

## Money Can't buy Happiness? Think Again Say Canadians

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No doubt most are familiar with the popular expression money can't buy happiness. However specially-tabulated findings for those between the ages of 15 and 64 from Statistics Canada's 2003 general social survey (GSS) explode this romantic idea. Overall Canadians appear to be a relatively happy lot, with a combined nine out of ten reporting that they are either somewhat or very happy. Clearly however those in the more euphoric state are in the upper income brackets. As revealed below those more likely to report being very happy are those earning more.

### Household Income-Level of Happiness of Canadians

	Very Happy	Somewhat Happy	Very or Somewhat Unhappy
<b>LT \$20K</b>	36.1	53.4	10.4
<b>\$20-40K</b>	45.1	49.7	5.2
<b>\$40-60K</b>	50.4	46.0	3.6
<b>\$60-80K</b>	54.7	42.9	2.5
<b>\$80+</b>	57.6	40.2	2.2

Clearly churches are not preaching that money is the root of all evil. Money and Church goers are the happiest bunch of Canadians judging by the survey results. Those attending Church more frequently tend to report being very happy than those that attend to lesser extent or are disbelievers. In fact weekly the percentage of weekly church-goers reporting that they were very happy is almost as high as those earning over 80K.

### Frequency of Religious Attendance-Level of Happiness of Canadians

	Very Happy	Somewhat Happy	Very or Somewhat Unhappy
<b>Not at all/athiest</b>	47.2	48.0	4.8
<b>At least once a year</b>	49.1	48.0	2.9
<b>A few times a year</b>	51.8	44.8	3.4
<b>At least once a month</b>	54.9	42.1	3.0
<b>Weekly</b>	56.6	40.0	3.4

But if there is a relationship between greater practice of faith and being very happy, greater education does not appear to make a significant difference in reported rates of happiness. In fact some might conclude that it is faith and not knowledge that leads to a heightened state of happiness.

Education- Level of Happiness of Canadians

	Very Happy	Somewhat Happy	Very or Somewhat Unhappy
<b>Less than high school</b>	48.9	46.3	4.8
<b>High school</b>	50.5	45.6	3.8
<b>Certificate/Diploma</b>	51.2	44.8	4.0
<b>University Degree</b>	51.9	44.7	3.4

Finally those born in Canada tend to be very happy to a greater extent than those born outside the country. Still the table below suggests that the more time spent in Canada the more immigrants report being very happy.

Immigrant Status- Level of Happiness of Canadians

	Very Happy	Somewhat Happy	Very or Somewhat Unhappy
<b>Canadian-born</b>	52.3	44.1	3.6
<b>Imm before 1980</b>	47.2	47.3	5.5
<b>Imm 1980-89</b>	42.6	50.5	6.9
<b>Imm 1990-03</b>	43.4	52.5	4.2