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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
- 0^s 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

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Who we are and what we do

Statistics Canada has been producing environment statistics since the mid-1970s. Since then, the environment statistics program has evolved to what is now known as Environment Accounts and Statistics Division (EASD), which is part of the System of National Accounts Branch.

Our mandate is to collect, develop, compile, analyze and publish environmental data, emphasizing their integration with socio-economic data. Our objective is to provide users in government, business and the public at large with consistent, comprehensive, timely and relevant statistics with which to study the relationship between the environment and human activity.

We do this through four main activities:

- Integration of environmental data (both those collected within and outside of Statistics Canada) with socio-economic data in the form of consistent, comprehensive databases that employ a variety of organizational frameworks;
- Collection of environmental data directly from businesses, households and governments through on-going and occasional surveys;
- Dissemination of environmental statistics through a variety of catalogued products presenting descriptive analysis and statistics in print format and in electronic format; and
- Research and development related to environmental statistics.

Our statistical program comprises three major elements:

- Environmental accounts and indicators;
- Environmental surveys;
- Analytical publications (*Human Activity and the Environment* and *EnviroStats*).

To contact us

For general inquiries and questions about our products and services, please call the Information Officer (613-951-0297), fax (613-951-0634) or email environ@statcan.gc.ca.

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Enviro quick facts

The following highlights are taken from Environment Accounts and Statistics Division publications.

Human Activity and the Environment, 2010

- Renewable water resources have declined in Southern Canada over the past three decades. From 1971 to 2004, water yield, which is an estimate of renewable freshwater, fell in Southern Canada by 3.5 cubic kilometres a year.
- The area in Canada that had the lowest water yield, and the highest variability in water yield between 1971 and 2004, was the Prairies. Water yield in this area decreased over these 34 years by an amount roughly equivalent to half of the long-term average annual water yield.
- The southern part of the country, where 98% of the population is located, is responsible for 38% of the water yield.
- In 2005, an estimated 42 cubic kilometres of water were withdrawn from the environment and used in household and economic activities in Canada.
- More than 90% of the water that was withdrawn went to support economic activity, and about 9% was used directly by the residential sector. The sector that used the most water overall, by a considerable margin, was Thermal-electric power generation.
- In 2005, total water withdrawals in Canada amounted to 1.2% of the average annual renewable water resources. More pressure however, is placed on water resources in some areas of the country than in others, with this pressure peaking in summer.
- In August 2005, more than 40% of the water yield in the Okanagan–Similkameen drainage region and the Prairies was withdrawn by agriculture, industry and households. In the Prairies, where stocks are limited, water demand must be met primarily by renewable water, and water shortages are evident when demand exceeds the renewable supply.

EnviroStats, 2010

- Between 2005 and 2007, drinking water plants in Canada produced an average of 5,628 million cubic metres of treated water each year. On an annual basis, production of treated water remained stable nationally over the three-year period. However, production varied widely on a seasonal basis. Compared to the annual daily averages for Canada for each year, treated water production was 11% less in December and 21% greater in July. Drainage regions in the interior south of British Columbia and at the southern limits of Alberta and Saskatchewan experienced the greatest seasonal variation in treated water production. Those in the Atlantic provinces experienced the least.
- In 2007, 68% of Canadian households reported that they lived within five minutes of public transit, and 41% of those households used it regularly. Travel to work did not dominate the use of public transit on a household level: close to half of the households using public transit regularly in 2007 were using it for non-work travel only.
- From 1990 to 2009, the dollar value of Canada's natural resource wealth—including energy and minerals in the ground, or accessible stands of timber in forests—grew on average by 6% per year. Our abundance of natural resources as well as increasing demand for natural resource commodities worldwide are among the main factors that have contributed to this growth.

