

## Original survey information, Canada 2005

| <b>Generic information</b>       |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Name of survey                   | Survey of Financial Security (SFS).   |
| Responsible institution          | Statistics Canada (StatCan), <a href="http://www.statcan.gc.ca">http://www.statcan.gc.ca</a>  |
| Main objective                   | To collect information from a sample of Canadian families on their assets, debts, employment, income and education. This helps in understanding how family finances change because of economic pressures. SFS provides a comprehensive picture of the net worth of Canadian families.   |
| Structure of data source         | Cross-sectional survey data.  |
| Frequency                        | Occasional. SFS was conducted in 1999, 2005, and 2012.  |
| Survey year / Wave               | 2005 survey.  |
| Coverage                         | The survey covers about 98% of the population in the ten provinces (the territories were not included). The excluded population concerns: those living on Indian reserves and crown lands and official representatives of foreign countries living in Canada and their families; members of religious and other communal colonies, and members of the Canadian Forces living in military camps; people living in residences for senior citizens, people living full time in institutions. Information was not gathered from persons temporarily living away from their families (for example, students at university) because it would be gathered from their families if selected. In this way, double counting of such individuals was avoided.   |
| <b>Sampling</b>                  |   |
| Sampling procedure               | The sample is composed of two sub-samples:<br>- the main sample (7,500 dwellings) was a stratified, multi-stage sample selected from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) sampling frame an area frame: in a first stage clusters (small geographic areas) are selected from the LFS frame, then dwellings a reselected within these clusters; at the time that the SFS sample was selected the LFS frame was using 2001 Census geography;<br>- the second portion of the sample (1,500 dwellings), was drawn from geographic areas in which a large proportion of family units had what was defined as "high-income"; for purposes of this sample the income cutoff was total family income of at least CAD 200,000 or investment income of at least CAD 50,00 (the latter was used to take into account those family units that may not have high income from employment but have substantial assets that generate investment income).   |
| Sample size                      | The overall initial sample size was 9,000 dwellings. The public use microdata file (PUMF) contains 5,267 family units.  |
| <b>Collection</b>                |   |
| Collection period                | From 2005-05-01 to 2005-07-14.  |
| Collection mode                  | Personal interviews were conducted using a paper questionnaire.   |
| Description of instruments       | Information is collected on the employment, education, income, the value of all major financial and non-financial assets and on the money owing on mortgages, vehicles, credit cards, student loans and other debts. More specifically:<br>- demographics (age, sex, marital status), ethno-cultural characteristics, education, current employment and income were collected from each family member 15 years of age and over;<br>- previous employer pension plans and pension plan benefits were collected from each family member above 25 years of age;<br>- retirement information was collected from each family member 45 years of age and over;<br>- financial and non-financial assets, equity in business, debt in the form of mortgages, vehicle loans, credit card and line of credit debt, student loans and other debt, distribution of registered plans investments, and distribution of mutual funds investments, were collected for the family unit as a whole. |
| <b>Definitions</b>               |   |
| Household                        | The "family unit" includes both unattached individuals and families of two or more. Families of two or more are also referred to as economic families, defined as a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common law or adoption.  |
| Household head                   | There are two concepts of household head:<br>- the respondent of the interview, who is the family member with most knowledge of the family's financial situation;<br>- the major income recipient, who is the person with the highest income before tax.<br><i>Note:</i> in the LWS files the major income recipient is coded as household head.  |
| <b>Data quality aspects</b>      |   |
| Non-response error               | The overall response rate was 67.7%.  |
| Item non-response / imputation   | Missing responses were imputed for all key fields in the questionnaire. All missing dollar amounts relating to assets and debts (and therefore, net worth) have been imputed. Where possible, imputation was deterministic, using other information provided by the respondent. Hotdeck imputation methods were used in most cases where deterministic imputation was not possible and nearest neighbour techniques were employed for all missing components of income and net worth. 25% of the total amount for assets was imputed and 3% of the total amount for debts was imputed.  |
| Weighting                        | The survey design weights are first adjusted to compensate for non-response. Further, a frame allocation factor was applied to non-response adjusted weights to account for the increased probability of selection from the high income frame that overlapped completely with the area frame. The weights are then further adjusted to ensure that estimates of relevant population characteristics would respect known population totals from sources external to the survey. Additionally in 2005, two new sources of weight adjustments were introduced: the first was based on administrative data from the T4 file (weight adjustments were made to ensure that the survey distribution of earnings reflected approximately the same distribution as the T4 population); the second made use of Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) data to improve estimation.  |
| <b>Labour market information</b> |   |
| Eligibility                      | Each family member 15 years of age and over.  |
| Employment                       | Information collected: (1) Current labour market activity (self-reported); (2) Labour force participation in 2004. Information provided in the public use microdata file (PUMF) concerns only the major source of income for the major income earner in the family unit.  |
| <b>Income</b>                    |   |
| Reference period                 | Calendar year 2004.   |
| Unit of time                     | Annual amounts.   |
| Unit of collection               | Personal incomes.   |
| Taxes and contributions          | Amounts collected are gross of taxes and contributions. All respondents are matched to the tax data file unless they refuse to have their information linked. In the absence of tax data are income figures imputed.  |
| Restrictions                     | -   |
| <b>Wealth</b>                    |   |
| Reference period                 | At the time of interview.   |
| Unit of collection               | The assets and debts were collected for the family as a whole.  |
| Restrictions                     | -   |
| <b>Additional remarks</b>        |   |
| Additional remarks               | -   |

Sources: [1] Statistics Canada (April 12, 2016), Survey of Financial Security (SFS). Retrieved from <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&Id=8244>. [2] Statistics Canada: Pensions and Wealth Surveys Section (2007), *2005 Survey of Financial Security: Public Use Microdata User Guide*, Income Statistics Division.