected) to limit the SHS respondent’s burden.

The content of the SHS has also been reviewed in 2010 to reduce the time required for the interview. A number of components regarding household equipment and dwelling characteristics and most of the questions regarding changes in household assets and liabilities have been dropped. Some definitions have also been changed. As well, starting with the 2010 survey, the data related to household income and income tax come mainly from an administrative data source.

Finally, the 2010 and 2011 estimates are based on weights calibrated to population estimates produced using data from the 2006 Census. Estimates in previous years (2001-2009) are based on weights calibrated to population estimates produced using data from the 2001 Census.

3 Data quality

Like all surveys, the SHS is subject to error, despite all the precautions taken in each step of the survey to prevent them or reduce their impact. There are two types of error: sampling and non-sampling.

3.1 Sampling errors

Sampling errors occur because inferences about the entire population are based on information obtained from only a sample of the population. The sample design, estimation method, sample size and data variability determine the size of the sampling error. The data variability for an expenditure item is the difference between members of the population in spending on that item. In general, the greater the differences between households, the larger the sampling error will be.

A common measure of sampling error is the standard error (SE). The SE is the degree of variation in the estimates as a result of selecting one particular sample over another. The SE expressed as a percentage of the estimate is called the coefficient of variation (CV). The CV is used to indicate the degree of uncertainty associated with an estimate. For example, if the estimated number of households having a given dwelling characteristic is 10,000 with a CV of 5%, then the actual number is between 9,500 and 10,500 households 68% of the time, and between 9,000 and 11,000 households 95% of the time.

The standard errors for the SHS are estimated using the bootstrap method (see reference [1] in section 7). CVs are available for the national and provincial estimates as well as for the estimates by household type, age of reference person, household income quintile, household tenure and size of area of residence.

3.2 Data suppression

To ensure accuracy, we want to suppress the estimates for which the CVs have been estimated at more than 33%. However, from an operational standpoint, when tables are created, the suppression rule is based on the number of households that declare an expense for an item. Indeed, there is a relationship between the CV and the number of reporting households, and analyses carried out on a very large number of SHS estimates show that a threshold of 30 reporting households generally allows for a CV of at most 33% for the expenditure estimates.

However, data for suppressed items do contribute to summary level variables. For example, the expenditure estimate for a particular item of clothing might be suppressed but this amount is included in the total estimate for clothing expenditure.

3.3 Non-sampling errors

Non-sampling errors occur because certain factors make it difficult to obtain accurate responses or responses that retain their accuracy throughout processing. Unlike sampling errors, non-sampling errors are not readily quantified. Four sources of non-sampling error can be identified: coverage error, response error, non-response error and processing error.

3.3.1 Coverage error

Coverage error arises when sampling frame units do not adequately represent the target population. This error may occur during sample design or selection, or during data collection or processing.

3.3.2 Response error

Response error occurs when respondents provide inaccurate information. This error may be due to many factors, including faulty design of the questionnaire, misinterpretation of questions by interviewers or respondents, or faulty reporting by respondents.

In general, the accuracy of SHS data depends largely on respondents' ability to remember (recall) household expenditures and their willingness to consult records. Response error is the most difficult aspect of data quality to measure.

3.3.3 Non-response error

Errors due to non-response occur when potential respondents do not provide the required information or the information they provide is unusable. The main impact of non-response on data quality is that it can cause a bias in the estimates if the characteristics of respondents and non-respondents differ and the difference has an impact on the expenditures studied. While non-response rates can be calculated, they provide only an indication of data quality, since they do not measure the bias associated with the estimates. The magnitude of non-response can be considered a simple indicator of the risks of bias in the estimates.

For the 2011 SHS, the interview response rate is 65.7%, and provincial response rates are shown in Table 1. The table also shows the number of non-responding households by reason for non-response. Reasons include the inability to contact the household, the household's refusal to participate in the survey and the inability to hold an interview because of special circumstances (e.g., the respondent speaks neither official language or has a physical condition that precludes an interview).

Text table 1
Interview's response rates, Canada and provinces, 2011

	Eligible sampled households	No contacts	Refusals	Residual non-respondents	Respondents	Response rate [1]
	number					percentage
Canada	17,873	1,665	3,825	637	11,746	65.7
Atlantic provinces	5,525	435	1,107	237	3,746	67.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,410	103	266	51	990	70.2
Prince Edward Island	736	44	150	30	512	69.6
Nova Scotia	1,724	107	422	74	1,121	65.0
New Brunswick	1,655	181	269	82	1,123	67.9
Quebec	2,370	175	560	61	1,574	66.4
Ontario	2,678	279	678	121	1,600	59.7
Prairie provinces	5,241	550	1,053	152	3,486	66.5
Manitoba	1,753	206	349	74	1,124	64.1
Saskatchewan	1,503	131	260	17	1,095	72.9
Alberta	1,985	213	444	61	1,267	63.8
British Columbia	2,059	226	427	66	1,340	65.1

1. (Respondent households/Eligible sampled households) x 100.

Some of the interview respondents did not complete a diary, or the diary they provided was considered unusable under the criteria set out in section 2.5. For the 2011 SHS, the diary response rate of interview respondents is 65.2%, and provincial rates are given in Appendix I. The final diary response rate is 42.9% nationally, and provincial rates are shown in Table 2.

Text table 2
Diary's response rates, Canada and provinces, 2011

	Eligible sampled households [1]	Interview non-respondents [2]	Diaries [3]			Response rate [4]
			Refusal	Unusable	Usable	
	number					percentage
Canada	17,873	6,127	3,704	381	7,661	42.9
Atlantic provinces	5,525	1,779	1,031	142	2,573	46.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,410	420	259	43	688	48.8
Prince Edward Island	736	224	159	15	338	45.9
Nova Scotia	1,724	603	341	47	733	42.5
New Brunswick	1,655	532	272	37	814	49.2
Quebec	2,370	796	461	46	1,067	45.0
Ontario	2,678	1,078	546	81	973	36.3
Prairie provinces	5,241	1,755	1,142	82	2,262	43.2
Manitoba	1,753	629	351	24	749	42.7
Saskatchewan	1,503	408	378	29	688	45.8
Alberta	1,985	718	413	29	825	41.6
British Columbia	2,059	719	524	30	786	38.2

1. The eligible sampled households are the same for the interview and the diary.
2. Includes interview "No contacts", "Refusals" and "Residual non-respondents".
3. The definition of usable and unusable diaries is given in the "Data processing and quality control" Section.
4. (Usable diaries/Eligible sampled households)x100.

The response rate varies from month to month. Monthly response rates for the interview and diary can be found in Appendix II. Interview and diary response rates by size of area of residence and dwelling type can be found in Appendix III.

The diary response rate of interview respondents can be found in Appendix IV, broken down by various households' characteristics, including household type, household tenure, age of the reference person and before-tax income quintile.

Cases in which the respondent fails to answer some of the questions are referred to as partial non-response. Imputing missing values compensates for this partial non-response. Imputation rates are described in section 3.3.5.

There are also cases in which a household fails to complete the diary for all 14 days as required, leaving days with no data. Adjustment factors were thus calculated to take into consideration these days with no data.

