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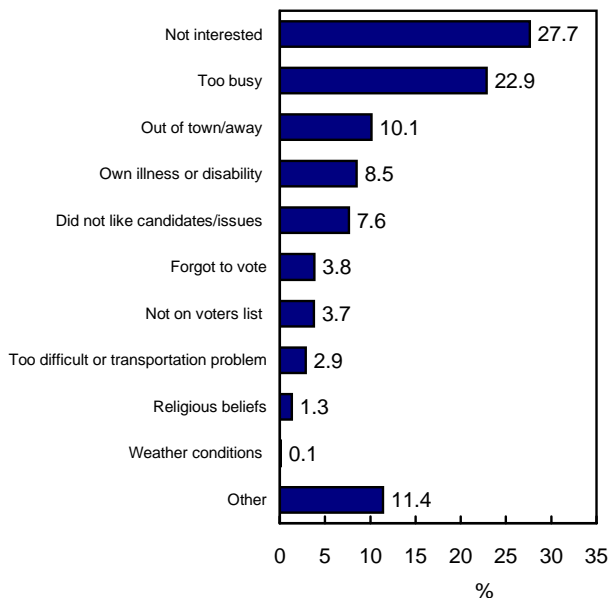
Releases

Reasons for not voting in the May 2, 2011 federal election

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More than one-quarter of the 7.5 million eligible voters who reported they did not cast a ballot in the May 2, 2011 federal election indicated they did not do so because they were not interested in voting. Another 23% said they were too busy to vote.

Main reason for not voting, May 2011 federal election



The most common response for not having voted was that they were "not interested in voting" (28%), which also includes feeling their vote would not have made a difference in the election results.

An additional 23% indicated they were "too busy", which includes having family obligations or having a schedule conflict at work or school.

Another 10% said they were out of town or away, while 8% reported they did not like the candidates or campaign issues. Roughly 4% indicated they forgot to

Note to readers

Data for this release were derived from three questions added to the May 2011 Labour Force Survey, commissioned by Elections Canada, to determine the main reasons Canadians did not vote in the May 2, 2011 federal election.

These voluntary questions were: a) Are you a Canadian citizen; b) Did you vote in the recent federal election held on Monday, May 2, 2011; and, if they did not vote, c) What is the main reason you did not vote?

Previous studies and post-elections surveys commissioned by Elections Canada have consistently shown that voter turnout rates reported in those studies are 14 to 22 percentage points higher than official Elections Canada turnout rates. The estimate for the voter turnout rate in this special LFS study (70.0%) also differs from the official figure published by Elections Canada (61.4%) following the May 2, 2011 federal election. The intention of this study, however, was to focus on the reasons for not voting rather than voter turnout rates.

For the sake of brevity, the reason "not interested in voting" also includes those who indicated that they felt that their vote would not make a difference in the election results. As well, the term "too busy" also includes having family obligations or having a work or school schedule conflict.

vote, while just over 1% said they did not vote because of religious beliefs.

About 29% of male non-voters said they did not vote because they were not interested, compared with 26% of women. Men were also slightly more likely to report that they were too busy to vote. However, female non-voters were more likely than men to indicate they did not vote because of an illness or disability (11% versus 6%).

Age groups

Reasons for not voting differed across age groups. Among young people aged 18 to 24 who did not vote, the most common reason was that they were not interested in voting, cited by 30%. Another 23% reported they were too busy, while 11% said they were out of town or away.

For adults aged 25 to 34 who did not vote, 31% indicated they were not interested in voting, while a nearly identical proportion (30%) said they were too busy.

Among seniors aged 65 to 74 who did not vote, the two most common reasons were their own illness or disability (22%) and that they were not interested (21%). The most common reason among individuals aged 75 and over was illness or disability (44%).

The provinces

The proportion of people who did not vote because they were not interested or they felt their vote would not have made a difference was above the national average in four provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Saskatchewan. The percentage was highest in Quebec (35%).

Among non-voters who reported that they were too busy, the proportions were above the national average in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The percentage was highest in Alberta (28%).

Among non-voters who lived in centres with a population of fewer than 10,000, 33% reported that they were not interested in voting. This compares with 26% of non-voters who lived in large urban centres with more than 100,000 people.

In contrast, non-voters in the biggest cities were more likely to indicate they were too busy (24%). This compares with 20% of those in centres of fewer than 10,000.

Educational attainment

The reasons for non-voting varied widely based on a person's educational attainment.

Among non-voters with less than a high school education, 30% indicated they were not interested in voting, while 17% reported an illness or disability that kept them from voting, and 14% said they were too busy.

In contrast, 28% of non-voters with a university degree cited being too busy as the main reason. An additional 22% indicated they were not interested in voting, while 16% reported they were out of town or away.

Immigrants and Canadian citizens by birth

Reasons for not voting were different between immigrants with Canadian citizenship and Canadian citizens by birth.

Among immigrants with Canadian citizenship who had landed within the previous 10 years and who indicated they did not vote, 35% said they did not vote because they were too busy. An additional 13% said they were not interested, while 8% said they were not on the voter's list.

Among immigrants with Canadian citizenship who landed more than 10 years earlier and who did not vote, 23% indicated that the main reason for not voting was they were too busy. An additional 20% indicated they were not interested, and 12% said they were ill or had a disability.

On the other hand, Canadian citizens by birth who did not vote were most likely to indicate they did not do so because they were either not interested in voting (30%) or they were too busy (22%).

