

The Daily

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Households and the Environment Survey, 2013

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How Canadians keep their homes warm in winter depends on which part of the country they call home. Data from the 2013 Households and the Environment Survey reveal that those from Ontario and in the West mostly opt for forced air furnaces burning natural gas. In Quebec and in the East, it is electric powered baseboard heaters and furnaces using heating oil that are found in an overwhelming majority of households.

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Releases

Households and the Environment Survey, 2013

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Heating

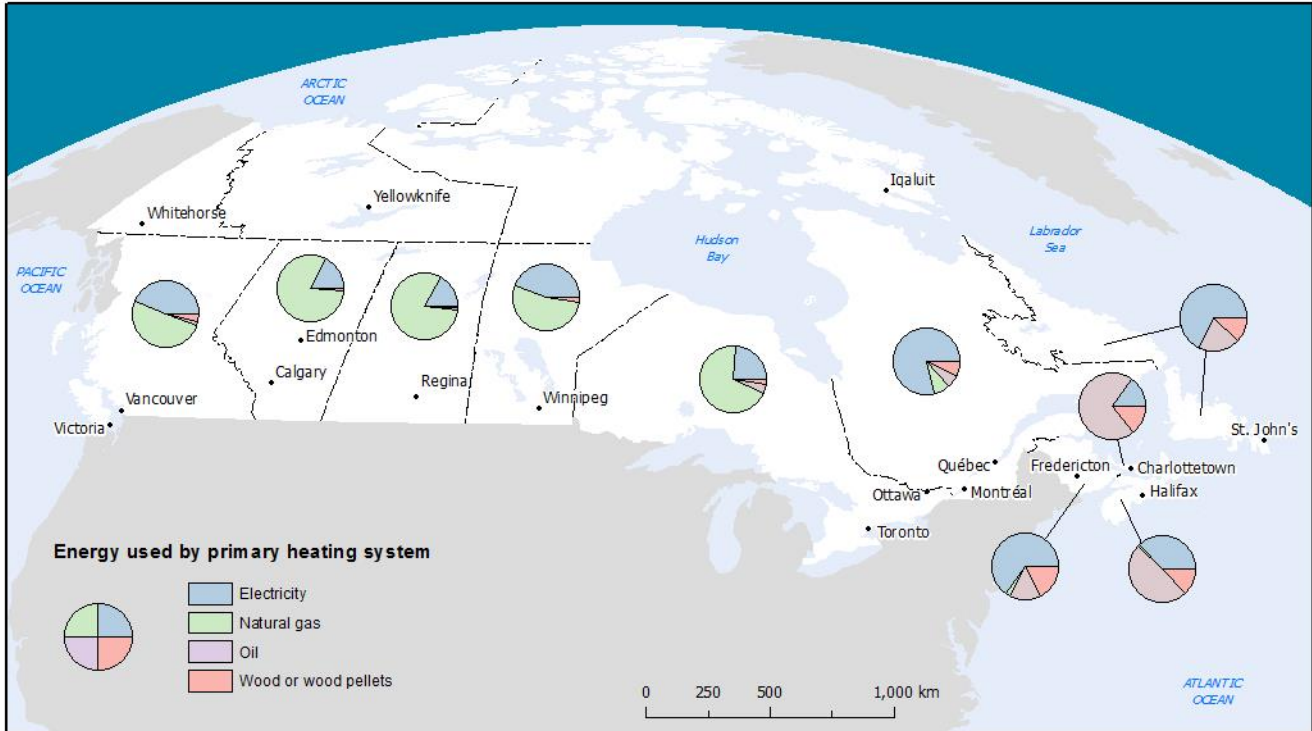
Forced air furnaces were the most common type of heating system reported as a household's primary heating system (53%), followed by electric baseboard heaters (28%). Those figures were unchanged from 2011. Forced air furnaces were the dominant type of heating system in Ontario (73%) and the Prairie provinces (between 73% and 83%).

Households in Quebec (64%), Newfoundland and Labrador (59%) and New Brunswick (52%) were all more likely to have reported electric baseboard heaters. Forced air furnaces and boiler systems each accounted for about one-third of the primary heating system of households in Prince Edward Island.