3.3.4 Processing error

Processing errors may occur in any of the data processing stages, including data entry, coding, editing, imputation of partial non-response, weighting and tabulation. Steps taken to reduce processing error are described in section 2.5.

3.3.5 Imputation of partial non-response

The residual bias remaining after the imputation of partial non-response is difficult to measure. It depends on the imputation method's ability to produce unbiased estimates. The imputation rates provide an indication of the magnitude of partial non-response.

Partial interview non-response may result from a lack of information or an invalid response to a question. The national and provincial percentages of households for which certain categories of expenditures had to be imputed because of partial interview non-response is shown in Table 3, by number of imputed expenditure variables per household (out of all consumer expenditure data collected during the interview). The table contains two series of results, including and excluding expenditures on communications services (telephone, cell phone and Internet), and cablevision, satellite distribution and security system services. This distinction has been made because those services are increasingly being purchased as a package. Households are often billed for bundled services, making it difficult or impossible to provide separate expenditure data for each service. Therefore, the total amount paid

for the package is allocated to individual services through imputation, which significantly increases the number of households for which expenditures must be imputed.

Text table 3

Percentage of households requiring imputation for consumer expenses collected during the interview, Canada and provinces, 2011

	Number of variables imputed [1] (out of 170)				Number of variables imputed [2] (out of 176)			
	1	2 to 9	10 or more	Total	1	2 to 9	10 or more	Total
	percentage							
Canada	23.1	27.8	2.2	53.1	10.5	63.3	3.5	77.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	21.6	24.6	0.5	46.8	7.8	66.0	1.5	75.3
Prince Edward Island	26.8	21.1	2.0	49.8	9.4	70.3	2.1	81.8
Nova Scotia	22.7	31.0	0.5	54.1	8.3	71.9	2.2	82.4
New Brunswick	21.3	24.0	1.5	46.8	10.8	54.8	2.5	68.0
Quebec	27.3	29.9	1.5	58.6	11.9	66.9	2.2	81.1
Ontario	24.3	26.1	2.3	52.7	12.9	57.4	3.4	73.7
Manitoba	18.5	32.0	5.8	56.3	10.6	58.7	8.2	77.5
Saskatchewan	23.4	29.0	3.6	56.0	9.9	65.5	5.5	80.8
Alberta	21.2	31.3	2.0	54.5	10.6	62.0	3.4	75.9
British Columbia	23.6	25.0	2.2	50.8	10.4	65.2	3.5	79.2

1. Excluding expenditures related to communications services, and services for cablevision, satellite distribution and security systems.
2. Including expenditures related to communications services, and services for cablevision, satellite distribution and security systems.

Users of expenditure estimates relating to communications services, and cablevision, satellite television and security system services should therefore take into account the high level of imputation of the expenditure data if they are examining individual services rather than the combined totals. A measure of the impact of imputation on each individual service has been produced and is discussed in Appendix V. This measure represents the proportion of the total value of the estimate obtained from imputed data.

The percentages of households that responded to the interview and for which dwelling characteristics or household equipment had to be imputed can be found in Appendix VI.

The imputation rates for all expenditures reported in the expenditure diary are shown in tables 4 and 5. Table 4 deals with expenditures reported in the first section of the diary, for food from stores and other goods and services. Table 5 shows the imputation rates for the second section of the diary, on expenses from restaurants.

For expenditure data from the diaries, imputation is used primarily to assign a value when the amount of a reported expenditure is missing, to assign a list of expenditure items (with individual costs) when only the total cost was provided (e.g., to assign grocery items and their individual cost when the respondent has provided only the total amount of the bill) or to assign an expenditure code that is more detailed than the one that could be assigned using the information from the respondent (e.g., the type of bakery product). The imputation rate for each of these three types of imputation is shown in Table 4. Each rate represents the proportion of imputed items out of all the expenditure items from the diaries.

Text table 4

Imputation rates by type of imputation for the section of the diary on Food from stores and other goods and services, Canada, 2011

Type of imputation	Imputation rate
	percentage
Imputation of a missing cost for a reported expense	
Food from stores	1.5
Other goods and services	2.3
All expenditures	1.7
Imputation of expenditure items (and their individual cost) from a total expense	
Food from stores	17.3
Other goods and services	12.4
All expenditures	15.6
Imputation of detailed expenditure code	
Food from stores	7.2
Other goods and services	7.1
All expenditures	7.1

The risks of bias associated with the imputed data depend largely on the level of detail at which the SHS data are used. For example, food expenditure data in the SHS are produced at a high level of detail to meet the needs of the Food Expenditure Survey users (last conducted in 2001). Food expenditures are categorized using a hierarchical system of more than 200 expenditure codes. For some reported expenditure items, the food product may have been known (e.g., dairy products or even milk), but the level of detail required (e.g., skim milk, 1% milk or 2% milk) had to be imputed. This type of imputation gives rise to a risk of bias only in expenditure estimates at a very detailed level. In other cases, however, almost no information on the type of expenditure was available before imputation (e.g., it was known only that the expenditure was for a good). When so little information is available, the risks of bias in the estimates of the expenditure categories are more significant. Additional results regarding the imputation of expenditure codes that are more detailed can be found in Appendix VII, which contains a breakdown of the imputed expenditure codes by the initial level of the information from the respondent.

Restaurant expenditures are reported using a slightly different format in the second section of the diary. Imputation is used primarily to assign a value when the total amount of the restaurant expenditure or the cost of alcoholic beverages is missing, or when the type of meal (breakfast, lunch, dinner or snack and beverage) has not been specified. The imputation rate for each of these three types of imputation is shown in Table 5.

Text table 5

Imputation rates by type of imputation for the section of the diary on Snacks, beverages and meals purchased from restaurants or fast-food outlets, Canada, 2011

Type of imputation	Imputation rate
	percentage
Imputation of total cost	0.83
Imputation of costs for alcoholic beverages [1]	2.04
Imputation of meal type (breakfast, lunch, dinner or snack and beverages)	8.26

1. The higher imputation rate observed in 2011 is for the most part due to a change made in the imputation methodology for this variable. Some restaurant expenses are incorrectly reported in the section of the diary on Food from stores and other goods and services. During the diaries' editing stage, these items are moved to the section of the diary on Snacks, beverages and meals purchased from restaurants or fast-food outlets. Those items among them having a total cost greater than ten dollars are now subject to the possibility of imputing an amount for alcohol following the observed distribution of restaurant items with alcohol reported.

Lastly, households have the option of providing receipts or recording their expenditure information in the diary. Table 6 shows the percentage of expenditures reported using each method, for food expenditures, restaurant expenditures and other goods and services.

Text table 6
Methods for recording expenses in the diary, Canada, 2011

Expenditure category	Transcriptions	Receipts
	percentage	
Food	23.7	76.3
Restaurant	87.5	12.5
Other goods and services	47.8	52.2

Imputation rates vary depending on the expenditure reporting method. The rates in tables 4 and 5 are shown by the expenditure reporting method in Appendix VIII.

3.4 The effect of large values

For any sample, estimates of totals, averages and standard errors can be affected by the presence or absence of large values in the sample. Large values are more likely to arise from positively skewed populations. Such values are found in the SHS and are taken into account when the final estimates are generated.