Employment status

Reasons for not voting also differed by employment status. Non-voters who were employed were far more likely than unemployed non-voters to report they were too busy (30% versus 14%).

On the other hand, unemployed non-voters were most likely to indicate that they were not interested in voting (39%).

About 21% of non-voters who were not in the labour force cited an illness or disability.

Non-voting by employment status is related to age distribution. Almost half of unemployed non-voters were under the age of 35, while about half of those not in the labour force were seniors aged 65 and over.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jason Gilmore (613-951-7118; jason.gilmore@statcan.gc.ca) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

□

Reasons for not voting among those that did not vote, by sex and by age group, May 2011 federal election

	Not interested	Too busy	Out of town/away	Own illness/disability	Did not like candidates/issues
	%				
Total	27.7	22.9	10.1	8.5	7.6
Male	29.2	23.5	11.5	6.0	8.0
Female	26.1	22.2	8.8	10.9	7.3
18 to 24 years	29.9	22.6	11.4	2.9	4.3
18 to 21 years	29.7	21.5	9.9	2.5	4.4
22 to 24 years	30.2	24.0	13.3	3.4	4.1
25 to 34 years	30.8	30.4	8.5	4.1	6.0
35 to 44 years	27.5	28.8	8.8	4.7	8.0
45 to 54 years	29.1	22.1	10.2	6.6	9.9
55 to 64 years	25.8	15.6	13.6	11.1	12.4
65 to 74 years	21.3	7.7	14.1	22.3	8.9
75 years and over	13.4	4.3 ^E	6.2	44.4	5.9

^E coefficient of variation between 16.5% and 33.3%; interpret with caution

Note: "Too busy" also includes family obligations and work/school schedule conflict. "Not interested" also includes feeling that their vote would not make a difference.

Reasons for not voting among those who did not vote, by geography, May 2011 federal election

	Not interested	Too busy	Out of town/away	Own illness/disability	Did not like candidates/issues
	%				
Canada	27.7	22.9	10.1	8.5	7.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	30.4	19.3	15.9	8.8	7.9
Prince Edward Island	27.2	19.7	11.3 ^E	12.7	7.0 ^E
Nova Scotia	30.9	19.6	10.5	9.0	10.8
New Brunswick	26.8	20.7	12.1	9.2	7.1
Quebec	35.3	19.3	8.5	10.8	7.2
Ontario	25.4	23.3	9.5	8.3	8.5
Manitoba	27.0	25.3	8.4	8.2	5.6
Saskatchewan	27.8	24.0	11.3	5.5	5.8
Alberta	25.8	27.5	12.0	4.7	6.0
British Columbia	22.8	23.9	11.8	9.1	7.7
Large population centres over 100,000	26.1	24.2	10.1	8.6	7.8
Population centre 10,000 to 99,999	30.3	20.1	9.8	7.7	7.6
Population centre under 10,000	32.9	19.7	10.5	8.9	6.9
Rural outside of population centres	30.3	20.3	10.7	8.2	7.4

^E coefficient of variation between 16.5% and 33.3%; interpret with caution

Note: "Too busy" also includes family obligations and work/school schedule conflict. "Not interested" also includes feeling that their vote would not make a difference.

Reasons for not voting among those who did not vote, by immigrant status, May 2011 federal election

	Not interested	Too busy	Out of town/away	Own illness/disability	Did not like candidates/issues	Not on voter's list
	%					
Total	27.7	22.9	10.1	8.5	7.6	3.7
Immigrants with citizenship, landed within previous 10 years	13.8	35.4	11.9 ^E	2.9 ^E	4.5 ^E	7.5 ^E
Immigrants with citizenship, landed more than 10 years earlier	20.4	23.3	11.8	12.3	9.1	3.7
Canadian citizens by birth	29.9	22.1	9.7	8.0	7.5	3.6

^E coefficient of variation between 16.5% and 33.3%; interpret with caution

Note: "Too busy" also includes family obligations and work/school schedule conflict. "Not interested" also includes feeling that their vote would not make a difference.

Air fare

Third quarter 2010

The average cost of air fares paid by passengers continued to increase across all fare type groups in the third quarter.

The average domestic and international air fare (all types) paid by passengers was \$257.20 in the third quarter, up 7.5% from the third quarter of 2009. This marked the third consecutive quarterly increase.

The average domestic air fare (all types) paid by passengers was \$187.90, up 6.9% from \$175.70 reported during the third quarter of 2009. The average international air fare (all types) increased by 2.3% to \$364.70.

Average domestic air fares also climbed across all of the selected Canadian cities of enplanement in the third quarter, reversing the downward trend recorded across all cities during the same quarter of 2009. Toronto (\$209.00) posted the highest average domestic air fare, followed by Vancouver (\$206.70), Ottawa (\$198.00) and Montréal (\$195.80). During this period, year-over-year air fare increases ranged from 4.5% in Edmonton to 9.6% in Vancouver, which posted the highest growth in average domestic air fares.

Note: Average air fares are calculated for each flight stage. When the passenger boards the aircraft at one airport and departs the aircraft at another airport, this is considered a flight stage.

The Fare Basis Survey covers Air Canada, Jazz, Air Canada's Canadian regional code-share partners, Air Transat and WestJet.

Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0003, 401-0041 and 401-0042.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2708.

Data tables are available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

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