The type of heating system used is strongly tied to the types of fuel available

In general, natural gas is available to most households from Ontario to British Columbia, with households in some parts of Quebec also having access. In Quebec and Atlantic Canada, heating oil replaces natural gas as the most common petroleum-based type of energy available.

Map 1
Energy used by primary heating system, 2013



Source(s): Households and the Environment Survey, 2013.

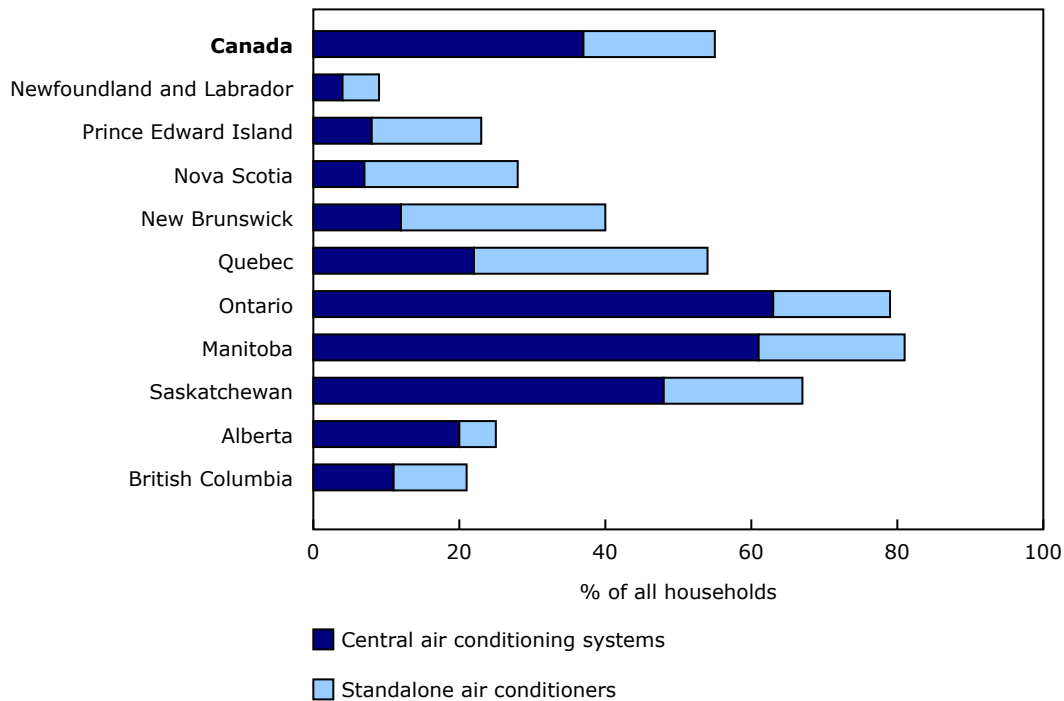
Cooling

Unlike heating, cooling the home is optional for most Canadian households. In 2013, over half of Canadian households (55%) reported having an air conditioner, a slight increase from 2011. Two-thirds of the households that had an air conditioner had a central air conditioning system, while the other third had standalone systems, such as those mounted in windows or that could be moved from room to room.

Air conditioners were most commonly reported by households in Manitoba (80%), Ontario (78%), Saskatchewan (67%) and Quebec (54%), and less frequently in Prince Edward Island (23%), British Columbia (21%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (9%).

Households in provinces with higher rates of having an air conditioner were more likely to have had central air conditioning systems than standalone units.

Chart 1
Air conditioners, 2013



Source(s): CANSIM table 153-0147.