4 Definitions

4.1 General concepts

4.1.1 Reference year of the survey

Corresponds to the data collection year, from January 1st to December 31st, 2011.

4.1.2 Household

A person or group of persons occupying one dwelling unit is defined as a “household”. The number of households, therefore, equals the number of occupied dwellings.

4.1.3 Household member

A person usually residing in the dwelling unit at the time of the interview.

4.1.4 Reference person

The household member being interviewed chooses which household member should be listed as the reference person after hearing the following definition: “The household reference person is the member of the household mainly responsible for its financial maintenance (e.g., pays the rent, mortgage, property taxes, and electricity). When members of the household share the responsibility equally, choose one of these members to be shown as the reference person”. This person must be a member of the household at the time of the interview.

4.1.5 Expenditures

The net cost of all goods and services received for private use within a given period (for example, 1, 3 or 12 months), whether or not the goods or services were paid for during that period, and regardless of whether these expenditures were made in Canada or abroad. Business expenditures are excluded.

4.1.6 Taxes included

All expenditures include the Goods and Services Tax, provincial retail sales taxes, tips, customs, duties and any other additional charges or taxes.

4.1.7 Gifts

Any expenditure may include gifts given to persons outside the household. Only the value of gifts of clothing is reported separately.

4.1.8 Insurance settlements

Where an insurance settlement was used to repair or replace property, the survey includes only the deductible amount paid for an item.

4.1.9 Trade-ins

Where a trade-in is used to lower the price of an item, most commonly a vehicle, the expenditure amount is the total cost after the trade-in. Real estate transactions are excepted.

4.2 Household characteristics

4.2.1 Number of households in sample

Corresponds to the number of eligible sample households minus households that interviewers were unable to contact, households that refused to participate and households whose interview questionnaire were rejected for lacking too much information.

4.2.2 Estimated number of households

Estimation of the average number of households during the reference year.

4.2.3 Household size

Number of persons in the household at the time of the interview.

4.2.4 Age of reference person

Corresponds to the age of the reference person at the time of the interview.

4.2.5 Household income before tax

Corresponds to the total income before tax received by the household the year prior to the reference year of the survey. It refers to income from all sources including government transfers: scholarships, bursaries and fellowships, wages and salaries before deductions, farm self-employment net income, non-farm self-employment net income, universal child care tax benefit, Old Age Security pension, CPP and QPP benefits, Employment Insurance benefits, social assistance, workers' compensation benefits, Federal GST/HST Credit, provincial tax credits, other government transfers, private retirement pensions, support payments received, other taxable income and income from a RDSP and investment income.

4.2.6 Homeowner

Household living in a dwelling owned (with or without a mortgage) by a member of the household at the time of the interview.

4.3 Selected household expenditures

4.3.1 Total expenditure

The sum of total current consumption, income taxes, personal insurance payments and pension contributions, and gifts of money, alimony and contributions to charity.

4.3.2 Total current consumption

Sum of the expenditures for food, shelter, household operations, household furnishings and equipment, clothing and accessories, transportation, health care, personal care, recreation, education, reading materials and other printed matter, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages, games of chance, and miscellaneous expenditures.

4.3.3 Food purchased from stores

“Stores” includes all establishments where food can be bought, such as grocery stores, specialty food stores, department stores, warehouse-type stores and convenience stores, but also frozen food suppliers, outdoor farmers’ markets and stands, and all other non service establishments. The expenditures are net of cash premium vouchers or rebates at the cash register and include deposits paid for at the time of purchase. These deposits are excluded from the expenditures when reimbursed and are shown as negative expenditures (flow of money in) in the “Miscellaneous expenditures” section.

4.3.4 Food purchased from restaurants

“Restaurants” includes full service restaurants, fast-food outlets, cafeterias, but also refreshments stands, snack bars, vending machines, mobile canteens, caterers and chip wagons. Includes tips. Does not include expenditures for alcoholic beverages.

4.3.5 Shelter

Principal accommodation (either owned or rented) and other accommodation such as vacation homes or accommodation while travelling.

4.3.6 Rent

Net rent, excluding rent paid for business, or rooms rented out. Includes additional amounts paid to landlord.

4.3.7 Tenants’/Homeowners’ insurance premiums

Premiums paid for fire and comprehensive policies.

4.3.8 Repairs and maintenance (owned living quarters)

Covers expenditures for labor and materials for all types of repairs and maintenance, including expenditures to repair and maintain built-in equipment, appliances and fixtures. Expenditures related to alterations and improvements are excluded as they are considered as an increase in assets (investment) rather than an expense.

4.3.9 Water, fuel and electricity (for principal accommodation)

Expenditures for services related to water and sewage, electricity, and natural gas and other fuel for the principal accommodation, whether rented or owned.

4.3.10 Property taxes and sewage charges (for owned vacation homes and other secondary residences)

Refers to the amount billed, excluding any rebates. Special service charges (e.g., garbage, sewage), local improvements, and water charges are included if these are part of the property tax bill.

4.3.11 Accommodation away from home

Includes all expenses for accommodation while travelling. Excludes expenditures for accommodation that were part of a package trip.

4.3.12 Household appliances

Refers to the net purchase price after deducting trade-in allowance and any discount. Excludes appliances included in the purchase of a home.

4.3.13 Purchase of automobiles, vans and trucks

Refers to the net purchase price, including extra equipment, accessories, and warranties bought when the vehicle was purchased, after deducting any trade-in allowance or separate sales. Separate sales occur when a vehicle is sold independently by the owner, e.g., not traded in when purchasing or leasing another vehicle.

4.3.14 Health care

Includes direct costs to household (out-of-pocket) net of the expenditures reimbursed, and health insurance premiums.

4.3.15 Package trips

Includes at least two components such as transportation and accommodation, or accommodation with food and beverages.

4.3.16 Tobacco products and smokers' supplies

Includes cigarettes, tobacco, cigars, matches, pipes, lighters, ashtrays, cigarette papers and tubes, and other smokers' supplies.

4.3.17 Alcoholic beverages

Includes alcoholic beverages purchased from stores and restaurants. Expenditures on supplies and fees for self-made beer, wine or liquor are also included.

4.3.18 Games of chance

Expenditures on all types of games of chance. The expenditures are not net of the winnings from these games.

4.3.19 Discounts and refunds

Presented in the data tables as "negative expenditures" since they represent a flow of money into the household instead of out of it.

4.3.20 Income taxes

The sum of federal and provincial income taxes payable for the taxation year prior to the reference year of the survey. Income taxes include taxes on income, capital gains and RRSP withdrawals, after taking into account exemptions, deductions, non-refundable tax credits, and the refundable Quebec abatement.

4.4 Dwelling characteristics

4.4.1 Type of dwelling

Type of dwelling in which the household resided at the time of interview. A dwelling is a structurally separate set of living premises with a private entrance from outside the building or from a common hall or stairway.

– A **single detached** dwelling contains only one dwelling unit and is completely separated by open space on all sides from any other structure, except its own garage or shed.

– A **single attached** dwelling is a double or semi-detached unit (side-by-side) or a row or terrace unit.

– **Apartment** includes duplexes (two dwellings, situated one above the other), triplexes, quadruplexes and apartment buildings.