Industrial Water Use, 2007

- Total water intake in 2007 by all three industry groups surveyed was 33.6 billion cubic metres. The thermal-electric power producers withdrew 82.9% of this total, manufacturing industries took just over 15.5% of the total and the mining industries were responsible for the remaining 1.6% of the total water intake.
- Total wastewater discharge in 2007 for the three industry groups was 32.8 billion cubic metres. The thermal-electric power producers accounted for 83.3% of this total, manufacturing industries discharged 14.4% of the total and the mining industries were responsible for 2.3% of the total water discharge.
- The thermal-electric power producers accounted for 46.6% of the 9.4 billion cubic metres of recirculated water noted in the survey while manufacturing industries recirculated 30.7% of this total and mining industries the remaining 22.6%.
- Total water costs for the three major industry components measured in the survey were \$1,624.2 million.

Environmental Protection Expenditures in the Business Sector, 2008

- Businesses operating in Canada spent \$9.1 billion in 2008 to protect the environment, up 5.3% from 2006. Following a long-standing trend, the largest share of these expenditures was spent to deal with pollutants after they were created.
- Of the \$3.8 billion in capital expenditures made for environmental protection, the majority was for pollution abatement and control (44%), followed by pollution prevention (25%).
- In 2008, investments in pollution prevention totalled \$959 million, down 37% from 2006.
- Provincially, businesses in Alberta spent the most in capital to protect the environment (\$1.7 billion), followed by Ontario (\$580 million) and Quebec (\$439 million). The large investments in Alberta are mainly due to high expenditures made by the oil and gas extraction industry.
- Operating expenditures for environmental protection totalled \$5.2 billion in 2008, up almost 10% from 2006. These expenditures were mostly directed towards waste management and sewerage services (\$1.6 billion) followed by pollution abatement and control (\$1.3 billion).
- Similar to the 2006 results, the oil and gas extraction industry had the highest operating expenditures for 2008, mainly for site reclamation and decommissioning. Provincially, Ontario (\$1.6 billion) led the way followed closely by Alberta (\$1.4 billion).
- Businesses spent \$1.7 billion in 2008 on energy-related processes and technologies, down 15% from 2006. Unlike environmental protection expenditures, these expenditures are not restricted to those made in response to environmental regulations, conventions or voluntary agreements.

Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors, 2008

- Nationally, the amount of waste sent to private and public waste disposal facilities remained relatively stable between 2006 and 2008, totalling about 26 million tonnes. New Brunswick saw the greatest decline in waste disposal, with a drop of approximately 6% between 2006 and 2008. Saskatchewan had the highest increase, at approximately 8% over the same period.
- Residential waste disposal fell by 4% from 2006, while non-residential disposal rose by 2%. Alberta had the highest proportion of waste disposed from non-residential sources at 76%.

- The amount of waste diverted per Canadian to recycling or organic processing facilities rose from 237 to 254 kilograms per person.
- The total quantity of materials sent to recycling or organic processing facilities increased by approximately 10% to 8.5 million tonnes in 2008.
- Operating revenues for governments from the provision of waste management services reached \$1.8 billion in 2008. Current expenditures totalled \$2.6 billion, compared to \$2.1 billion in 2006. Full-time employment in the government sector of the waste management industry rose by approximately 5%.
- Between 2006 and 2008, revenues of Canadian businesses providing waste management services climbed 13%. Full-time employment by these businesses increased nationally by about 13% during the same period.

Households and the Environment: Energy Use 2007

- Canadian households used almost 1.4 million terajoules (TJ) of energy in 2007.
- An average household's energy consumption in 2007 was 106 gigajoules (GJ).
- Average household energy consumption was lower for apartment dwellers (44 GJ) than those in single-family dwellings (137 GJ).
- Between 2003 and 2007, 50% of households that owned their dwelling and were not in apartments made at least one improvement to their dwelling intended to reduce energy consumption.