The indoor environment

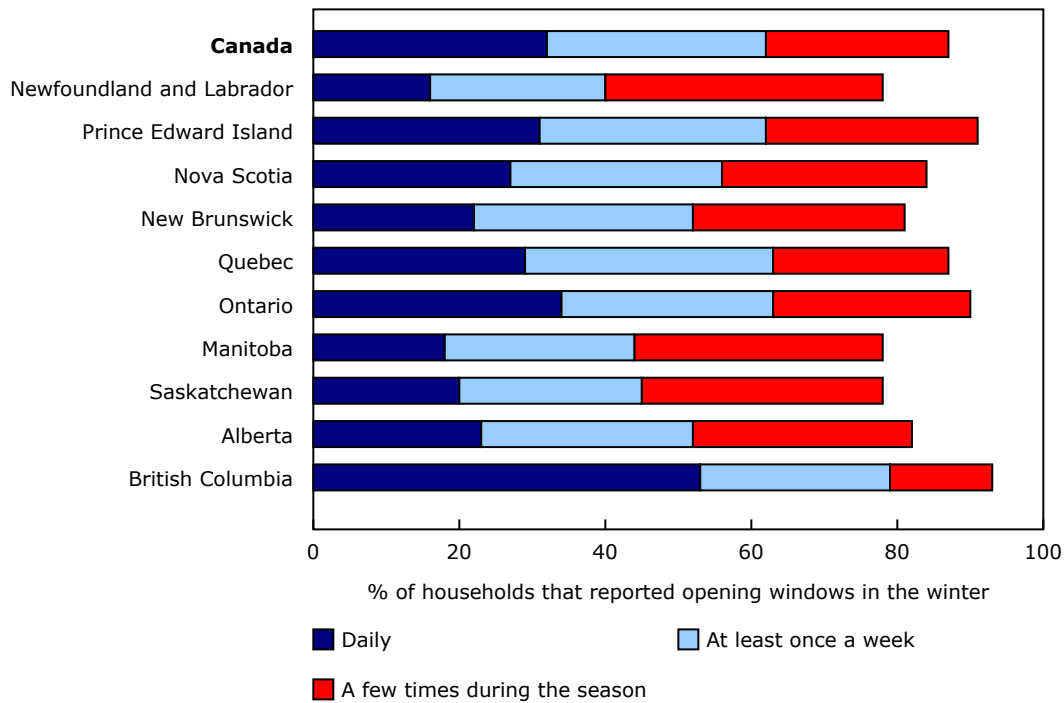
Canadians are quite conscious of their household air quality. More than 9 in 10 households rate indoor air quality as excellent (21%), very good (39%) or good (31%), while 7% classified their indoor air as being fair or poor.

There are a number of different ways a household can try to improve the air quality of its home. In 2013, 46% of households that had a forced air furnace reported using higher-quality filters in their furnace. Households in Manitoba were most likely to have reported this, with 6 in 10 households that had a furnace doing so. Conversely, households in Prince Edward Island (16%) were least likely to use higher-quality furnace filters. Over one-third (38%) of households that had a furnace reported using the furnace fan or a heat recovery ventilation system to increase air circulation.

Just over 2 out of 10 households (22%) reported using a humidifier to improve their indoor air quality, and 30% used a dehumidifier. Some households (10%) reported using both devices.

Beyond these methods, Canadians also simply open their windows, no matter the season, but not all provinces were as likely to use the fresh air option. For example, households in Newfoundland and Labrador were the least likely to open their windows in the winter time on a daily basis, with 16% reporting this, followed closely by households in Manitoba (18%). However, more than half of households in British Columbia (53%) opened their windows on a daily basis during the winter.

Chart 2
Households that opened windows during the winter to improve air circulation, 2013



Source(s): CANSIM table 153-0146.

Indoor water conservation

Most Canadians get their water either from municipal systems or via surface sources or wells. In each case, reduced consumption can generate benefits, whether it be lower water bills or reduced energy costs for pumping the water from wells and surface sources, or reduced burden on the septic system leach field because of the reduced water loading.

Low-volume toilets

An average family of four people using a low-volume toilet will flush about 63% less water than an average family of four people using a traditional model.

In 2013, half of Canadian households reported having a low-volume toilet, up from 47% in 2011. Households in dwellings with a water meter were more likely to have a low-volume toilet than households in dwellings that did not have a water meter (61% compared with 42%).