– **Other** dwellings include mobile homes, motor homes, tents, railroad cars or houseboats, which are used as permanent residences and are capable of being moved on short notice.

4.4.2 Repairs needed

Indicates the respondent's perception of the repairs the dwelling needed at the time of the interview to restore it to its original condition. Remodelling, additions, conversions, or energy improvements that would upgrade the dwelling over and above its original condition are not included.

– **Major repairs** include serious deficiencies in the structural condition of the dwelling, as well as the plumbing, electrical and heating systems. Examples include corroded pipes, damaged electrical wiring, sagging floors, bulging walls, damp walls and ceilings, and crumbling foundation.

– **Minor repairs** include deficiencies in the surface or covering materials of the dwelling and less serious deficiencies in the plumbing, electrical and heating systems. Examples include small cracks in interior walls and ceilings, broken light fixtures and switches, cracked or broken panes, leaking sinks, missing shingles or siding, and peeling paint.

4.4.3 Tenure

Housing status of the household at the time of the interview.

– **Owned with mortgage** indicates that the dwelling was owned by a household member and that there was a mortgage at the time of the interview.

– **Owned without mortgage** indicates that the dwelling was owned by a household member and that there was no mortgage at the time of the interview.

– **Rented** indicates that the dwelling was rented by the household or occupied rent-free at the time of the interview.

4.4.4 Number of bathrooms (for dwelling occupied at the time of the interview)

Number of rooms in the dwelling with an installed bathtub and/or shower.

4.5 Household equipment

4.5.1 Telephone (includes business use)

Includes telephones used for business if the business is conducted in the dwelling. Cordless phones are also included.

4.5.2 Cellular telephone

Includes cellular telephones and handheld text messaging devices with cell phone capability.

4.5.3 Compact disc player

A compact disc player may be a separate unit, part of a component or built in (as in a receiver/cassette recorder/compact disc combination unit).

4.5.4 Home computer

Excludes computers used exclusively for business purposes.

4.5.5 Internet use from home

Indicates whether the household has access to the Internet at home.

4.5.6 Owned vehicles

Number of vehicles (automobiles, vans and trucks) owned by members of the household at the end of the month prior to the time of the interview.

4.6 Classification categories

4.6.1 Canada

Canada-level data for 2011 include the 10 provinces only.

4.6.2 Province/territory

No data for the territories for 2011.

4.6.3 Before-tax household income quintile (national)

Income groupings are obtained by ranking the households responding to the interview in ascending order by the total income before tax of the households, then partitioning the households into five groups of similar size. The estimated number of households in each group should be the same in principle but differences may occur due to the weight of the household at the boundary of two quintiles, since this household must lie in either one or the other of these quintiles. Moreover, the specific methodology of the survey (with a series of weights for the interview and another series for the diary) ensures that the same estimate of the number of households for the interview and the diary will occur only if the quintiles are defined at the provincial level. For the national quintiles, there may be a difference between the estimate of the number of households based on either the interview weights or the diary weights. (See section 5 “Derivation of data tables”.)

4.6.4 Housing tenure

Whether a household member owned or rented the dwelling in which the household lived at the time of the interview.

– **Owners** refers to all households living in a dwelling owned (with or without mortgage) by a household member at the time of the interview.

– **Owners with mortgage** owned the dwelling with a mortgage at the time of the interview.

– **Owners without mortgage** owned the dwelling without a mortgage at the time of the interview.

– **Renters** rented a dwelling at the time of the interview (as a regular tenant, rent free, or with reduced rent)

4.6.5 Household type

Households are divided according to the following types:

– **One person households** are the households where the dwelling is occupied by only one person at the time of the interview.

– **Couple households** are households where the married or common law spouse of the reference person is a member of the household at the time of the interview. This household type may be further broken down into couple households without children (without additional persons), with children (without additional persons), and with additional persons. “Children” are never-married sons, daughters, or foster children of the reference person and may be any age. “Additional persons” include sons, daughters and foster children whose marital status is other than “single, never-married”, other relatives by birth or marriage, and unrelated persons.

– **Lone-parent households** are households where the reference person has no spouse at the time of the interview and there is at least one child (never-married son, daughter, or foster child of the reference person). The lone-parent households for which data are presented do not include any additional persons.

– **Other households** are households composed of relatives only or households having at least one household member who is unrelated to the reference person (e.g., lodger, roommate, employee). Relatives may include:

• son, daughter, or foster child of the reference person whose marital status is other than single, never-married;

• relatives of the reference person by birth or marriage (not spouse, son, daughter or foster child).

4.6.6 Size of area of residence

Sampled dwellings are assigned to the following groups depending on the area in which they are located according to the 2006 Census boundaries and population size.

Population centres

1,000,000 and over
500,000 to 999,999
250,000 to 499,999
100,000 to 249,999
30,000 to 99,999
1,000 to 29,999

Rural

4.6.7 Population centre

Area with a population of at least 1,000 or more and a density of 400 or more people per square kilometre. Population centres are classified as either small, medium, or large as defined below:

- Small population centre: 1,000 to 29,999
- Medium population centre: 30,000 to 99,999
- Large urban population centre: 100,000 and over

4.6.8 Rural area

All areas outside population centres are considered rural. Taken together, population centres and rural areas cover all of Canada.

4.6.9 Age of reference person

Households are grouped according to the age the reference person as the following:

– Less than 30 years

– 30 to 39 years

– 40 to 54 years

– 55 to 64 years

– 65 years and over

5 Derivation of data tables

This section explains how the SHS data tables have been derived. It then explains the calculations used most frequently to manipulate the data. Users are advised to refer to this section before doing their data analysis.

As stated above, SHS respondents must complete a questionnaire and a daily expenditure diary. However, some of them do not complete a diary for various reasons (e.g., refusal). Therefore, different weights are calculated for the interview questionnaire and diary, resulting in the use of two sets of weights, which makes using the data more complicated.

5.1 Estimates of number of households

Estimates are generated using two sets of weights, one for the interview and the other for the diary. Adjustments made during weighting ensure that the estimate of the number of households at the provincial level using either set of weights is equivalent for the following domains:

– household sizes of one, two, or three or more persons; and

– household income groups defined according to provincial quintiles.

By default, the estimate of the number of households for any aggregation of these domains also results in equivalent estimates.

For any other domain, an estimate of the number of households may differ somewhat depending on the reliability of these estimates. The estimate of the number of households in the SHS tables has been produced using interview weights, as opposed to diary weights. The average household size is also produced from the interview weights.

The estimated number of households and the average household size of the various domains for which estimates are produced in CANSIM tables are available in Appendix IX.

5.2 Estimates of average expenditure per household

Estimates using both interview and diary expenditure data are produced in two steps: estimates are produced separately from the interview and the diary, and then they are added together.

For average expenditure per household, the interview average expenditure per household is calculated using the weighted sum of expenditure data obtained from the interview divided by the sum of the interview weights. Similarly, the diary average expenditure per household is estimated using the weighted sum of expenditure data obtained from the diary divided by the sum of the diary weights. The two components are then added to obtain the average expenditure per household. With this approach, the combined interview and diary average expenditure per household does not exactly match the combined interview and diary weighted sum of expenditure divided by the estimated number of households (produced using the interview weights) for domains in which the interview and diary estimates do not match. Nevertheless, the approach ensures that the sum of the average expenditure per household for all categories equals the total average expenditure per household.