Environment Accounts and Statistics Analytical and Technical Paper Series

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Private Vehicles in Canada, 1990 to 2007

by Berouk Terefe (Catalogue no. 16-001-M2010012)

The paper examines the contribution of the household sector to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Canada, through its use of private motor vehicles. Emissions estimates are presented at national, provincial and census metropolitan area (CMA) levels. The study uses data from the Canadian Vehicle Survey (CVS), conducted by Statistics Canada's Transportation Division and the Material and Energy Flow Accounts (MEFA) from Environment Accounts and Energy Statistics Division (EASD).

At the national level the study presents estimates of vehicle emissions, GHG intensity, as well as per capita emissions. Total and per capita emissions by income group are also presented at the national level. At the provincial and CMA levels, the study presents the first survey based estimates of total and per capita vehicle emissions. It also explores the regional differences and examines the contributing factors.

Recycling by Canadian Households, 2007

by A. Munroe (Catalogue no. 16-001-M2010013)

Recycling has become a common habit for most Canadian households. These households have many choices when it comes to recycling: they decide whether or not to recycle, how much to recycle, and what methods to use when they do. Using data from the 2007 Households and the Environment Survey, the paper examines recycling decisions made by Canadian households, some of the reasoning behind those decisions, and the relationship between recycling behaviour and a selection of demographic factors.

Using a Trend-cycle Approach to Estimate Changes in Southern Canada's Water Yield from 1971 to 2004

by Robert Bemrose, Peter Meszaros, Benoit Quenneville, Mark Henry, Laura Kemp, and François Soulard
(Catalogue no. 16-001-M2010014)

Quantifying how Canada's water yield has changed over time is an important component of the water accounts maintained by Statistics Canada. This study evaluates the movement in the series of annual water yield estimates for Southern Canada from 1971 to 2004. We estimated the movement in the series using a trend-cycle approach and found that water yield for southern Canada has generally decreased over the period of observation.

Our accounts, surveys, and products

Environmental accounts

Natural Resource Stock Accounts

Definitions, data sources and methods — record no. 5114

The Natural Resource Stock Accounts measure quantities of natural resources *in situ* (crude oil and bitumen, natural gas, coal, metals, non-metallic minerals, timber and land) and the annual changes in these stocks due to natural processes and human activity.

These accounts, which are recorded using both physical and monetary units, form the basis of estimates of Canada's natural resource wealth. These selected natural resource assets represented over 40% of Canada's national wealth in 2007.

The lengths of the time series presented in the natural resource stock accounts vary with the resource in question. They also depend upon whether the accounts are presented in physical or monetary units—many of the physical accounts begin in 1961, while the value estimates generally begin in the mid-1970s. These long time-series are available on CANSIM and through the System of National Accounts module of Statistics Canada's website.

Material and Energy Flows Accounts

Definitions, data sources and methods — record no. 5115

The purpose of these accounts is to estimate the flows of material and energy within the economy and between the economy and the environment. There are three main components of the Material and Energy Flows Accounts—greenhouse gas emissions, energy use and water use.

Each of these is available by industry, and each account can be integrated with the input-output tables for analytical purposes. Unlike the stock accounts, the Material and Energy Flow Accounts are produced only in physical units of measure. Data are available on CANSIM and through the System of National Accounts module of Statistics Canada's website.

It should be noted that the source data for the water use accounts is no longer available, and as such the last compilation of this account was for the reference year 1996. However, there are plans to re-establish the water use account using data from the new Industrial Water Survey.

Surveys

Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors

Definitions, data sources and methods — record nos. 2009 and 1736

Catalogue no. 16F0023X

The Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors gathers information on the financial characteristics and waste management activities undertaken by companies, local governments and other public waste management bodies. The results of these surveys provide a picture of physical characteristics of waste disposal and recycling as well as financial and employment features of businesses and local governments that provide waste management services.

Households and the Environment Survey

Definitions, data sources and methods — record no. 3881

Catalogue no. 11-526-X

The Households and the Environment Survey (HES) is conducted to measure household behaviours that may affect the environment. The major themes covered by the HES are those of water quality concerns, consumption and conservation of water, household energy use, use of gasoline-powered equipment, the application of pesticides and fertilizers on lawns and gardens, recycling, composting and waste disposal practices, impacts of air and water quality on households, and transportation decisions.