Low-flow shower heads

Depending on the type of shower head used, showering may account for as much as 17% to 22% of total indoor water use.

In 2013, 60% of Canadian households had a low-flow shower head, down slightly from 63% in 2011. As with low-volume toilets, water-metered households were more likely to have had a low-flow shower head than households that did not have a water meter (65% compared with 58%).

Note to readers

The Households and the Environment Survey (HES) measures the behaviours of Canadian households with respect to the environment. It is a biennial survey, conducted under the umbrella of the Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators program, a broader initiative of Statistics Canada, Environment Canada and Health Canada.

First conducted in 1991, HES was subsequently conducted in 1994, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013. Some of the environmental variables from the first cycle continue to be measured, but many new topics have been introduced over the years.

The HES surveyed roughly 32,000 households.

Available in CANSIM: tables [153-0059](#), [153-0060](#), [153-0098](#), [153-0104](#) and [153-0145 to 153-0147](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3881](#).

The CD-ROM *Households and the Environment Survey: Public Use Microdata File*, 2013 ([16M0001X](#)), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

The fact sheet "Canadians and Nature: Birds, 2013" is also now available as part of the publication *Enviro Fact Sheets* ([16-508-X](#)) from the *Browse by 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 us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Employer pension plans (trusteed pension funds), third quarter 2014

The market value of Canadian employer-sponsored pension funds grew 1.7% in the third quarter, marking the fifth consecutive quarterly increase. Pension fund assets totalled \$1.46 trillion, up from \$1.44 trillion at the end of the second quarter.

Pension fund assets held in bonds grew 2.9% and real estate assets increased 3.3% in value. The market value of stocks edged down 0.4% and mortgages declined 1.2%.

Foreign investments in Canadian pension funds rose 2.4% in the third quarter, accounting for about one-third of total pension fund investments.

Pension fund revenue fell 11.5% in the third quarter, as a result of a 6.9% decline in employer and employee contributions and a 26.5% decline in investment income.

Expenditures grew 26.5% as losses from the sale of securities rose. With reduced revenue, net income fell 39.3% in the third quarter to \$13.9 billion.

Over 6.2 million Canadian workers are members of employer-sponsored pension plans. Of this group, 5.2 million (83.6%) workers belong to pension plans with assets managed by trustee funds. The remaining members have assets managed by insurance company contracts.

Note to readers

For the purposes of this survey, trustee pension funds include the assets of one or more registered pension plans: those held under a trust agreement, those held by a pension corporation or pension fund society, those administered under legislation of the Government of Canada, or government of a province of Canada as well as those held by an insurance company for investment management only.

Excluded from the survey are pension funds held in total under an annuity insurance contract.

With this release, data for the first quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2014 have been revised.

Table 1
Trusteed pension funds: Market value of assets by type

	Second quarter 2014 ^r	Second quarter 2014 ^r	Third quarter 2014 ^P	Third quarter 2014 ^P	Second quarter to third quarter 2014
	millions of dollars	% of total assets	millions of dollars	% of total assets	% change
Total assets	1,436,922	100.0	1,461,819	100.0	1.7
Bonds	507,096	35.3	521,959	35.7	2.9
Stocks	441,882	30.8	440,016	30.1	-0.4
Mortgages	13,130	0.9	12,971	0.9	-1.2
Real estate	119,206	8.3	123,144	8.4	3.3
Short-term	50,229	3.5	52,647	3.6	4.8
Other assets	296,605	20.6	302,363	20.7	1.9
Assets, funds under \$10 million	8,774	0.6	8,718	0.6	-0.6

^r revised

^P preliminary

Source(s): CANSIM table [280-0002](#).

