

# THE SURVEY OF HOUSEHOLD SPENDING

## Where does all our money go?

Sometimes the answer is surprising. In 2017, Canadian households spent on average **\$8,527 on food**, **\$12,707 on transportation** and **\$18,637 on shelter**. But what about clothing, taxes and all the rest?'

The **Survey of Household Spending (SHS)** is a national survey that gathers information on the spending habits of Canadians. It looks at how much households pay for food, clothing, shelter, transportation, health care and other items. Your participation allows Statistics Canada to measure the changing spending patterns of all Canadians, for example, changes in spending patterns due to a pandemic. This information will help governments, economic and social policy analysts, community groups and businesses serve **you** better.

## You can make a difference

Information from the SHS is used to improve social and economic programs. By taking part in this survey, you help to ensure that these programs will meet the real needs of Canadians.

## You can help us answer these questions...

- Do we have access to affordable housing?
- Do single parents, senior citizens, and low-income households have the necessary resources to meet their basic needs for shelter, food and clothing?
- Do we change our grocery shopping habits when food prices go up?
- Do increases to the cost of energy impact our spending for other necessities such as food, clothing and transportation?
- Do we pay more for out-of-pocket health care as we get older?
- Do our incomes keep pace with price increases?

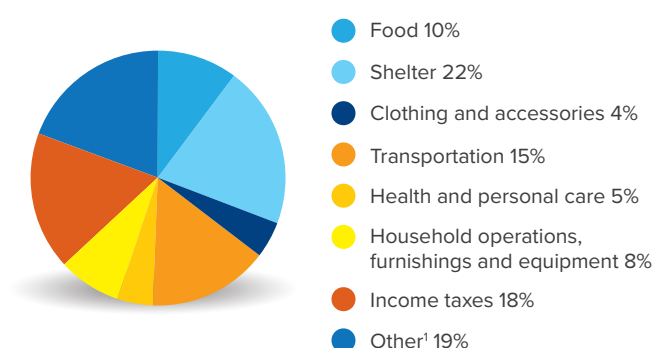
## ... and provide information for the Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is Statistics Canada's monthly measurement of price changes for the goods and services typically purchased by Canadians, and is an indicator of inflation.

## Changes in the CPI have an effect on:

- Old Age Security payments, pensions, Canada Pension Plan payments, and other social assistance or income assistance payments.
- Rental agreements, spousal and child support payments and other contractual and price-setting arrangements.
- Income tax brackets.

## How households in Canada spent their money in 2017



1. This category includes recreation; education; reading materials and other printed matter; tobacco products and alcoholic beverages; games of chance; personal insurance payments and pension contributions; gifts of money, support payments, donations and miscellaneous expenditures.

## Participating is easy

To access your online questionnaire, please visit [www.survey.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.survey.statcan.gc.ca). Use the secure access code provided in the letter you received.

In the questionnaire, you will be asked questions about your household characteristics and expenses. You will also be asked to track your household expenses in a diary.

## How to prepare

Gather your most recent regular bills or statements (water, electricity, gas, communication services, rent or mortgage).

Collect any receipts for large purchases you made in the last 12 months, such as furniture and appliances, home renovations, and trips. Having these bills and receipts available will make it easier for you to answer some of the questions.

Please inform other people living in your home that Statistics Canada will combine their responses from this survey with information from their tax records. Statistics Canada may also add information from other surveys or administrative data sources.

## Your privacy is important to us

This survey is being conducted under the authority of the *Statistics Act*, which ensures the information you provide will be kept confidential. We do not release any information that could identify you, or any member of your household.

## Contact us

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## For more information

Visit [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca) and click on "Information for survey participants."

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