Original survey information, *Canada 2012*

Generic information	
Name of survey	Survey of Financial Security (SFS).
Responsible institution	Statistics Canada (StatCan), http://www.statcan.gc.ca
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	2012 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.
Sampling	
Sampling procedure	The sample was selected as two independent samples from two overlapping frames: - a stratified, multi-stage sample of 11,591 dwellings selected from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) sampling 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 used 2006 Census geography. - a sample of 8,409 dwellings was selected from a frame built from the 2009 T1 Family File (T1FF), used for SFS only for urban areas; the frame was stratified by predicted net worth, thereby improving the sampling efficiency and ensuring that all levels of family net worth are well represented in the sample.
Sample size	The overall initial sample size was 20,000 dwellings. The public use microdata file (PUMF) contains 12,003 family units.
Collection	
Collection period	September 2012 - November 2012.
Collection mode	A personal interview using a CAPI application.
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: - 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; - previous employer pension plans and pension plan benefits were collected from each family member above 25 years of age; - retirement information was collected from each family member 45 years of age and over; - 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.
Definitions	
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: - the respondent of the interview, who is the family member with most knowledge of the family's financial situation; - the major income recipient, who is the person with the highest income before tax. *Note*: in the LWS files the major income recipient is coded as household head.
Data quality aspects	
Non-response error	The overall response rate was 68.6%.
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. 27% of the total amount for assets was imputed and 8% of the total amount for debts was imputed.
Weighting	Design weights for SFS are determined separately for the samples selected from the two frames. Three types of adjustments are then applied to the survey design weights: first, the survey design weights are adjusted to compensate for non-response; next, the weights are adjusted to ensure that estimates of relevant population characteristics would respect known population totals from sources external to the survey (based on Statistics Canada's Demography Division population counts by province); finally, weight adjustments based on administrative data from the Canada Revenue Agency T4 file are performed to ensure that the survey distribution of earnings reflected approximately the same distribution as the T4 population.
Labour market information	
Eligibility	Each family member 15 years of age and over.
Employment	Information collected: (1) Labour market activity last week (self-reported); (2) Labour force participation in 2011; (3) Main activity status at the beginning of the year. 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.
Income	
Reference period	Calendar year 2011.
Unit of time	Annual amounts.
Unit of collection	Total personal income.
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 income figures are imputed. However, amounts received through certain government programs such as the universal child care benefit and child tax benefits are derived from other information (i.e. number of children in the household) using a deductive imputation method.
Restrictions	-
Wealth	
Reference period	At the time of interview.
Unit of collection	The assets and debts were collected for the family as a whole.
Restrictions	-
Additional remarks	
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&SDDS=2620. [2] Statistics Canada: Pensions and Wealth Surveys Section (2012), *2012 Survey of Financial Security: Public Use Microdata User Guide* , Income Statistics Division.