

ENVIRONMENT CANADA
The Importance of Nature to Canadians:
The Economic Significance of Nature-related Activities
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/nature/tofC.htm>

HUNTING

In 1996, an estimated 1.2 million Canadians hunted wildlife in Canada, representing 5.1 percent of the population aged 15 years and over (Figure 1). The profile of the 1.2 million hunters differs from the profile of the Canadian population. In comparison to the general population, hunting was a more common activity among men than women in 1996 and among rural residents than urban residents (Table 1). It was also more popular among Canadians in the 25 to 54 year age groups, and less popular among those under 25 and over 54. Table 1 also shows that hunting activity was more concentrated among those with some secondary schooling and among those with a post-secondary school certificate or diploma. The personal incomes of hunters were higher than those of the Canadian population as a whole, with 64.7 percent reporting incomes higher than \$20,000 compared to 45.6 percent for the Canadian population.

Hunting participation rates were higher than the national rate of 5.1 percent in several of the eastern provinces, with residents of Newfoundland recording the highest rate, followed by residents of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (Figure 11). Rates were also higher than the national rate in the Yukon, Quebec and Saskatchewan. Rates lower than the national rate were recorded by residents of Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Prince Edward Island.

Two forms of hunting were distinguished in the survey. The first, hunting as the main activity, occurs when hunting is the main reason for a trip. The second, hunting as a secondary activity, occurs when hunting is a secondary reason for a trip taken for the types of outdoor activities described in Section 2.1. The survey included more detailed questions for hunting as the main activity, including a breakdown by four types of hunting: waterfowl, other birds, small mammals and large mammals.

In 1996, 1.0 million Canadians (4.2 percent of the population) participated in hunting as the main activity, whereas 416,000 Canadians (1.8 percent) hunted as a secondary activity (Figure 12). Highlights for the 1.0 million Canadians with hunting as the main activity include the following: Nearly three-quarters of these hunters (72.4 percent or 721,000 Canadians) sought large mammals such as deer. Birds other than waterfowl, such as grouse, were sought by 37.6 percent of these hunters (375,000 Canadians). Approximately one-quarter sought waterfowl such as ducks and geese

(23.6 percent or 235,000 Canadians), or small game mammals such as rabbits (23.1 percent or 230,000 Canadians).

The proportion of hunters who harvested wildlife varied by type of wildlife:

The rates were 68.9 percent for those who hunted birds other than waterfowl, 64.1 percent for waterfowl hunters, 61.6 percent for those who hunted small game mammals and 42.0 percent for those who hunted large game mammals.

EXPENDITURES ON HUNTING

In total, Canadians spent an estimated \$823.8 million hunting wildlife in 1996 (Figure 1). On average, participants spent \$692, or \$41 per day of participation (Table 1). Participants from Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon greatly exceeded the national average of \$692 for yearly expenditures, at \$843, \$1,017 and \$901 respectively (Figure 5). The averages for participants from Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan fell close to the national average, whereas those for participants from the remaining provinces fell below it, with the lowest average occurring among participants from New Brunswick at \$415.

Hunting equipment accounted for 46.5 percent of the \$823.8 million spent within Canada (Table 1). The remaining amount went for trip-related expenses including transportation (20.2 per-cent), food (12.1 percent) and accommodation (4.7 percent), or for other items such as license fees and ammunition (16.5 percent).

Expenditures were determined for hunting as the main activity and hunting as a secondary activity. The more detailed survey results for hunting as the main activity are reported below.

In 1996, \$666.4 million was spent for hunting as the main activity, whereas hunting as a secondary activity was estimated to involve expenditures of \$157.4 million (Figure 1).

Highlights for the \$666.4 million spent for hunting as the main activity include the following: Nearly two-thirds of these expenditures (63.1 percent or 420.6 million) were made by large game hunters. The remaining third were

made by hunters of birds other than waterfowl (15.1 percent of expenditures or \$100.7 million), waterfowl hunters (12.5 percent or \$83.3 million) and small game hunters (9.3 percent or \$61.7 million) 8. On average, these hunters spent \$669, or \$54 per day of participation.

Large game hunters spent the highest average annual amount on their hunting at \$587, followed by waterfowl hunters (\$384), small game hunters (\$297) and hunters of birds other than waterfowl (\$288). The \$666.4 million spent by these hunters was distributed as follows: 42.9 percent for equipment, 25.0 percent for transportation, 14.9 percent for food, 5.8 percent for accommodation and 11.4 percent for other items.

For more information, visit the web-site:
http://www.ec.gc.ca/nature/index_e.htm