



BC STATS

Service BC
Ministry of Labour & Citizens' Services

Contact: Data Services (250) 387-0327
Released: December 2006

British Columbia

Dwelling Characteristics

& Household Equipment

2005

The data for this release came from the 2005 Survey of Household Spending. Caution should be used in making comparisons to previous years. Prior to 1997 similar data was published as Household Facilities and Equipment from a survey conducted in the spring of each year.

Dwelling Characteristics and Household Equipment, 2005

Household Characteristics	Canada	British Columbia	Vancouver	Victoria
Number of households in sample (1)	15,222	1,761	943	157
Estimated number of households (1)	12,586,770	1,675,850	851,580	138,400
Average household income before tax	66,495	64,716	69,524	55,300
Average household size	2.45	2.42	2.53	2.21
Average number of rooms per dwelling	6.12	6.12	5.95	5.41

	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
Dwelling Characteristics (at Dec. 31)	'000		'000		'000		'000	
Type of dwelling								
Single detached	7,168	56.9%	909	54.3%	402	47.2%	53	38.2%
Single attached	1,266	10.1%	163	9.7%	98	11.5%	F	F
Apartment	3,910	31.1%	535	31.9%	339	39.8%	72	52.2%
Other	243	1.9%	68	4.1%	F	F	F	F
Repairs needed								
Major	885	7.0%	144	8.6%	72	8.4%	F	F
Minor	2,025	16.1%	255	15.2%	116	13.6%	F	F
None	9,677	76.9%	1,276	76.2%	664	78.0%	115	83.2%
Tenure								
Owned	8,444	67.1%	1,094	65.3%	511	60.0%	78	56.1%
With mortgage	4,571	36.3%	611	36.5%	282	33.1%	48	34.7%
Without mortgage	3,874	30.8%	483	28.8%	229	26.9%	30	21.4%
Rented	4,143	32.9%	581	34.7%	341	40.0%	61	43.9%
Year of move								
2005	1,633	13.0%	258	15.4%	134	15.7%	F	F
2000 - 2004	4,534	36.0%	692	41.3%	362	42.5%	66	47.5%
Before 2000	6,419	51.0%	726	43.3%	355	41.7%	44	31.6%
Period of construction								
2001 - 2005	927	7.4%	141	8.4%	74	8.7%	F	F
1991 - 2000	1,620	12.9%	313	18.7%	166	19.5%	F	F
1981 - 1990	2,027	16.1%	315	18.8%	183	21.5%	F	F
1971 - 1980	2,568	20.4%	363	21.7%	145	17.0%	43	30.7%
1961 - 1970	1,923	15.3%	215	12.8%	112	13.1%	F	F
1946 - 1960	1,867	14.8%	187	11.2%	99	11.6%	F	F
Before 1946	1,656	13.2%	141	8.4%	73	8.6%	F	F
Number of rooms								
1-4	3,457	27.5%	527	31.4%	301	35.4%	55	39.7%
5	1,889	15.0%	246	14.7%	127	14.9%	F	F
6	2,061	16.4%	211	12.6%	101	11.8%	F	F
7 or more	5,180	41.2%	692	41.3%	323	37.9%	39	27.9%
Bathrooms								
1	12,561	99.8%	1,666	99.4%	844	99.1%	137	99.0%
2 or more	7,290	57.9%	807	48.1%	404	47.4%	76	55.3%
3 or more	5,271	41.9%	859	51.3%	440	51.7%	61	43.7%
Principal heating equipment								
Steam or hot water system	1,659	13.2%	246	14.7%	196	23.0%	F	F
Hot air furnace	6,591	52.4%	899	53.6%	460	54.0%	41	29.6%
Heating stove	521	4.1%	78	4.6%	F	F	F	F
Electric heating	3,795	30.2%	447	26.7%	191	22.4%	74	53.5%
Other	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

