

Dwelling Characteristics and Household Equipment, 2003

Household Characteristics	Canada	British Columbia	Vancouver	Victoria
Number of households in sample (1)(1a)	17,265	1,830	857	178
Estimated number of households (1)	12,214,130	1,623,170	795,520	145,620
Average household income before tax	60,274	56,353	61,874	51,729
Average household size	2.49	2.45	2.64	2.04
Average number of rooms per dwelling	6.07	6.18	6.09	5.59

	Canada		British Columbia		Vancouver		Victoria	
	Estimated number of households	Percentage Reporting	Estimated number of households	Percentage Reporting	Estimated number of households	Percentage Reporting	Estimated number of households	Percentage Reporting
	'000		'000		'000		'000	
Dwelling Characteristics (at Dec. 31)								
Type of dwelling								
Single detached	6,980	57.2%	894	55.1%	405	51.0%	63	43.0%
Single attached	1,296	10.6%	185	11.4%	92	11.5%	25	0.169
Apartment	3,716	30.4%	490	30.2%	295	37.1%	58	39.7%
Other	222	1.8%	54	3.3%	F	F	F	F
Repairs needed								
Major	1,010	8.3%	153	9.4%	72	9.0%	F	F
Minor	1,976	16.2%	260	16.0%	124	15.6%	F	F
None	9,228	75.6%	1,210	74.6%	600	75.5%	118	81.2%
Tenure								
Owned	8,028	65.7%	1,044	64.3%	499	62.8%	76	51.9%
With mortgage	4,239	34.7%	568	35.0%	301	37.8%	36	24.9%
Without mortgage	3,789	31.0%	476	29.3%	198	24.9%	39	26.9%
Rented	4,186	34.3%	579	35.7%	296	37.2%	70	48.1%
Year of move								
2003	1,663	13.6%	257	15.8%	118	14.8%	30	0.206
1998 - 2002	4,110	33.7%	567	34.9%	297	37.4%	55	37.7%
Before 1998	6,440	52.7%	799	49.2%	380	47.8%	61	41.7%
Period of construction								
2001 - 2003	390	3.2%	58	0.036	39	0.05	F	F
1991 - 2000	1,546	12.7%	295	18.1%	157	19.8%	26	0.18
1981 - 1990	2,108	17.3%	331	20.4%	171	21.5%	34	23.3%
1971 - 1980	2,694	22.1%	377	23.2%	151	19.0%	28	19.4%
1961 - 1970	1,820	14.9%	233	14.3%	115	14.5%	F	F
1946 - 1960	2,002	16.4%	198	12.2%	91	11.4%	F	F
Before 1946	1,654	13.5%	132	8.1%	71	8.9%	F	F
Number of rooms								
1-4	3,248	26.6%	456	28.1%	255	32.1%	53	36.7%
5	2,110	17.3%	268	16.5%	117	14.8%	25	0.17
6	1,910	15.6%	209	12.9%	78	9.8%	F	F
7 or more	4,946	40.5%	690	42.5%	345	43.4%	45	30.6%
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bathrooms	12,194	99.8%	1,616	99.6%	790	99.3%	146	100.0%
1	7,461	61.1%	784	48.3%	341	42.8%	84	57.8%
2 or more	4,734	38.8%	833	51.3%	449	56.4%	61	42.2%
Principal heating equipment								
Steam or hot water furnaces	1,492	12.2%	251	15.5%	196	24.7%	F	F
Forced hot air furnaces	6,515	53.3%	837	51.6%	398	50.0%	46	31.6%
Other hot air furnaces	193	1.6%	31	1.9%	F	F	F	F
Heating stoves	480	3.9%	54	3.3%	F	F	F	F
Electric heating	3,519	28.8%	446	27.4%	177	22.2%	77	52.6%
Other	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