Table 2
Trusted pension funds: Revenue and expenditures

	Second quarter 2014 ^r	Third quarter 2014 ^p	Second quarter to third quarter 2014
	millions of dollars		% change
Total revenue	39,691	35,128	-11.5
Revenue from contributions	13,124	12,217	-6.9
Investment income	11,793	8,673	-26.5
Net profit on sale of securities	12,847	12,882	0.3
Miscellaneous revenue	1,608	1,053	-34.5
Revenue, funds under \$10 million	319	304	-4.7
Total expenditures	16,768	21,214	26.5
Pension payments out of funds	12,857	13,214	2.8
Cost of pensions purchased	171	143	-16.4
Cash withdrawals	1,759	1,848	5.1
Administration costs	1,356	1,413	4.2
Net loss on sale of securities	103	4,059	3,840.8
Other expenditures	353	360	2.0
Expenditures, funds under \$10 million	168	177	5.4
Net income	22,923	13,914	-39.3

^r revised

^p preliminary

Source(s): CANSIM table [280-0004](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [280-0002](#) to [280-0004](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2607](#).

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Balance sheet of the agricultural sector, December 31, 2013 (revised)

Equity in Canada's farm sector totalled \$412.6 billion on December 31, 2013, up \$46.9 billion (+12.8%) from the same date a year earlier.

The value of total farm assets rose by 12.1% to \$485.7 billion in 2013, primarily as a result of strong gains in the value of farmland (+16.8%). Farmland values on December 31, 2013, accounted for 64.0% of the total farm asset value compared with 52.4% 10 years earlier.

Total farm liabilities increased \$5.5 billion (+8.1%) to \$73.1 billion.

Return on equity rose to 3.6% in 2013 from 2.4% in 2012, its highest point since 1989. Provincially, return on equity ranged from negative 0.2% in British Columbia to 9.0% in Saskatchewan in 2013.

The interest coverage ratio, which assesses the ability to cover interest charges with the net income generated (before interest and taxes), rose to 5.673 in 2013, a record high since this series began in 1981.

Note to readers

The balance sheet of the agricultural sector provides the value of farm assets used to produce agricultural products, the liabilities associated with these assets and the farm sector equity as of December 31 for Canada and the provinces.

Assets and liabilities in the agriculture sector's balance sheet include those of farm businesses and non-operator landlords (for farm real estate assets leased to farm operators and the corresponding liabilities) and exclude the personal portion of farm households. This most closely reflects the assets and liabilities used in the production of agricultural products.

The balance sheet of the agricultural sector integrates data already produced by Statistics Canada, such as farm debt, value of farm capital, livestock and crop estimates, farm product prices and selected data from the Farm Financial survey.

Available in CANSIM: table [002-0020](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5029](#).

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Asphalt roofing, January 2015

Shipments of asphalt shingles reached 5.3 million metric bundles in January, up 163.8% from December 2014, but down 8.6% from the same month a year earlier.

The production of asphalt shingles totalled 4.5 million metric bundles in January, up 108.5% from the previous month and up 18.6% from January 2014.

Note to readers

The monthly survey, Asphalt Roofing, measures production, shipments and exports of asphalt roofing products, including the destination of shipments.

Data in this release are subject to revisions and not seasonally adjusted.

Available in CANSIM: table [303-0052](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2123](#).

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Canadians and nature: Birds, 2013

In 2013, one-quarter of Canadian households had bird feeders and bird houses in their yards, while 9% of households bought products such as bird identification books and binoculars or took trips to watch birds.

Generally, households in census metropolitan areas (CMAs), which are large urban areas, were less likely to have made purchases to feed or shelter birds on their property than were non-CMA households (20% compared with 36%).

Note to readers

The Households and the Environment Survey asks Canadian households about their activities and behaviours with respect to the environment. It covers a wide variety of topics including water and energy consumption and conservation, hazardous products used in the home, and the household's interactions with nature. Data from the survey are used by governments to guide policies and programs, by researchers to learn more about Canadians and by individuals to see how they compare to the rest of the country.

Available in CANSIM: tables [153-0130](#) to [153-0133](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3881](#).

The fact sheet "Canadians and Nature: Birds, 2013" is now available as part of the publication *Enviro Fact Sheets* ([16-508-X](#)) from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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New products and studies

New products

Households and the Environment Survey: Public Use Microdata File, 2013
Catalogue number [16M0001X](#) (CD-ROM)

New studies

Enviro Fact Sheet: "Canadians and Nature: Birds, 2013"
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