5.3 Examples of expenditure estimates

The tables in this section contain examples of expenditure estimates produced separately from interview and from diary data, as well as an example of expenditure estimates where interview and diary data have to be combined.

5.3.1 Examples of expenditure estimates obtained from interview data

The CANSIM tables include estimates of average expenditure per household. For technical reasons, the estimated number of households and the average household size are not included in these tables but are provided in Appendix IX. In this document, we present an example of the estimated number of households in Table 7 associated with estimates of average expenditure per household from Table 8 in order to help in the understanding of the subsequent examples.

Text table 7
Estimated number of households based on interview weights, by household tenure

	All households	Owner with mortgage	Owner without mortgage	Renter
		number		
Estimated number of households	13,514,009	4,812,813	4,219,949	4,481,247

Text table 8
Average household expenditures obtained from interview data, by household tenure

	All households	Owner with mortgage	Owner without mortgage	Renter
	dollars			
Shelter	15,210	23,712	9,643	11,320
Household furnishing and equipment	2,027	2,699	2,235	1,115
Clothing and accessories	3,360	4,289	3,268	2,448
Transportation	11,229	14,505	12,389	6,638

5.3.2 Examples of expenditure estimates obtained from diary data

Text table 9
Estimated number of households based on diary weights, by household tenure

	All households	Owner with mortgage	Owner without mortgage	Renter
	number			
Estimated number of households	13,514,009	4,785,857	4,214,778	4,513,374

Text table 10
Average household expenditures obtained from diary data, by household tenure

	All households	Owner with mortgage	Owner without mortgage	Renter
	dollars			
Food expenditures	7,795	9,234	8,465	5,642
Food purchased from stores	5,588	6,583	6,053	4,098
Food purchased from restaurant	2,207	2,652	2,412	1,544

5.3.3 Examples of estimates obtained from both interview and diary expenditure data

In Table 11, we present the estimated number of households and the average household size as provided in Appendix IX, while Table 12 represents a typical example of an average household expenditures table available to users.

Text table 11
Estimated number of households and average household size based on interview weights, by household tenure

	All households	Owner with mortgage	Owner without mortgage	Renter
	number			
Estimated number of households	13,514,009	4,812,813	4,219,949	4,481,247
Average household size	2.48	3.03	2.30	2.05

Text table 12
Average household expenditures obtained from interview and diary data, by household tenure

	All households	Owner with mortgage	Owner without mortgage	Renter
	dollars			
Total expenditure [1]	39,621	54,439	36,000	27,163
Food expenditures	7,795	9,234	8,465	5,642
Food purchased from stores	5,588	6,583	6,053	4,098
Food purchased from restaurant	2,207	2,652	2,412	1,544
Shelter	15,210	23,712	9,643	11,320
Household furnishing and equipment	2,027	2,699	2,235	1,115
Clothing and accessories	3,360	4,289	3,268	2,448
Transportation	11,229	14,505	12,389	6,638

1. Total of expenditure for the categories used in this example.

Tables 7 to 10 above are not available to users; however, the following section provides examples on how to produce other estimates using tables such as 11 and 12 above.

5.4 Calculating various estimates using the tables

The following section explains the calculation method for some of the common SHS expenditure data manipulations.

5.4.1 How to calculate average expenditures per person

To calculate average expenditure per person for a given category, divide the average expenditure per household for that category (Table 12) by the average household size (found on the second line of Table 11).

For example, the average food expenditure per person for renter households is calculated as follows:

Average food expenditure per person for renter households =

$$\frac{\text{Average food expenditure per renter household}}{\text{Average size of renter households}}$$

$$\text{Example : } \frac{\$5{,}642}{2.05} = \$2{,}752$$

When comparing estimates of average expenditure per person, note that household composition (number of children and adults) is a significant factor in many expenditure patterns.

5.4.2 How to calculate percentages of total average household expenditure (budget shares)

To calculate the budget share of an individual expenditure category as a percentage of total average household expenditure, divide the average expenditure per household for that expenditure category by the total average expenditure per household, and then multiply by 100.

For example, using the Table 12, the percentage of total average expenditure per household represented by the average expenditures on food per household, for renter households, is calculated as follows:

Percentage of total average expenditure per household represented by the average expenditures on food per household, for renter households =

$$\frac{\text{Average expenditure on food per renter household}}{\text{Total average expenditure per renter household}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Example :} \quad \frac{\$5{,}642 \times 100}{\$27{,}163} = 20.77\%$$

5.4.3 Combining expenditure categories into your own groupings

The average expenditure per household for different expenditure categories can be added together to make new subtotals.

For example, the average expenditure on shelter and transportation per renter household is calculated as follows:

Average expenditure on shelter per renter household + Average expenditure on transportation per renter household

Example: $11,320 + $6,638 = $17,958

5.4.4 Calculating aggregate expenditures

To calculate aggregate expenditures, multiply the average expenditure per household from one column for an expenditure category (Table 12) by the estimated number of households from the same column in Table 11.

For example, the aggregate expenditure on food for renter households is calculated as follows:

Average expenditure on food per renter household x Estimated number of renter households

Example: $5,642 x 4,481,247 = $25,283,195,574

Note: Since the estimated variable comes from diary data and the estimated number of households in the domains used differs slightly depending on whether it is calculated using interview weights or diary weights, the estimate only approximates the estimate that would have been obtained using the weighted sum of expenditures. Indeed, if we use the estimated number of households based on the diary weights from Table 9, we could derive the weighted sum of expenditures. We then get:

Average expenditure on food per renter household x Estimated number of renter households

Example: $5,642 x 4,513,374 = $25,464,456,108

The estimates of aggregate expenditure are exact for all domains for which the sum of interview and diary weights are the same (see section 5.1) as well as for all variables coming from the interview questionnaire. All other estimates for which we have to derive aggregate expenditure are approximated by default if the aggregate expenditure is approximated.

5.4.5 Calculating aggregate expenditures by combining data columns

To calculate aggregate expenditures for multiple columns, calculate the aggregate expenditure for each of the columns for an expenditure category and add them after.

For example, aggregate expenditure on food by owner households (with or without a mortgage) is calculated as follows:

Average expenditure on food per owner household with a mortgage x Estimated number of owner households with mortgage + Average expenditure on food per mortgage-free owner household x Estimated number of mortgage-free owner households

Example: ($9,234 x 4,812,813) + ($8,465 x 4,219,949) = $80,163,383,527

5.4.6 How to calculate average expenditures per household by combining data columns

To calculate the average expenditure for multiple columns, calculate the aggregate expenditure for each of the columns for an expenditure category from the average expenditure (Table 12), add them, and then divide the total by the sum of the estimated number of households in those columns in Table 11.