Households and the Environment: Energy Use

Definitions, data sources and methods — record no. 3881

Catalogue no. 11-526-S

This report presents results from the Households and the Environment Survey Energy Use supplement. It includes information on the use of home heating equipment and fuels, household energy use, as well as participation in certain energy-saving activities.

Survey of Environmental Goods and Services

Definitions, data sources and methods — record no. 1209

Catalogue no. 16F0008X or the Daily release June 28, 2010

The purpose of the Survey of Environmental Goods and Services is to produce estimates of the production of environmental goods and services by industry. The survey collects data on revenues from sales of environmental goods and services related to this production.

Survey of Environmental Protection Expenditures

Definitions, data sources and methods — record no. 1903

Catalogue no. 16F0006X

The Survey of Environmental Protection Expenditures (SEPE) provides a measure of the costs imposed on industry to meet Canadian and international environmental regulations, conventions or voluntary agreements. The survey covers capital and operating expenditures by businesses for environmental protection.

Industrial Water Survey

Definitions, data sources and methods — record no. 5120

Catalogue no. 16-401-X

This survey provides information on the volume of water brought into the facility, including information on the source, purpose, treatment and possible re-circulation of this water, by industrial users. As well, data is collected on the volumes of water discharged and treatment of this discharged water by industrial users. Cost information on the intake and discharge of water is also collected. This survey is being conducted to fulfill the requirements for producing national environmental indicators of water quality.

Agricultural Water Use Survey

Definitions, data sources and methods — record no. 5145

Catalogue no. 16-001-M2009008

The Agricultural Water Use Survey is conducted to gather information on water use, irrigation methods and practices, and sources and quality of water used for agricultural purposes on Canadian farms.

Survey of Drinking Water Plants

Definitions, data sources and methods — record no. 5149

Catalogue no. 16-403-X

The Survey of Drinking Water Plants is conducted to provide Canadians with national and regional information related to the production of drinking water. The survey is a census of drinking water plants serving more than 300 people. It asks for information on volumes of water drawn and treated, treatment type, financial aspects of the operation, as well as source and treated water quality.

Households and the Environment Survey: Public Use Microdata File

Definitions, data sources and methods — record no. 3881

Catalogue no. 16M0001XCB

The file provides data for Canada, the provinces and census metropolitan areas and includes information on a wide range of topics, including water quality concerns; consumption and conservation of water; energy use and home heating and cooling; pesticide and fertilizer use on lawns and gardens; recycling, composting and waste disposal practices; motor vehicle use. It also provides information on the socio-demographic, income and labour force characteristics of the population.

Survey of Industrial Processes (SIP)

Definitions, data sources and methods — record no. 5163

The Survey of Industrial Processes (SIP) is an annual industry-specific business survey designed to link economic data with relevant industrial processes and environmental outcomes. It collects data on activities and engineering processes that contribute to environmental emissions with particular emphasis on small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Analytical publications

Environment Accounts and Statistics Analytical and Technical Paper Series

Catalogue no. 16-001-M

The series covers environment accounts and indicators, environmental surveys, spatial environmental information and other research related to environmental statistics. The technical paper series is intended to stimulate discussion on a range of environmental topics.

EnviroStats

Catalogue no. 16-002-X

EnviroStats is a quarterly bulletin providing regular statistical analysis of environmental topics written for a broad audience. At the core of each issue is a feature article on a particular topic. Shorter articles highlight new statistical developments or introduce new concepts. The bulletin also includes data tables on sustainable development indicators and updates on related statistical activities such as upcoming releases and surveys.

Human Activity and the Environment

Catalogue no. 16-201-X

Canadians recognize the importance of a clean and healthy environment. We understand that the capacity of the environment to supply materials and absorb wastes is finite. But to be effective at reducing our collective impact on the environment we need systematic, accessible and relevant information.

