

The Daily

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More Canadian households were participating in measures to conserve energy in 2009, such as using energy-efficient light bulbs and programmable thermostats, according to new results from the 2009 Households and the Environment Survey.	
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Releases

Households and the Environment Survey

2009

More Canadian households were participating in measures to conserve energy in 2009, such as using energy-efficient light bulbs and programmable thermostats.

The majority (88%) of households reported that they were using at least one of four different types of energy-efficient lights: compact fluorescent lights, fluorescent tube lights, halogen lights or light-emitting diode lights.

The use of low-flow shower heads more than doubled during the past two decades, and more households reported having low-volume toilets.

Households appear to be relying less on bottled water at home, with the majority drinking tap water. Fewer households on municipal water systems treated their tap water prior to drinking it compared with 2007.

More than one-third of Canadian households had unwanted electronic devices such as cell phones, computer monitors and televisions to dispose of in 2009, and more than a fifth reported they had dead or unwanted compact fluorescent lights to discard.

In 2009, 8 out of 10 households reported they had purchased environmentally-friendly, or "green" cleaning products. In addition, reusable and recycled bags and containers have increased in popularity among shoppers for carrying their groceries.

Energy conservation

In 2009, energy accounted for about 15% of an average household's annual spending on shelter, according to Statistics Canada's Survey of Household Spending.

Nationally, three-quarters of households reported having at least one compact fluorescent light. The proportion was highest in Nova Scotia (84%).

Just over one-third (35%) of households reported having a halogen light and 7% had the highly energy-efficient lights that use light-emitting diodes.

Nearly half (49%) of the households that had a thermostat had one that could be programmed, up from 42% in 2007 and 84% of these households had implemented the programming option.

Just under three-quarters (74%) of households that had programmed their thermostat used it to lower the

Note to readers

This release is based on new results from the 2009 Households and the Environment Survey (HES), which collects information on households' activities related to the environment. More than 14,750 households were surveyed by telephone in late 2009.

The 2009 survey covered several major themes, including consumption and conservation of energy and water, indoor environment, household hazardous waste, and purchasing decisions.

The HES is a biennial survey conducted under the umbrella of the Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators program, an initiative of Statistics Canada, Environment Canada and Health Canada.

temperature while they were asleep. Households in Saskatchewan and Manitoba were the most likely to have done this.

Almost two-thirds of households reported that they used a clothesline or drying rack in 2009 as an alternative to a clothes dryer.

Household hazardous waste

About 45% of households that had unwanted electronic devices had taken or sent them to a depot or drop-off centre, up from 19% in 2005. About 11% of households put them in the garbage, down from 16% in 2005. Around 22% said they had donated the items to a charity or given them away.

Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) contain mercury, which can have a significant impact on both human health and the environment if not properly disposed of. Generally, these items are not accepted in the regular garbage stream. More than one-half (56%) of households reported that they put their dead or unwanted CFLs into the garbage. About 24% said they took or sent them to a depot or drop-off centre.

Households in Ontario and British Columbia were least likely to have put the CFLs into the garbage.

Water conservation

More households were taking steps to reduce water consumption. In 2009, 63% used a low-flow shower head, more than double the proportion of 28% in 1991, with the highest proportion in New Brunswick (67%).

About 42% reported having a low-volume toilet in 2009, compared with 9% in 1991. Almost half (48%) of households in Ontario reported having a low-volume toilet, the highest proportion provincially.

Households that did not have a municipal water supply were more likely to use both devices.

About 18% of households not in apartments had a barrel or cistern to catch rain water. These were used most commonly by households in the three Prairie provinces.

Drinking water: Fewer households drank primarily bottled water

Canadian households were less likely to have consumed bottled water at home in 2009. About 24% of households reported bottled water as their primary type of drinking water, down from 30% in 2007. About 9% reported that they drank both tap and bottled water equally.

Just over half (51%) of households that had municipally-supplied water treated it before using it. Jug filters were the most common form of filtration device used by these households, with 35% reporting one.

A similar proportion of households (49%) that obtained their water from a non-municipal source, such as a well, treated it prior to consumption. Filters and purifiers on the main supply pipe were most commonly used (29%), followed by jug filters (15%).

Radon awareness and testing

Radon is a radioactive gas that is colourless, odourless and tasteless. It is formed by the breakdown of uranium, a natural radioactive material found in soil, rock and groundwater. In enclosed spaces, such as basements, it can sometimes accumulate to high levels, which can be a health risk.