For example, the average expenditure on food per owner household (with or without a mortgage) is calculated as follows:

Average expenditure on food per owner household (with or without a mortgage) =

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c}\text{(Average expenditure on food per owner household with a mortgage x Estimated number of owner households with mortgage) +} \\ \text{(Average expenditure on food per mortgage-free owner household x Estimated number of mortgage-free owner households)}\end{array}}{\begin{array}{c}\text{Estimated number of owner households with a mortgage +} \\ \text{Estimated number of mortgage-free owner households}\end{array}}$$

$$\text{Example : } \frac{(\$9{,}234 \times 4{,}812{,}813) + (\$8{,}465 \times 4{,}219{,}949)}{4{,}812{,}813 + 4{,}219{,}949} = \$8{,}875$$

5.4.7 Calculating the expenditure share of a subgroup among all households

An expenditure share is the percentage of the aggregate expenditure for an expenditure category that can be attributed to a particular subgroup of households, e.g., the percentage of all food expenditures made by renter households.

It is calculated by deriving the household subgroup's aggregate expenditure for an expenditure category and dividing it by the aggregate expenditure for the expenditure category for all households and multiplying by 100.

For example, the percentage of food expenditures made by renter households is calculated as follows:

Percentage of food expenditures made by renter households =

$$\frac{\text{Average expenditure on food per renter household x Estimated number of renter households}}{\text{Average expenditure on food per household for all households x Estimated total number of households}} \times 100$$

Example : $\frac{\$5{,}642 \times 4{,}481{,}247 \times 100}{\$7{,}795 \times 13{,}514{,}009} = 24.00\%$

6 Related products and services

6.1 CANSIM

CANSIM (the Canadian Socio-Economic Information Management System) is a data base consisting of multi-dimensional cross-sectional tables.

Eight tables presenting annual information from the Survey of Household Spending are available. Table 203-0021 presents household detailed level expenditure data, while tables 203-0022 to 203-0026 present data according to household income quintile, household type, household tenure, size of area of residence and age of reference person respectively. Table 203-0027 presents data on dwelling characteristics and household equipment. Finally, table 203-0028 provides detailed food expenditure data.

6.2 Household Expenditures Research Paper Series

This series provides detailed documentation on issues, concepts, methodology, data quality and other relevant research related to household expenditures from the Survey of Household Spending.

62F0026MIE Household Expenditures Research Paper Series

6.3 Custom tabulations

For clients with more specialized data needs, custom tabulations can be produced on a cost-recovery basis. Custom tabulations can be produced to your specifications on a contract basis (subject to confidentiality restrictions). Aggregate data at the detailed expenditure level are also available on a custom basis.

7 References

[1] Charlebois, J. and Dubreuil, G. 2011. Variance Estimation for the Redesigned Survey of Household Spending. Proceedings of the Survey Methods Section, Statistical Society of Canada Annual Meeting, June 2011.

Appendix I — Diary's response rates among the respondents to the interview

Text table 1

Diary's response rates among the respondents to the interview, Canada and provinces, 2011

	Interview respondents	Diaries [1]			
		Refusal	Unusable	Usable	Response rate [2]
	number				percentage
Canada	11,746	3,704	381	7,661	65.2
Atlantic provinces	3,746	1,031	142	2,573	68.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	990	259	43	688	69.5
Prince Edward Island	512	159	15	338	66.0
Nova Scotia	1,121	341	47	733	65.4
New Brunswick	1,123	272	37	814	72.5
Quebec	1,574	461	46	1,067	67.8
Ontario	1,600	546	81	973	60.8
Prairie provinces	3,486	1,142	82	2,262	64.9
Manitoba	1,124	351	24	749	66.6
Saskatchewan	1,095	378	29	688	62.8
Alberta	1,267	413	29	825	65.1
British Columbia	1,340	524	30	786	58.7

1. The definition of usable and unusable diaries is given in the "Data processing and quality control" Section.

2 (Usable diaries/Interview respondents) x100.

Appendix II — Response rates by collection month

Text table 1
Interview's response rates by collection month, Canada, 2011

	Eligible sampled households	No contacts	Refusals	Residual non-respondents	Respondents	Response rate [1]
	number					percentage
All months	17,873	1,665	3,825	637	11,746	65.7
January	1,695	173	351	55	1,116	65.8
February	1,648	167	353	56	1,072	65.0
March	1,592	131	347	63	1,051	66.0
April	1,439	117	262	59	1,001	69.6
May	1,473	120	325	40	988	67.1
June	1,432	128	333	66	905	63.2
July	1,408	153	301	34	920	65.3
August	1,416	122	314	45	935	66.0
September	1,508	156	305	56	991	65.7
October	1,462	123	340	55	944	64.6
November	1,405	127	308	54	916	65.2
December	1,395	148	286	54	907	65.0

1. (Respondent households/Eligible sampled households)x100.

Text table 2
Diary's response rates by collection month, Canada, 2011

	Eligible [1] sampled households	Interview [2] non-respondents	Diaries [3]			Response [4] rate
			Refusal	Unusable	Usable	
	number					percentage
All months	17,873	6,127	3,704	381	7,661	42.9
January	1,695	579	301	36	779	46.0
February	1,648	576	295	40	737	44.7
March	1,592	541	304	36	711	44.7
April	1,439	438	271	34	696	48.4
May	1,473	485	303	31	654	44.4
June	1,432	527	321	27	557	38.9
July	1,408	488	309	29	582	41.3
August	1,416	481	309	37	589	41.6
September	1,508	517	338	25	628	41.6
October	1,462	518	306	26	612	41.9
November	1,405	489	329	34	553	39.4
December	1,395	488	318	26	563	40.4

1. The eligible sampled households are the same for the interview and the diary.
2. Includes interview "No contacts", "Refusals" and "Residual non-respondents".
3. The definition of usable and unusable diaries is given in the "Data processing and quality control" Section.
4. (Usable diaries/Eligible sampled households)x100.

Appendix III — Response rates by size of area of residence and by dwelling type

Text table 1

Interview's response rates by size of area of residence, Canada, 2011

	Eligible sampled households	No contacts	Refusals	Residual non-respondents	Respondents	Response rate [1]
	number					percentage
All population centres and rural area	17,873	1,665	3,825	637	11,746	65.7
Population centre 1,000,000 and over	5,080	519	1,130	145	3,286	64.7
Population centre 500,000 to 999,999	1,597	210	350	73	964	60.4
Population centre 250,000 to 499,999	1,419	106	392	62	859	60.5
Population centre 100,000 to 249,999	2,802	279	645	123	1,755	62.6
Population centre 30,000 to 99,999	1,822	135	369	71	1,247	68.4
Population centre 1,000 to 29,999	2,267	195	418	79	1,575	69.5
Rural area	2,886	221	521	84	2,060	71.4

1. (Respondent households/Eligible sampled households)x100.

Text table 2

Diary's response rates by size of area of residence, Canada, 2011

	Eligible [1] sampled households	Interview [2] non-respondents	Diaries [3]			Response [4] rate
			Refusal	Unusable	Usable	
	number					percentage
All population centres and rural area	17,873	6,127	3,704	381	7,661	42.9
Population centre 1,000,000 and over	5,080	1,794	1,273	96	1,917	37.7
Population centre 500,000 to 999,999	1,597	633	315	17	632	39.6
Population centre 250,000 to 499,999	1,419	560	241	22	596	42.0
Population centre 100,000 to 249,999	2,802	1,047	550	47	1,158	41.3
Population centre 30,000 to 99,999	1,822	575	341	49	857	47.0
Population centre 1,000 to 29,999	2,267	692	441	64	1,070	47.2
Rural area	2,886	826	543	86	1,431	49.6

1. The eligible sampled households are the same for the interview and the diary.
2. Includes interview "No contacts", "Refusals" and "Residual non-respondents".
3. The definition of usable and unusable diaries is given in the "Data processing and quality control" Section.
4. (Usable diaries/Eligible sampled households)x100.