Dwelling Characteristics and Household Equipment, 2005

	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	
Age of principal heating equipment								
5 years or less	2,652	21.1%	325	19.4%	146	17.2%	30	21.4%
6 to 10 years	2,051	16.3%	252	15.0%	110	13.0%	F	F
Over 10 years	7,884	62.6%	1,099	65.6%	595	69.9%	83	60.0%
Principal heating fuel								
Oil or other liquid fuel	1,209	9.6%	71	4.2%	F	F	29	20.9%
Natural gas (piped gas)	6,349	50.4%	994	59.3%	631	74.1%	26	18.5%
Propane (bottled gas)	122	1.0%	F	F	F	F	F	F
Electricity	4,306	34.2%	498	29.7%	211	24.7%	76	55.1%
Wood	571	4.5%	70	4.2%	F	F	F	F
Other	30	0.2%	F	F	F	F	F	F
Principal heating fuel for hot water								
Oil or other liquid fuel	495	3.9%	F	F	F	F	F	F
Natural gas (piped gas)	6,249	49.6%	1,001	59.8%	655	76.9%	35	25.5%
Electricity	5,717	45.4%	624	37.2%	194	22.7%	88	63.8%
Other heating fuel or no running hot water	126	1.0%	F	F	F	F	F	F
Principal cooking fuel								
Natural gas (piped gas)	889	7.1%	176	10.5%	119	14.0%	F	F
Electricity	11,598	92.1%	1,463	87.3%	725	85.1%	129	93.2%
Other cooking fuel	100	0.8%	37	2.2%	F	F	F	F
Household Equipment (at December 31)								
Washing machine	10,346	82.2%	1,353	80.7%	649	76.2%	102	73.9%
Clothes dryer	10,118	80.4%	1,334	79.6%	636	74.7%	103	74.4%
Dishwasher	7,201	57.2%	1,124	67.1%	573	67.3%	85	61.4%
Refrigerators	12,551	99.7%	1,663	99.2%	839	98.5%	138	99.6%
1	9,351	74.3%	1,265	75.5%	651	76.5%	110	79.7%
2 or more	3,200	25.4%	397	23.7%	188	22.0%	F	F
Freezer	7,084	56.3%	883	52.7%	339	39.8%	53	38.4%
Microwave oven	11,850	94.1%	1,552	92.6%	775	91.0%	126	90.8%
Air conditioner	5,568	44.2%	292	17.4%	97	11.4%	F	F
Window	1,991	15.8%	115	6.9%	28	3.3%	F	F
Central	3,577	28.4%	177	10.6%	69	8.1%	F	F
With a telephone (regular or cellular)	12,450	98.9%	1,643	98.0%	825	96.9%	135	97.8%
Telephones (includes business use)	11,883	94.4%	1,541	91.9%	761	89.4%	124	89.6%
1	3,064	24.3%	479	28.6%	274	32.1%	35	25.5%
2	3,830	30.4%	459	27.4%	208	24.4%	47	33.8%
3 or more	4,989	39.6%	603	36.0%	279	32.8%	42	30.3%
Cellular Telephone	8,079	64.2%	1,156	69.0%	631	74.1%	97	70.3%
1	4,769	37.9%	637	38.0%	312	36.7%	57	40.8%
2	2,383	18.9%	357	21.3%	208	24.4%	F	F
3 or more	927	7.4%	162	9.6%	111	13.0%	F	F
Compact disc player	10,118	80.4%	1,381	82.4%	695	81.6%	120	86.7%
Cablevision	8,226	65.4%	1,265	75.5%	705	82.8%	108	78.1%
Satellite dish	2,848	22.6%	256	15.3%	75	8.8%	F	F
DVD player	9,706	77.1%	1,324	79.0%	697	81.8%	113	81.7%
CD writer	5,472	43.5%	859	51.3%	459	53.9%	80	57.5%

Dwelling Characteristics and Household Equipment, 2005

	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
DVD writer	'000 3,087	24.5%	'000 515	30.7%	'000 321	37.6%	'000 39	28.2%

Dwelling Characteristics and Household Equipment, 2005

	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	
Video cassette recorders	11,214	89.1%	1,490	88.9%	749	88.0%	121	87.1%
1	7,317	58.1%	1,032	61.6%	533	62.6%	79	57.3%
2 or more	3,897	31.0%	458	27.4%	216	25.4%	41	29.8%
Home computer	9,059	72.0%	1,287	76.8%	678	79.6%	110	79.2%
Internet use from home	8,092	64.3%	1,181	70.5%	628	73.7%	106	76.3%
Type of Internet connection								
Regular phone connection to a computer	1,786	14.2%	133	7.9%	46	5.4%	F	F
High-speed phone connection to a computer	3,066	24.4%	408	24.4%	222	26.0%	32	23.5%
Cable connection to a computer	3,123	24.8%	622	37.1%	349	40.9%	66	47.8%
Other type of connection	116	0.9%	F	F	F	F	F	F
Colour televisions	12,467	99.0%	1,653	98.6%	843	99.0%	130	94.0%
1	4,455	35.4%	681	40.6%	382	44.8%	55	39.8%
2	4,539	36.1%	551	32.9%	269	31.6%	47	33.9%
3 or more	3,473	27.6%	421	25.1%	192	22.6%	F	F
With a vehicle (owned or leased)	10,524	83.6%	1,428	85.2%	696	81.8%	117	84.8%
Owned vehicles (automobiles, trucks and vans)	9,944	79.0%	1,381	82.4%	663	77.9%	115	83.4%
1	5,480	43.5%	734	43.8%	374	43.9%	65	47.0%
2 or more	4,464	35.5%	647	38.6%	290	34.0%	50	36.4%
Owned automobiles	7,765	61.7%	1,047	62.5%	530	62.2%	89	64.0%
1	5,778	45.9%	807	48.2%	391	45.9%	71	51.1%
2 or more	1,987	15.8%	240	14.3%	139	16.3%	F	F
Owned vans and trucks	4,640	36.9%	746	44.5%	296	34.8%	60	43.5%
1	3,750	29.8%	597	35.6%	240	28.2%	51	36.5%
2 or more	890	7.1%	149	8.9%	56	6.6%	F	F
Leased vehicles (automobiles, trucks and vans)	1,274	10.1%	89	5.3%	58	6.8%	F	F
1	1,079	8.6%	78	4.6%	49	5.7%	F	F
2 or more	195	1.5%	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. 007 "User Guide for the Survey of Household Spending, 2005" <http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=62F0026M2006001>), 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.