About 42% of households reported they had heard of radon gas, and just under half of those who had (49%) were able to describe it correctly. Households in Manitoba and Nova Scotia were most likely to have heard of it (60%).

The only way to know if radon is present in a dwelling is to test for it. About 3% of households that had heard of radon and were not in apartments had tested their dwelling for radon. Most (78%) had conducted the testing within the last 10 years.

Available on CANSIM: tables 153-0059, 153-0060, 153-0062, 153-0063, 153-0066 and 153-0098.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3881.

The publication *Households and the Environment*, 2009 (11-526-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Environment*.

A CD-ROM, *Households and the Environment Survey: Public Use Microdata File*, 2009 (16M0001X, free), is also available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-0297; environ@statcan.gc.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

New Housing Price Index

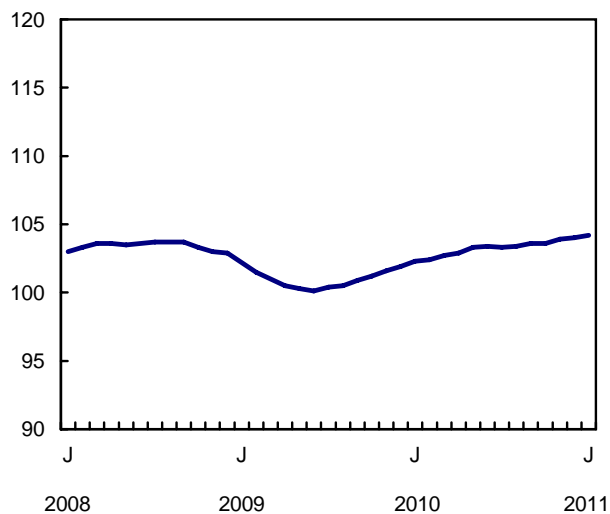
January 2011

The New Housing Price Index (NHPI) rose 0.2% in January following a 0.1% advance in December.

Toronto and Oshawa, as well as Montréal were the top contributors to the NHPI increase in January.

Evolution of the New Housing Price Index

index (2007=100)



Between December and January, prices increased the most in Winnipeg (+0.7%), followed by Québec (+0.5%), Toronto and Oshawa, and Montréal (both up 0.4%).

In Winnipeg, prices rose as a result of builders introducing new list prices in January.

In Toronto and Oshawa, builders reported increased prices as a result of good market conditions.

In Québec and Montréal, the increases were mainly attributed to higher material and labour costs.

Price decreases were recorded in the Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton metropolitan regions aggregation, as well as in Hamilton (both down 0.2%) and Edmonton (-0.1%).

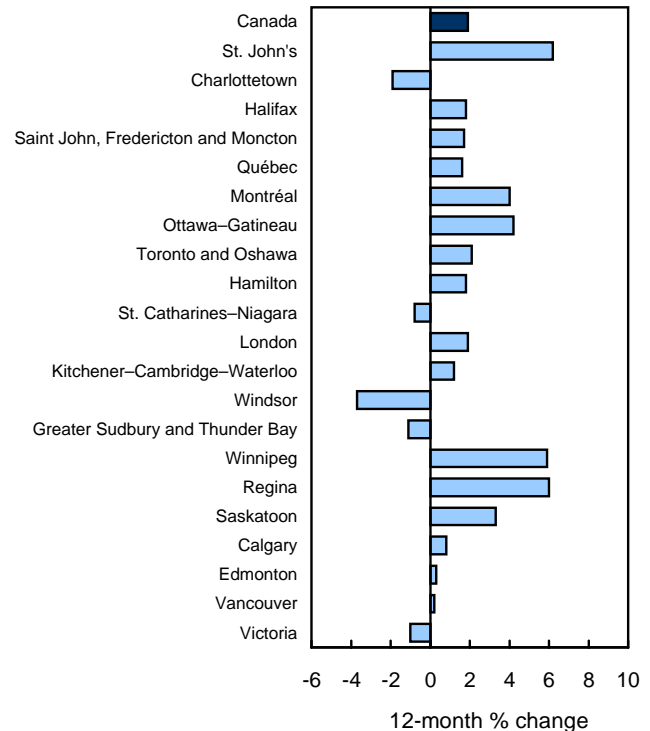
In Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton, slower market conditions caused builders to reduce their prices in order to stimulate sales.

In Hamilton, as well as in Edmonton, builders reported lower negotiated selling prices in January.

Year over year, the NHPI was up 1.9% in January following a 2.1% increase in December.

The main contributors to the year-over-year increase of the NHPI in January were the metropolitan regions of Toronto and Oshawa, Montréal and Ottawa–Gatineau.