Text table 3

Interview's response rates by dwelling type, Canada, 2011

	Eligible sampled households	No contacts	Refusals	Residual non-respondents	Respondents	Response rate [1]
	number					percentage
All dwelling types	17,873	1,665	3,825	637	11,746	65.7
Single detached	11,240	925	2,590	374	7,351	65.4
Double or row/terrace	1,675	133	370	63	1,109	66.2
Duplex, low-rise or high-rise apartment	4,462	545	759	170	2,988	67.0
Other	426	33	77	18	298	70.0
Not available	70	29	29	12	0	0.0

1. (Respondent households/Eligible sampled households)x100.

Text table 4

Diary's response rates by dwelling type, Canada, 2011

	Eligible sampled households [1]	Interview non-respondents [2]	Diaries [3]			Response rate [4]
			Refusal	Unusable	Usable	
	number					percentage
All dwelling types	17,873	6,127	3,704	381	7,661	42.9
Single detached	11,240	3,889	2,144	209	4,998	44.5
Double or row/terrace	1,675	566	348	32	729	43.5
Duplex, low-rise or high-rise apartment	4,462	1,474	1,128	128	1,732	38.8
Other	426	128	84	12	202	47.4
Not available	70	70	0	0	0	0.0

1. The eligible sampled households are the same for the interview and the diary.
2. Includes interview "No contacts", "Refusals" and "Residual non-respondents".
3. The definition of usable and unusable diaries is given in the "Data processing and quality control" Section.
4. (Usable diaries/Eligible sampled households)x100.

Appendix IV — Diary's response rates among the respondents to the interview, by various households' characteristics

Text table 1

Diary's response rates among the respondents to the interview, by household type, Canada, 2011

	Interview respondents	Diaries [1]			
		Refusal	Unusable	Usable	Response rate [2]
	number				percentage
All household types	11,746	3,704	381	7,661	65.2
One person household	3,157	1,142	157	1,858	58.9
Couple without children	3,540	927	82	2,531	71.5
Couple with children	3,014	929	65	2,020	67.0
Couple with other related or unrelated persons	430	131	16	283	65.8
Lone-parent household with no additional persons	872	297	30	545	62.5
Other household with related or unrelated persons	733	278	31	424	57.8

1. The definition of usable and unusable diaries is given in the "Data processing and quality control" Section.
[2] (Usable diaries/Interview respondents)x100.

Text table 2

Diary's response rates among the respondents to the interview, by household tenure, Canada, 2011

	Interview respondents	Diaries [1]			
		Refusal	Unusable	Usable	Response rate [2]
	number				percentage
All household tenures	11,746	3,704	381	7,661	65.2
Owner without mortgage	4,238	1,192	123	2,923	69.0
Owner with mortgage	3,926	1,195	96	2,635	67.1
Renter (with or without rent paid)	3,582	1,317	162	2,103	58.7

1. The definition of usable and unusable diaries is given in the "Data processing and quality control" Section.
[2] (Usable diaries/Interview respondents)x100.

Text table 3

Diary's response rates among the respondents to the interview, by age of the reference person, Canada, 2011

	Interview respondents	Diaries [1]			
		Refusal	Unusable	Usable	Response rate [2]
	number				percentage
Reference person of all ages	11,746	3,704	381	7,661	65.2
Less than 30 years	1,246	484	50	712	57.1
30 to 39 years	1,769	611	39	1,119	63.3
40 to 54 years	3,539	1,102	114	2,323	65.6
55 to 64 years	2,348	650	69	1,629	69.4
65 years and over	2,844	857	109	1,878	66.0

1. The definition of usable and unusable diaries is given in the "Data processing and quality control" Section.
[2] (Usable diaries/Interview respondents)x100.

Text table 4

Diary's response rates among the respondents to the interview, by before-tax income quintile, Canada, 2011

	Interview respondents	Diaries [1]			
		Refusal	Unusable	Usable	Response rate [2]
	number				percentage
Total of all income quintiles	11,746	3,704	381	7,661	65.2
Lowest quintile	2,372	880	155	1,337	56.4
Second quintile	2,473	743	86	1,644	66.5
Third quintile	2,417	690	62	1,665	68.9
Fourth quintile	2,286	661	45	1,580	69.1
Highest quintile	2,198	730	33	1,435	65.3

1. The definition of usable and unusable diaries is given in the "Data processing and quality control" Section.
[2] (Usable diaries/Interview respondents)x100.

Appendix V — Impact of expenditure imputation on communications services, cablevision, satellite distribution and security services

Text table 1

Impact of expenditure imputation on communications services, cablevision, satellite distribution and security services, Canada, 2011

	Impact of imputation [1]
	percentage
Landline telephone services	44.5
Cell phone, pager and handheld text messaging services	13.9
Rental of cablevision services	56.1
Rental of satellite TV or radio services	25.8
Internet access services	58.6
Home security services	5.4

1. The impact of imputation represents the proportion of the total value of the estimate that is obtained from imputed data.

Appendix VI — Imputation of dwelling characteristics and household equipment

Text table 1

Percentage of households requiring imputation of dwelling characteristics or household equipment, Canada and provinces, 2011

	Number of variables imputed (out of 20)			
	1	2	3 or more	Total
	percentage			
Canada	4.6	0.9	0.1	5.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	5.1	0.7	0.2	6.0
Prince Edward Island	5.9	0.6	0.0	6.4
Nova Scotia	4.5	0.6	0.1	5.3
New Brunswick	5.2	1.1	0.1	6.3
Quebec	5.4	0.8	0.2	6.4
Ontario	3.9	1.1	0.3	5.2
Manitoba	5.4	1.3	0.0	6.8
Saskatchewan	3.8	0.9	0.2	4.9
Alberta	2.3	0.9	0.2	3.3
British Columbia	5.4	0.9	0.1	6.5

Appendix VII — Breakdown of the imputed expenditure codes by the initial level of the information from the respondent

Text table 1

Distribution of imputation of detailed expenditure codes by the initial level of information collected from the section of the diary on Food from stores and other goods and services, Canada, 2011

Initial collected information (initial expenditure category)	percentage
Specific food group	45.71
Food unspecified	14.89
Grocery item unspecified	4.40
Non-food grocery item unspecified	1.40
Communication equipment and services unspecified	0.39
Child care unspecified	0.04
Pet expenses - unspecified	0.26
Household supplies unspecified	0.43
Furnishings and decor unspecified	0.10
Home tools and equipment unspecified	0.34
Household equipment, parts and accessories unspecified	0.68
Apparel unspecified	1.21
General repair unspecified	0.77
Parts and supplies for automobiles and trucks unspecified	0.28
Transportation unspecified	0.18
Medicine unspecified	1.19
Eye care goods and services unspecified	0.06
Personal care supplies and equipment unspecified	1.31
Massage unspecified	0.16
Personal care services unspecified	0.11
Video game systems and parts unspecified	0.18
Camera and accessories unspecified	0.02
Entertainment unspecified	0.27
Movies unspecified	0.72
Printed matter unspecified	0.20
Tobacco products unspecified	0.12
Games of chance unspecified	0.18
Services unspecified	0.34
Goods unspecified	18.25
Utilities unspecified	0.10
Donations and gifts of money unspecified	0.25
Gifts of money and other support payments to persons unspecified	0.37
Donations unspecified	0.45
Insurance unspecified	0.16
Other goods and services unspecified	0.89
Don’t know	3.60