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	'000		'000		'000		'000	
Age of principal heating equipment								
5 years or less	2,242	18.4%	242	14.9%	119	15.0%	F	F
6 to 10 years	1,867	15.3%	272	16.8%	127	16.0%	F	F
Over 10 years	8,106	66.4%	1,109	68.3%	549	69.0%	115	79.1%
Principal heating fuel								
Oil or other liquid fuel	1,530	12.5%	95	5.8%	F	F	31	21.3%
Piped gas	5,996	49.1%	959	59.1%	568	71.4%	29	0.199
Bottled gas	102	0.8%	F	F	F	F	F	F
Electricity	4,029	33.0%	505	31.1%	207	26.0%	83	57.0%
Wood	515	4.2%	51	3.1%	F	F	F	F
Other	42	0.3%	F	F	F	F	F	F
Principal heating fuel for hot water								
Oil or other liquid fuel	598	4.9%	F	F	F	F	F	F
Piped gas	5,820	47.7%	957	58.9%	588	73.9%	34	0.236
Electricity	5,683	46.5%	632	38.9%	197	24.7%	103	70.8%
Other heating fuel or no running hot water	113	0.9%	F	F	F	F	F	F
Principal cooking fuel								
Piped gas	847	6.9%	165	10.2%	112	14.1%	F	F
Electricity	11,289	92.4%	1,449	89.3%	682	85.7%	134	91.8%
Other cooking fuel	79	0.6%	F	F	F	F	F	F
Household Equipment (at Dec. 31)								
Washing machine	9,936	81.3%	1,271	78.3%	596	75.0%	97	66.3%
Clothes dryer	9,644	79.0%	1,230	75.8%	559	70.3%	99	68.3%
Dishwasher	6,672	54.6%	1,022	63.0%	525	66.0%	83	57.3%
Refrigerators	12,184	99.8%	1,615	99.5%	788	99.1%	146	100.0%
1	9,239	75.6%	1,241	76.4%	588	74.0%	115	79.0%
2 or more	2,944	24.1%	374	23.0%	200	25.1%	31	21.0%
Freezer	6,878	56.3%	904	55.7%	357	44.9%	71	48.7%
Microwave oven	11,364	93.0%	1,456	89.7%	702	88.2%	135	92.6%
Air conditioner	4,799	39.3%	191	11.8%	42	5.3%	F	F
Window	1,800	14.7%	99	6.1%	F	F	F	F
Central	2,998	24.5%	92	5.7%	F	F	F	F
With a telephone (regular or cellular)	12,066	98.8%	1,603	98.8%	783	98.5%	144	99.2%
Telephones (includes business use)	11,765	96.3%	1,544	95.1%	752	94.5%	137	93.9%
1	2,607	21.3%	392	24.2%	205	25.7%	31	21.4%
2	4,102	33.6%	532	32.8%	228	28.7%	48	32.8%
3 or more	5,056	41.4%	619	38.2%	319	40.1%	58	39.7%
Cellular Telephone	6,582	53.9%	942	58.1%	551	69.3%	71	48.9%
Compact disc player	9,294	76.1%	1,299	80.0%	655	82.3%	118	81.1%
Cablevision	7,948	65.1%	1,244	76.6%	668	83.9%	124	85.3%
Satellite dish	2,763	22.6%	255	15.7%	76	9.6%	F	F
DVD player	6,290	51.5%	899	55.4%	486	61.1%	79	54.0%
CD writer	3,921	32.1%	621	38.3%	362	45.4%	54	37.0%

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Video cassette recorders	11,026	90.3%	1,475	90.8%	722	90.8%	134	91.9%
1	7,087	58.0%	976	60.1%	477	60.0%	86	59.0%
2 or more	3,939	32.2%	499	30.7%	245	30.8%	48	32.9%
Home computer	8,163	66.8%	1,178	72.6%	624	78.5%	105	72.4%
Internet use from home	6,951	56.9%	1,026	63.2%	556	69.9%	96	65.7%
Type of Internet connection								
Regular telephone connection to a computer	2,585	21.2%	222	13.7%	101	12.6%	F	F
Hi-speed t'phone connection to a computer	2,110	17.3%	300	18.5%	168	21.1%	F	F
Cable connection to a computer	2,215	18.1%	496	30.5%	284	35.7%	51	35.2%
Other type of connection	41	0.3%	F	F	F	F	F	F
Colour televisions	12,092	99.0%	1,602	98.7%	780	98.1%	143	98.3%
1	4,616	37.8%	695	42.8%	356	44.8%	60	41.3%
2	4,401	36.0%	555	34.2%	251	31.6%	50	34.3%
3 or more	3,075	25.2%	351	21.6%	173	21.7%	33	22.7%
With a vehicle (owned or leased)	10,128	82.9%	1,377	84.8%	656	82.4%	123	84.8%
Owned vehicles (automobiles, trucks, vans)	9,520	77.9%	1,355	83.5%	643	80.8%	122	84.0%
1	5,130	42.0%	721	44.4%	360	45.2%	69	47.7%
2 or more	4,390	35.9%	634	39.0%	284	35.6%	53	36.3%
Owned automobiles	7,617	62.4%	1,026	63.2%	522	65.6%	97	66.7%
1	5,639	46.2%	791	48.7%	390	49.0%	77	53.0%
2 or more	1,978	16.2%	235	14.5%	132	16.6%	F	F
Owned vans and trucks	4,403	36.0%	725	44.7%	289	36.3%	55	37.8%
1	3,575	29.3%	582	35.9%	249	31.3%	46	31.5%
2 or more	828	6.8%	143	8.8%	40	5.0%	F	F
Leased vehicles (automobiles, trucks, vans)	1,191	9.7%	74	4.5%	47	5.9%	F	F
1	1,045	8.6%	70	4.3%	45	5.7%	F	F
2 or more	145	1.2%	F	F	F	F	F	F

(1) Based on full-year and part-year households. See the section about the survey universe in the User Guide (Statistics Canada catalogue no. 62F0026MIE - No. 003 "User Guide for the Survey of Household Spending, 2003"), a household expenditures research paper.

(1a) Caution should be exercised when making year-to-year comparisons since changes may not be statistically significant. In order to determine whether a change is statistically significant, please refer to the accompanying User Guide where information about sampling error as well as coefficients of variation and how to use them is available. Special caution is necessary when using estimates from small sub-groups (such as certain metropolitan areas) where the sample size is less than 200.

For information about survey methodology, variable definitions or comparisons with data from previous years, please consult the User Guide. Note also that historical comparisons with data from before 1999 should be made with revised data. More information about the Survey of Household Spending and other expenditure surveys can be obtained free on the Statistics Canada Website (www.statcan.ca), under the headings Products and services, Research papers (free), Personal finance and household finance, Household expenditures research papers series.

Due to reliability concerns, the data in these tables have been replaced by an "F" for detailed spending categories reported by fewer than 30 households, since these would normally have coefficients of variation of 30% or more. This symbol should not be interpreted as zero. The expenditures are included in more reliable aggregates. A "..." symbol means that the item is not applicable to that category.