St. John's posts the highest year-over-year price increase



For the third month in a row, the largest year-over-year increase was recorded in St. John's (+6.2%).

Compared with January 2010, contractors' selling prices were also higher in Regina (+6.0%) and Winnipeg (+5.9%).

Among the 21 metropolitan regions surveyed, 5 registered 12-month declines in January: Windsor (-3.7%), Charlottetown (-1.9%), Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay (-1.1%), Victoria (-1.0%) and St. Catharines–Niagara (-0.8%).

Note: The New Housing Price Index measures changes over time in the selling prices of new residential houses agreed upon between the contractor and the buyer at the time of the signing of the contract. It is designed to measure the changes in the selling prices of new houses where detailed specifications pertaining to each house remain the same between two consecutive periods. The prices collected from builders and included in the index are market selling prices less value added taxes, such as the Federal Goods and Services Tax or the Harmonized Sales Tax.

This release presents data that are not seasonally adjusted and the indexes published are final.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The fourth quarter 2010 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in April.

The new housing price indexes for February will be released on April 12.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-4550; toll-free 1-888-951-4550; fax: 613-951-3117; ppd-info-dpp@statcan.gc.ca), Producer Prices Division.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0046.

New housing price indexes

	Relative importance ¹	January 2010	December 2010	January 2011	December 2010 to January 2011	January 2010 to January 2011
	%	(2007=100)			% change	
Canada total	100.00	102.3	104.0	104.2	0.2	1.9
House only	...	101.8	103.7	104.0	0.3	2.2
Land only	...	103.2	103.9	104.0	0.1	0.8
St. John's	1.79	138.6	146.9	147.2	0.2	6.2
Charlottetown	0.25	101.9	100.0	100.0	0.0	-1.9
Halifax	1.24	109.6	111.6	111.6	0.0	1.8
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton ²	0.70	106.1	108.1	107.9	-0.2	1.7
Québec	2.91	115.4	116.7	117.3	0.5	1.6
Montréal	11.19	108.5	112.3	112.8	0.4	4.0
Ottawa-Gatineau	5.68	107.2	111.6	111.7	0.1	4.2
Toronto and Oshawa ²	27.39	105.6	107.4	107.8	0.4	2.1
Hamilton	2.94	102.0	104.0	103.8	-0.2	1.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	0.96	104.5	103.7	103.7	0.0	-0.8
London	1.60	105.5	107.5	107.5	0.0	1.9
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	2.21	103.5	104.7	104.7	0.0	1.2
Windsor	0.45	100.8	97.1	97.1	0.0	-3.7
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay ²	0.67	106.5	105.0	105.3	0.3	-1.1
Winnipeg	2.14	114.7	120.7	121.5	0.7	5.9
Regina	0.92	134.1	142.1	142.1	0.0	6.0
Saskatoon	1.36	112.2	115.7	115.9	0.2	3.3
Calgary	11.44	95.1	95.6	95.9	0.3	0.8
Edmonton	11.87	88.7	89.1	89.0	-0.1	0.3
Vancouver	10.97	98.2	98.4	98.4	0.0	0.2
Victoria	1.39	89.7	88.8	88.8	0.0	-1.0

... not applicable

1. The relative importance is calculated using a price adjusted three-year average of the value of building completions for each metropolitan area.

2. In order to ensure data confidentiality, the following census metropolitan areas and census agglomeration are grouped together as follows: Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton; Toronto and Oshawa; and Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

Note: View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.

Supply and disposition of refined petroleum products

November 2010

Data on the supply and disposition of refined petroleum products are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: tables 134-0001 to 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

The November 2010 issue of *The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada*, Vol. 65, no. 11 (45-004-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

Forage seed usage

2010

Data from the Forage Seed Usage Survey are now available on demand for 2010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3442.

To order data, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yves Gilbert (613-951-2577; yves.gilbert@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Motion picture theatres

2009

Data on the motion picture theatre industry are now available for 2009.

Available on CANSIM: tables 361-0012 and 361-0028.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2416.

The publication *Service Bulletin: Motion Picture Theatres*, 2009 (87F0009X, free), will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-801-3282; 613-951-4612; servicesind@statcan.gc.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

New products and studies

Households and the Environment, 2009
Catalogue number 11-526-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Households and the Environment Survey: Public Use Microdata File, 2009
Catalogue number 16M0001X (CD-ROM, free)

The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada, November 2010, Vol. 65, no. 11
Catalogue number 45-004-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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