Low income statistics by age and economic family type (x1,000) [1][2][3][4]
Number of persons
Canada, Provinces
Annual, 2020 - 2023

Geography	Persons in low income	Market basket measure, 2023 base [5][6]			
		Number of persons in low income (x1,000)			
		2020	2021	2022	2023
Canada [7]	All persons	2,519	2,943	3,919	4,240
	Persons under 18 years	358	492	768	886
	Persons 18 to 64 years	1,917	2,018	2,698	2,947
	Persons 65 years and over	244	433	453	408
	Persons in economic families [8]	1,148	1,475	2,195	2,467
	Persons not in an economic family	1,372	1,468	1,724	1,773
Newfoundland and Labrador	All persons	32	38	49	57
	Persons under 18 years	5	7	9	11
	Persons 18 to 64 years	24	26	34	40
	Persons 65 years and over	F	4	5	6
	Persons in economic families [8]	19	22	26	33
	Persons not in an economic family	13	15	23	24
Prince Edward Island	All persons	12	12	15	18
	Persons under 18 years	2	F	2	4
	Persons 18 to 64 years	8	9	10	13
	Persons 65 years and over	2	2	2	1
	Persons in economic families [8]	5	6	8	11
	Persons not in an economic family	6	6	7	8
Nova Scotia	All persons	68	75	115	117
	Persons under 18 years	8	10	22	24
	Persons 18 to 64 years	53	50	77	79
	Persons 65 years and over	7	15	17	15
	Persons in economic families [8]	30	33	61	64
	Persons not in an economic family	38	42	55	54
New Brunswick	All persons	54	45	80	91
	Persons under 18 years	5	8	14	20
	Persons 18 to 64 years	40	30	52	58
	Persons 65 years and over	9	8	13	13
	Persons in economic families [8]	24	18	42	56
	Persons not in an economic family	30	27	38	36
Quebec	All persons	441	480	584	662
	Persons under 18 years	37	51	83	104
	Persons 18 to 64 years	357	326	445	495
	Persons 65 years and over	47	103	55	63
	Persons in economic families [8]	139	179	251	295
	Persons not in an economic family	302	300	333	366
Ontario	All persons	1,078	1,239	1,718	1,890
	Persons under 18 years	169	213	342	405
	Persons 18 to 64 years	806	871	1,176	1,312
	Persons 65 years and over	103	155	200	173
	Persons in economic families [8]	521	664	1,008	1,170
	Persons not in an economic family	557	575	711	720
Manitoba	All persons	100	129	164	164
	Persons under 18 years	20	32	42	44
	Persons 18 to 64 years	71	80	105	107
	Persons 65 years and over	8	17	17	13
	Persons in economic families [8]	59	75	106	106
	Persons not in an economic family	41	54	58	58
Saskatchewan	All persons	75	104	129	153
	Persons under 18 years	17	24	35	43
	Persons 18 to 64 years	51	70	83	100
	Persons 65 years and over	6	11	10	10
	Persons in economic families [8]	39	62	81	99
	Persons not in an economic family	35	42	47	54

Low income statistics by age and economic family type (x1,000) [1,2,3,4]
Number of persons
Canada, Provinces
Annual, 2020 - 2023

Geography	Persons in low income	Market basket measure, 2023 base [5,6]			
		Number of persons in low income (x1,000)			
		2020	2021	2022	2023
Alberta	All persons	239	345	428	425
	Persons under 18 years	40	73	111	110
	Persons 18 to 64 years	180	235	279	285
	Persons 65 years and over	18	37	38	30
	Persons in economic families [8]	122	186	268	265
	Persons not in an economic family	117	160	160	160
British Columbia	All persons	421	475	637	662
	Persons under 18 years	54	73	106	120
	Persons 18 to 64 years	327	322	438	459
	Persons 65 years and over	40	80	93	83
	Persons in economic families [8]	189	229	345	369
	Persons not in an economic family	232	247	292	293

Symbol legend:

F   too unreliable to be published

Corrections:

On February 24, 2020, estimates of Quebec and Canada after-tax income for 2017 were corrected, leading to a revision of the low income measure (LIM) after-tax thresholds for 2017. As a result, LIM estimates were revised for all geographies, while Market Basket Measure (MBM) and after-tax low income cut-off (LICO) estimates were revised for Quebec, Canada and Quebec census metropolitan areas.

Footnotes:

[1] Data quality indicators are based on the coefficient of variation (CV) and number of observations. Quality indicators indicate the following: A - Excellent (CV between 0% and 2%); B - Very good (CV between 2% and 4%); C - Good (CV between 4% and 8%); D - Acceptable (CV between 8% and 16%); E - Use with caution (CV between 16% and 33.3%).

[2] Estimates are based on data from the following surveys: the Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) from 1976 to 1992, a combination of the SCF and the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) from 1993 to 1997, the SLID from 1998 to 2011 and the Canadian Income Survey (CIS) beginning in 2012. For more information, see Statistics Canada, 2015, "Revisions to 2006 to 2011 income data", Income Research Paper Series, Cat. no. 75F0002MIE - No. 003. Also, two previous revisions of income data are described in Cotton, Cathy, 2000, "Bridging Two Surveys: An Integrated Series of Income Data from SCF and SLID 1989-1997", Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 75F0002MIE - No. 002, and Lathe, Heather, 2005, "Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: 2003 Historical Revision", Statistics Canada, Cat. No. 75F0002MIE - No. 009.

[3] Income estimates from the Survey of Consumer Finances and the Canadian Income Survey for the 2022 reference year and onwards include income for persons aged 15 years and over. Income estimates from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics and the Canadian Income Survey for reference years prior to 2022 include income data for persons aged 16 years and over.

[4] In recent years, the Canadian Income Survey (CIS) has introduced improvements to the methods and sources used to produce income estimates. Beginning with the 2021 reference year, CIS income data were produced from the Administrative Personal Income Masterfile, a comprehensive source of personal income data generated not only from T1 tax returns, but also from associated tax slips. CIS estimates for previous years were produced using T1 tax returns only. Please consult the document Improvements to the Canadian Income Survey Methodology for the 2021 Reference Year (opens new window) for more information. More improvements were introduced with the 2022 reference year. Foremost among these improvements is a significant increase in the sample size for a large subset of the CIS content. The weighting methodology was also improved and the target population for income data was changed from persons aged 16 years and over to persons aged 15 years and over. Please consult the document Improvements to the Canadian Income Survey Methodology for the 2022 Reference Year (opens new window) for more information."

[5] The Market Basket Measure (MBM) is based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living. It includes the costs of food, clothing, shelter, transportation and other items for a reference family. These costs are compared to the disposable income of families to determine whether or not they fall below the poverty line.

[6] For more information on the 2023-base Market Basket Measure, please consult the document:

The proposed methodology for the 2023-base Market Basket Measure of poverty (opens new window).

[7] Estimates for Canada do not include the territories.

[8] An economic family refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law, adoption or a foster relationship.

Source: Centre for Income and Socioeconomic Well-being Statistics, Statistics Canada, Table 11-10-0135-01