Each issue of *Human Activity and the Environment* features an analytical article covering a current environmental issue of concern to Canadians. It is complimented by the compendium of environmental statistics (16-201-S), which will come out biennially starting in June 2011.

Related products

Selected publications from Environment Accounts and Statistics Division (EASD)

11-526-S	Households and the Environment: Energy Use
11-526-X	Households and the Environment
16-001-M	Environment Accounts and Statistics Analytical and Technical Paper Series
16-002-X	EnviroStats
16-201-X	Human Activity and the Environment
16-251-X	Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators
16-252-X	Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators: Highlights
16-253-X	Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators: Socio-economic Information
16-254-X	Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators: Air Quality Indicators: Data Sources and Methods
16-255-X	Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Indicator: Data Sources and Methods
16-256-X	Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators: Freshwater Quality Indicator: Data Sources and Methods
16-403-X	Survey of Drinking Water Plants
16-505-G	Concepts, Sources and Methods of the Canadian System of Environmental and Resource Accounts
16F0002X	Waste Management Industry Survey: Government Sector, 1994
16F0003X	Waste Management Industry Survey: Business Sector, 1995
16F0006P	Environmental Protection Expenditures in the Business Sector, Preliminary Data
16F0006X	Environmental Protection Expenditures in the Business Sector
16F0007X	Environment Industry, 1995, Preliminary Data
16F0008X	Environment Industry: Business Sector
16F0009X	International Trade in Environmental Goods and Services: A Canada - U.S. Comparison
16F0021X	The St. Lawrence River Valley 1998 Ice Storm: Maps and Facts
16F0023X	Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors

16F0024X	Environmental Management and Technologies in the Business Sector
16F0025X	A Geographic Profile of Manure Production in Canada
16M0001X	Households and the Environment Survey: Public Use Microdata File

Selected technical and analytical products from EASD

16-001-M2004001	Measuring Employment in the Environment Industry
16-001-M2005002	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Technologies: Industry Expenditures and Business Opportunities
16-001-M2007003	Behaviour Study on the Water Quality Index of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
16-001-M2007004	Environment Surveys of Establishments: The Canadian Experience
16-001-M2008005	Canadian Industry's Expenditures to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
16-001-M2008006	Controlling the Temperature in Canadian Homes
16-001-M2009007	The Water Yield for Canada As a Thirty-year Average (1971 to 2000): Concepts, Methodology and Initial Results
16-001-M2009008	Agricultural Water Use Survey 2007, Methodology Report
16-001-M2009009	Personal Use Vehicles in Canada: Fuel Consumption Profile and Comparative Analysis of the 2007 Canadian Vehicle Survey Results
16-001-M2009010	Drinking Water Decisions of Canadian Municipal Households
16-001-M2010011	Introducing a New Concept and Methodology for Delineating Settlement Boundaries: A Research Project on Canadian Settlements
16-001-M2010012	Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Private Vehicles in Canada, 1990 to 2007
16-001-M2010013	Recycling by Canadian Households, 2007
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16-002-X200800210622	Gone fishing: A profile of recreational fishing in Canada
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16-002-X200800210625	Canada's ecozones and population change, 1981 to 2006
16-002-X200800310684	Thermostat use in Canadian homes
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16-002-X200900210890	Targeting environmental protection expenditures in the manufacturing sector
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16-002-X200900411030	The Canadian manufacturing industry: Investments and use of energy-related processes or technologies
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1736	Waste Management Industry Survey: Government Sector
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3438	Census of Agriculture
3881	Households and the Environment Survey
5114	Canadian System of Environmental and Resource Accounts - Natural Resource Stock Accounts

5115	Canadian System of Environmental and Resource Accounts - Material and Energy Flow Accounts
5120	Industrial Water Survey
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5129	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Indicator
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8012	Census of Agriculture: Environmental Geography Aggregations of Census Farm Units

Selected summary tables from EASD

- *Revenues from sales of environmental goods and services, by industry*
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