Appendix VIII — Imputation rates by method for recording the expenses in the diary

Text table 1

Imputation rates by type of imputation and method for recording the expenses in the section of the diary on Food from stores and other goods and services, Canada, 2011

Type of imputation	Transcribed items	Items from a receipt	All items
	percentage		
Imputation of a missing cost for a reported expense			
Food from stores	3.3	0.5	1.5
Other goods and services	3.9	0.6	2.3
All expenditures	3.6	0.5	1.7
Imputation of expenditure items (and their individual cost) from a total expense			
Food from stores	47.2	1.5	17.3
Other goods and services	21.2	2.6	12.4
All expenditures	35.8	1.8	15.6
Imputation of detailed expenditure code			
Food from stores	6.4	7.5	7.2
Other goods and services	5.2	9.1	7.1
All expenditures	5.9	8.0	7.1

Text table 2

Imputation rates by type of imputation and method for recording the expenses in the section of the diary on Snacks, beverages and meals purchased from restaurants or fast-food outlets, Canada, 2011

Type of imputation	Transcribed items	Items from a receipt	All items
	percentage		
Imputation of total cost	0.78	1.18	0.83
Imputation of costs for alcoholic beverages [1]	2.28	0.34	2.04
Imputation of meal type (breakfast, lunch, dinner or snack and beverages)	7.64	12.57	8.26

1. The higher imputation rate observed in 2011 is for the most part due to a change made in the imputation methodology for this variable. Some restaurant expenses are incorrectly reported in the section of the diary on Food from stores and other goods and services. During the diaries' editing stage, these items are moved to the section of the diary on Snacks, beverages and meals purchased from restaurants or fast-food outlets. Those items among them having a total cost greater than ten dollars are now subject to the possibility of imputing an amount for alcohol following the observed distribution of restaurant items with alcohol reported.

Appendix IX — Estimated number of households and average household size by domain

Text table 1

Estimated number of households and average household size by domain defined at the national level, Canada, 2011

Domain	Estimated number of households	Average household size
Canada		
All classes	13,514,009	2.48
Region		
Atlantic Region	970,090	2.36
Quebec	3,365,566	2.32
Ontario	5,023,807	2.61
Prairie Region	2,334,417	2.50
British Columbia	1,820,129	2.44
Province		
Newfoundland and Labrador	211,310	2.38
Prince Edward Island	58,426	2.43
Nova Scotia	391,248	2.34
New Brunswick	309,106	2.36
Quebec	3,365,566	2.32
Ontario	5,023,807	2.61
Manitoba	471,246	2.48
Saskatchewan	413,120	2.38
Alberta	1,450,051	2.54
British Columbia	1,820,129	2.44
Before-tax household income quintile (national)		
Lowest quintile	2,701,098	1.47
Second quintile	2,704,352	2.10
Third quintile	2,702,596	2.57
Fourth quintile	2,703,080	2.90
Highest quintile	2,702,882	3.34
Household type		
One person households	3,728,757	1.00
Couples without children	3,739,698	2.00
Couples with children	3,670,064	3.93
Couples with other related or unrelated persons	636,302	4.93
Lone-parent households with no additional persons	834,333	2.65
Other households with related or unrelated persons	904,856	2.79
Household tenure		
Owner	9,032,762	2.69
Owner with mortgage	4,812,813	3.03
Owner without mortgage	4,219,949	2.30
Renter	4,481,247	2.05
Size of area of residence		
Population centre 1,000,000 and over	6,000,213	2.61
Population centre 500,000 to 999,999	858,897	2.34
Population centre 250,000 to 499,999	1,211,133	2.37
Population centre 100,000 to 249,999	1,255,470	2.30
Population centre 30,000 to 99,999	1,277,011	2.31
Population centre 1,000 to 29,999	1,461,345	2.34
Rural	1,449,940	2.55
Age of reference person		
Less than 30 years	1,481,477	2.23
30 to 39 years	2,218,975	2.98
40 to 54 years	4,397,345	2.98
55 to 64 years	2,477,076	2.19
65 years and over	2,939,137	1.71

Text table 2

Estimated number of households and average household size by domain defined at the provincial level, Canada, 2011

Domain	Estimated number of households	Average household size
Newfoundland and Labrador		
All classes	211,310	2.38
Lowest quintile	41,950	1.44
Second quintile	42,485	2.19
Third quintile	42,195	2.44
Fourth quintile	42,400	2.79
Highest quintile	42,280	3.05
Prince Edward Island		
All classes	58,426	2.43
Lowest quintile	11,553	1.42
Second quintile	11,703	2.04
Third quintile	11,647	2.51
Fourth quintile	11,752	2.77
Highest quintile	11,772	3.41
Nova Scotia		
All classes	391,248	2.34
Lowest quintile	78,201	1.36
Second quintile	78,060	1.94
Third quintile	78,274	2.50
Fourth quintile	78,200	2.56
Highest quintile	78,512	3.33
New Brunswick		
All classes	309,106	2.36
Lowest quintile	61,572	1.56
Second quintile	61,982	1.78
Third quintile	61,625	2.36
Fourth quintile	61,904	2.77
Highest quintile	62,022	3.34
Quebec		
All classes	3,365,566	2.32
Lowest quintile	672,389	1.42
Second quintile	671,348	1.79
Third quintile	675,121	2.36
Fourth quintile	672,467	2.64
Highest quintile	674,241	3.37
Ontario		
All classes	5,023,807	2.61
Lowest quintile	1,004,332	1.51
Second quintile	1,003,824	2.33
Third quintile	1,005,712	2.80
Fourth quintile	1,002,587	2.96
Highest quintile	1,007,352	3.44
Manitoba		
All classes	471,246	2.48
Lowest quintile	94,181	1.46
Second quintile	93,740	2.00
Third quintile	94,397	2.58
Fourth quintile	94,438	2.91
Highest quintile	94,490	3.43
Saskatchewan		
All classes	413,120	2.38
Lowest quintile	81,829	1.51
Second quintile	83,383	2.08
Third quintile	82,641	2.44
Fourth quintile	82,402	2.74
Highest quintile	82,865	3.10
Alberta		
All classes	1,450,051	2.54
Lowest quintile	289,575	1.55
Second quintile	290,399	2.29
Third quintile	288,758	2.58
Fourth quintile	288,470	3.08
Highest quintile	292,848	3.19

Text table 2 – continued

Estimated number of households and average household size by domain defined at the provincial level, Canada, 2011

Domain	Estimated number of households	Average household size
British Columbia		
All classes	1,820,129	2.44
Lowest quintile	362,541	1.49
Second quintile	365,401	2.09
Third quintile	363,927	2.38
Fourth quintile	363,409	2.95
Highest quintile	364,851	3.32